

25
MAY

TIGHTBEAM

NFFF

MARCH 1964

NFFF

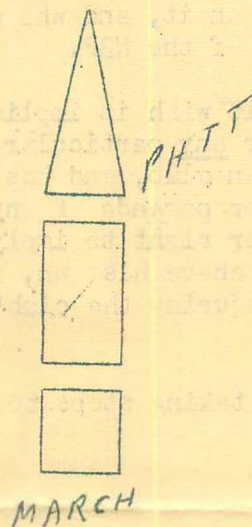
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NEXT TIGHTBEAM WILL BE LAUNCHED INTO ORBIT BY:

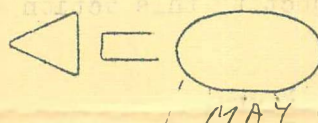
ROY TACKETT
915 Green Valley Rd N.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA 87107.

DEADLINE:

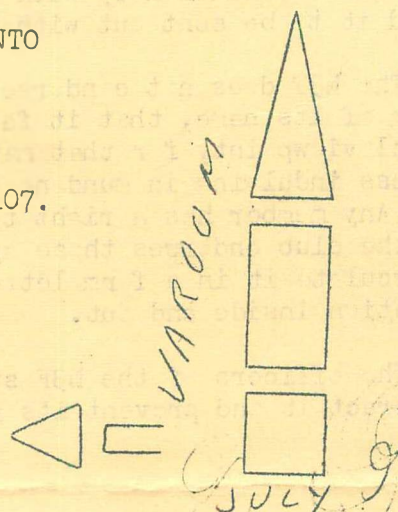
June 1 1964



Ken



Jah



Roy

FROM: Don Franson; April 26, 1964.

I received Ken Krueger's leaflet announcing that TB for March would not be out. Ken suggested that Hayes' Tightbeam be set back a month, and also Tackett's, bringing Tightbeam back to schedule for the September issue. It was not my intention to delay Hayes' issue at all. I thought that Hayes should publish anyway on the regular schedule, May 10th, even though he had fewer letters as a result of the readers not getting the March issue. I know he has several important letters. Also, I don't see why members can't write to Tightbeam without it being a reaction to the last Tightbeam. I thought maybe this delay would break the vicious circle, of comment on comment, on comment, and thus not be altogether a bad thing.

((Editor: In order to expedite a return to schedule, I have taken it on myself to speed up the deadline for the next issue by 15 days, to June 1st, for the July issue (in reality, this is the MARCH, with (Roy Tackett's being the May)) it's publication speeded from July 10th, to June 15th, at the latest. A similar change of deadline is to be announced for the issue after that, in the Tackett issue. So WRITE NOW to give Roy Tackett a chance to make his ship a successful launching, not a small thing like this one. Remember, therefore, that the DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT TIGHTBEAM IS JUNE 1st.

YOU DO NOT HAVE MUCH TIME, SO WRITE NOW

I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE SETH JOHNSON ON HIS RECEIVING THE KAYMAR AWARD.

Art Hayes

DONALD FRANSON
6543 Babcock Ave
North Hollywood, Calif
91606.

April 3, 1964.

Dear Members:

Though this may be repetition of statements made elsewhere, repetition may serve to emphasize its seriousness.

A Mimed letter was sent out by a member, using the NFFF letterhead, endorsing a commercial newspaper of the political extremist variety. The use of the N3F letterhead, intentional or not, may have given the false impression that the N3F was back of this endorsement; however, it is solely the endorsement of the member who signed the letter, using his own stationery with the NFFF's name prominently displayed on it, and who permitted it to be sent out without consulting the officers or members of the N3F.

The N3F does not endorse any commercial enterprise, nor does it wish it implied, by use of its name, that it favours any such political viewpoint (or any particular political viewpoint, for that matter.) The N3F is a science fiction fan club, and has no business indulging in mundane politics, or disseminating political propaganda of any kind. Any member has a right to express his own opinions, but has no right to imply that the club endorses these opinions by the use of the club's name above his own, and to circulate it in a form letter to both members and non-members, injuring the club's reputation inside and out.

