

PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

310 Second Street, S.E.
Washington 3, D. C.

9 December 1954

Mr. Emerson Hinchliff

Dear Hinch:

The Trib compositor didn't leave me much to decipher. As you will note in the enclosed clipping, he merely and, I suppose, accidentally or carelessly dropped exactly ten lines, in the early edition. The error was evidently caught and corrected in the later editions.

In the omitted portion the reference to the Britannica article CODES AND CIPHERS leads me to add that I prepared the original article in 1927; late last summer, 27 years later, I was asked to revise it, which I did. The Editor set a limit of 6,000 words on the length of the revision, of course, but I found it desirable to go beyond the limit and did so--by over 2,000 words. I was prepared to get a stern and well deserved rebuke from the Editor, together with a request that I cut the article down to size, but instead (and imagine my astonishment) he not only accepted the revision as it stood but also sent me one of the shortest but nicest letters I've ever received. I'm immodest enough to enclose a copy. The Alumni Fund will be "cut in" on the honorarium one gets from the Britannica, and thus I hope to make up in a tiny way for my negligence last summer--but I was abroad a good deal, and slipped up on my contribution, the first time in many years.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN

Incls.
a/s