The officers of the N3F strongly object to this action and are taking steps to counteract it and prevent its recurrence.

Yours,
Donald Franson.
President, N3F.

TO: President Donald Franson, 6543 Babcock Ave. North Hollywood, California, 91606.
TIGHTBEAM Editor, whoever he may be.
Miss O'Toole, Circulation and Production, THE NATIONAL GUARDIAN, 197 E. 4th St.
New York 9, N.Y.

Dear Miss and Sirs:

Some time ago I sent list of N3F membership to Miss O'Toole suggesting they being more or less liberal and progressive people in this world might like the opportunity to see and examine the NATIONAL GUARDIAN. She responded with a letter she suggested I type up to be sent to membership along with sample copy.

Since I was and am a member of N3F and since this was being directed exclusively to other members of N3F I thought it appropriate to send on stationery bearing the N3F seal and name. Since such stationery is circulated to every new member upon joining, I saw no harm in using to promote my own ideas to all Neffers instead of merely one or two.

However the President and a number of the Directors believe that this put N3F in the position of sponsoring THE NATIONAL GUARDIAN. One former director even advocates my expulsion if this practise does not cease. So right here and now I am respectfully and apologetically asking Miss O'Toole not to use the N3F letterhead in promotions of THE NATIONAL GUARDIAN even though in the future I plan to send her more names and addresses of fans in and out of the N3F.

President Franson wants to notify all those who receive this mailing that it does not represent the official opinion of the N3F and that the N3F is in no way sponsoring THE NATIONAL GUARDIAN or any other Political paper or party of any kind whatsoever. I will reassure him by saying this mailing went out to all on the October roster of the N3F. It will, in the future, go out to all on Lloyd Broyles' WHO'S WHO IN FANDOM although I'm withholding that till a new issue comes out. These however will not be under the N3F letterhead and thus should not emotionally disturb our revered directors and President.

I do hope this will close the matter finally and for good, since I can't help feel that this has the makings of a first class feud in fandom if it were to leak out to the general membership. And that is another reason this letter is going only to President Franson along with carbon copy for him to send to TIGHTBEAM with his own deletions and corrections.

I will also take this occasion to resign as head of the round robins. Not that I shall stop launching round robins, but that hereafter they will not be launched as an official N3F activity and someone else will have to take responsibility for seeing to it that all Neffers have all the robins they want. My robins will include all fans worthy of participating in the future. I am also suggesting President Franson find someone else to take over the Fanzine Clearing House. Since I am selling home furniture and library, there may be no place to store fanzine bundles in the near future and perhaps not even access to a typewriter. I will continue to fill orders as long as I'm here and have something to fill them with. But after that, some multi-apan or BNF will have to take over. Preferably someone who is on lots of faneds mailing lists and who will have plenty of fanzines to send out. I will even ask Ziff Davis to transfer the balance of my advertising credit to whoever so takes over.

And with this, I will no longer have any official status of any kind in N3F other than that of member of the Welcommittee. And since I'll be able to welcome people even with ballpoint, I propose to keep on with this fanac.

If THE NATIONAL GUARDIAN would be kind enough to send President Franson a postcard assuring him no further mailing under the N3F letterhead will take place I think this closes the matter and I shall not refer to it again in word or deed. Except in response to direct queries on the subject.

Yours truly,
Seth A Johnson.

(Editor: Other than corrections in spelling, the only additions or changes made in the carbon sent to me seems to be the addition of my name as the current TIGHTBEAM editor, and the comments, 'I see no reason to delete anything - D.F.')

NOTIFICATION TO A TIGHTBEAM EDITOR:

From:

April 3, 1964.

President Donald Franson.

Regarding TIGHTBEAM, I suppose you know the rules, but here is a resume. In order to state the club's position, I must make this statement: there is no censorship of TIGHTBEAM, beyond the warning to use care in libel, or obscenity so that the club does not get in trouble with the law or the post office, and that it is the editor's responsibility, not the club's, after this warning is given, otherwise the editor could claim that he was not told. Outside of this, there is plenty of leeway for editing, and you can ask any Tightbeam editor whether I have ever interfered. I also must tell you that there is a rule that the Tightbeam editor must get the mag out by the 10th of the month, or the Directorate would have to pass a motion to pay the editor. I have started a Tightbeam Fund, wherein the sum of \$42. is passed on to the next editor, through the N3F but not N3F funds, in advance. This is because some have complained that editors could not afford to finance TB these days (about \$50. an ish). Deadline for Letters, Apr 15. D.F.

STAN WOOLSTON
12832 Westlake St.
Garden Grove, Calif.

Dear Art:

Being a director, I'm somewhat preoccupied with the job. I've been generalizing about what it entails, and see that some of my thoughts really go beyond the directorate and might be reflected in wider fanac.

Robert A. W. Lowndes, long-time editor in the SF field, asks, "What is a liar?" - in WARHOON 19, which I'm now reading. He continues -- "A person who makes a statement that is false? Hardly. Our ignorance, even with the most learned of us, is such that we make innumerable statements that are false to the facts -- totally wrong, wrong enough to give a false impression, part-truths which distort -- every day.... A person can lie very effectively without stating a single false fact. No, a lie is a statement the falsity of which the speaker is aware of at the time, which is made with the intent to deceive. Most lies are false to the fact...what is explicitly stated can be proven false; but many lies are composed entirely or in part of elements which can be proven to be correct."

The Directorate needs "facts" to work out policies for the club, and human fallibility is involved. Therefore, we have five members and their judgement to run the she-bang. The President, whose job is to see the club works, is coordinator, and also must use judgement to interpret and keep inertia from overcoming the varying movements inherent in the organization.

These six officers in N3F are "friction experts". Like the mechanic who knows that adding oil can help cut down friction (and wear) on a moving part, the directors must remember the rules involved in friction, too - that there's a relationship between the amount of friction and wear to the roughness of the surface, for instance. An individual member may ignore this most basic rule of mechanics, but an officer is derelict in duty if he doesn't.

Some members, I've noticed over the years, instinctively seek to avoid roughening "surfaces" that rub together, which helps officers. Some members may toss in a few grains now and then, which may make a situation "rough" for a while, but which might, I suppose, help grind down the situation in time. How a member can help with information designed to clarify a picture, and still not cause friction among working parts of the club, seems to be a matter of art, rather than science -- or so I imagine.

I just want to thank those among you who don't add to the friction of directorate- or official- work. There are many who, despite what might be considered agitation, who keep calm, look for facts, and who seek to be reasonable and speak reasonably as often as possible with a people plagued with reason and tongues that seem to speak umpteen different versions of "truth", while each seeks to tell THE truth.

I think RAWL's words on "lying" is pertinent for any adult group, or any group seeking to approach reason. Because I think most N3F members more or less agree with me, and that it is one practical way to find agreement enough to survive as a group, I thought I'd write this to Art Hayes to put in his issue of TIGHTBEAM.

Differences of opinion can be to inform or to hinder communication. Differences, as a reasoning look at the Lowndes statement will remind us, are inevitable. Any group seeking to act must "take a chance" that they're doing enough things right to advance whatever group is involved, and if a group does things, it may be argued it's succeeding. Imperfection is a way of life, and perfection is mighty unlikely in this world. This letter is written by an imperfect man, sent to another, for another bunch of imperfects to examine and, perhaps, ponder a bit.

Directorate biz is keeping me busy -- from quite a bit of varied fanac, in fact. So why not write me and help soothe things for N3F? That's one big Directorate job - so point out rough spots and be critical, in an intelligent way.

Cheers,
Stan Woolston.

Art Hayes
540 Bridge St..
Bathurst, N.B. Canada.

April 17 1964.

QUOTE #1: Oct 22, 1959. "Any attack on the administration of NFFF is necessarily an attack on the President, since he is the one charged by the constitution with 'conducting the affairs of the organization'. Others may do the actual detailed conducting of course but since he appoints all the others (either directly or by proxy) and has the power to remove them any time he deems it necessary, he is the one who is properly held to account for any of their shortcomings. That is just one of the natural duties of the job, and as my old friend Harry Truman says about politics, 'If you can't stand the heat, you'd better get out of the kitchen'. I also think that I have amply demonstrated in other matters that I am not exactly the kind who meekly turns the other cheek when I am slapped, and that I am willing to boot my best friend if I think the welfare of the club demands it."

QUOTE #2: Dec. 24, 1961. "In line with frank discussions, there is one matter of philosophical conflict which apparently exists which I feel should be taken care of right now. It has been my experience that such differences do not disappear if ignored, and that rather than let them grow until they wreck the works, they should be faced frankly and, if they cannot be resolved, at least everyone concerned knows where they and the opposite side stands. I refer to the seeming idea that the constitutional power of the Directorate to 'define the duties' of any office, 'review' the acts of the President, and 'regulate the finances' as unlimited. I hope that this is not the prevailing line, because it just isn't so, and I predict stormy times ahead if this is to be the guiding light of the Directorate. We were all through that in 1955 and 1956 and as an interested member and one of the group which was trying to restore law and order to the club, I spent a considerable sum on lawyer fees, as well as chiselling quite a bit more, in order to search out legal decisions to confirm what my previous experience as Chairman of various political groups had taught me on the subject of relative powers of the legislative and executive in general, and as provided in our constitution in particular. As a result, while I do not set myself up as an authority, I think that I do have a good understanding of the subject. Briefly the powers of both the Directorate and President are limited. The powers of the Directorate stops where they begin to conflict with the President's powers and duties to 'conduct the affairs of the organization', or the powers given any presiding officer under Parliamentary procedure. And, at this point please don't anyone arise to say scornfully (someone usually does at this point) that we don't have to go according to Roberts. In the absence of any specific provision to the contrary in the constitution, WE DO, so far as they can be directly applied or logical-analogized to the situations in a club such as ours. This has been upheld by numerous court decisions. Likewise, the Directorate can define the duties of any office, including that of the President, but only up to the point where they are not in conflict with the powers granted in the constitution or customary parliamentary procedure - these they cannot infringe upon, it would take an amendment to do that."

"The powers to control the finances include the power to decide whether to spend money for any particular purpose, and how much. They can attach conditions, such as the condition that the Editor of TIGHTBEAM must publish the issue not more than ten days late, or he will not get paid for it. And also that bills must be submitted. To this degree, specifications of minimum requirements are often desirable. The Directorate can add properly, safeguards to the handling of the funds, but they cannot do anything to diminish them nor to prevent the Treasurer from demanding other things beyond the minimum set by the Directorate. She is held responsible for

safeguarding, therefore she has the sole right to say under what conditions others may handle it. This is not only a matter of ordinary justice, but also a recognized part of the Treasurer's powers. Probably nothing is so damaging to a club as a mishandling of fan funds - either actual or suspected. The NFFF has suffered much from this one source in the past. Some of our most damaging feuds have had this as either their main basis or an important side factor. We now have a treasurer in whom everyone has confidence. I, myself, would be willing to personally guarantee the club funds while in her keeping, if need be. There has never been a hint of a scandal. It is going to stay that way. Any legislation which might open the door to any financial shenanigans is completely out of order, and will be waste-basketed, if passed, without any formality. I am not questioning anyone's good faith - merely their judgement in this matter of the relative powers of the two branches. And with that, I will leave the subject with the notation that, under law, a presiding officer is the one charged with ruling on the legality or constitutionality of any proposal, and like a baseball umpire, is legally 'right' even if he is actually wrong, until over-ruled by a higher authority. In this instance, the 'higher authority' is of course the membership, which can, on appeal, over-rule either of us. I have always been careful to try to keep out of the Directorate's domain, and to get back on my side of the fence when it was pointed out that I had unintentionally stepped over in any instance. Since I do not particularly enjoy a fight, I hope the Directorate will do likewise."

QUOTE #3. It's easy to forgive mistakes, but hard to forgive inaction.

The above quotes: The first two are from letters written by our former President, now deceased, Ralph Holland. The last quote I just lifted from a newspaper and it does not give its original source.

Purpose? Several reasons are involved here. Information first, not on what prompted the remarks, but in their applicability now and in the immediate future. Information to the members as to what the official family does and can do, and can't do. President Don Franson has said several times in the recent past, that this is his last year as chief executive. The quotes given above tend to give you, the members, an idea of the importance of the position. This fall, we will be called upon to choose another chief executive. Who will it be? It is not too early to be thinking strongly about this. It must be given consideration NOW. And that time will also be the time when our Directors are deciding whether to place their names in the ring, the time for others to decide they can do the job, and the choice will be ours to decide who makes up the 1965 Directorate. NOW is the time for the campaigning to start, not at the time specified for platforms in our official publications. And there is the reason for Quote #3, "It's easy to forgive mistakes, but hard to forgive inaction."

The selection of quotes from the many letters of Ralph Holland, on the duties and responsibilities of the Treasury are quoted for yet another reason. They give the reasons why I've been so vocal in what I've said since the fateful day when, early in 1962, Ralph Holland died. I've made enemies, sure, but I believe that I was justified in the actions I took.

In a letter dated April 14th, Seth Johnson advises me that his mother died on March 5, 1964. I would like to express my sympathy to Seth for the sad occasion.

Seth A. Johnson
339 Stiles Street
Vaux Hall, N.J.
07088.

April 14, 1964.

TO: TIGHTBEAM Editor, Art Hayes. President Don Franson, Directors Clay Hamlin and Fred Patten, and Secretary Treasurer, Janie Lamb.

Greetings and salutations from Vaux Hall.

I am writing this at the request of several of the Directors and addressing it for publication in the Hayes edition of TIGHTBEAM.

Some time ago I sent a roster of the N3F members together with a letter on my N3F stationery to THE NATIONAL GUARDIAN newspaper in an effort to solicit readers for that publication. And for this letter I used the same N3F emblem stationery with which I write most of my formal letters. It was my attitude that since it is the practice of the N3F to mail free sheafs of this stationery to all new members that there was no restrictions on what any member could say on it. It was not my intention to have this appear to be an official letter of the N3F or one of its directors.

However a number of fans seems to be considerably emotionally disturbed over my using N3F stationery to sponsor such a paper and interpret it as meaning that N3F sponsors THE NATIONAL GUARDIAN. So let me make things clear right here and now.

The N3F was not consulted about this letter. This letter is entirely my own responsibility and represents no one's opinion other than my own. It seems to me that unless a letterhead reads OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR or OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, it cannot be interpreted as representing the opinion of anyone but the person who mails it. Especially since every member of N3F receives some of this stationery upon joining. And come to think of it, I've never received a communication from Present Directors on N3F stationery although they were official letters written in their capacity of N3F officers.

Fred Patten writes that Neffers of the Los Angeles Science Fiction Society wanted to throw Seth Johnson out of N 3F. However this was not a majority of Neffers by any means although Fred says all of them heartily disapprove of my action. Roy Tackett did write suggesting I either retract or be expelled. Locke also had some rather violent opinions on this subject. Outside of these two, however, the Directorate has been very reasonable and sympathetic. So I hope this will answer their problems and the subject can be safely dropped.

I have one suggestion to make to the Directorate. Print OFFICIAL STATIONERY on that stationery that is used by the Directorate for official business, and conduct official business on no other. And let it be clearly understood in the future that only letters imprinted OFFICIAL BUSINESS represents official opinion of the N3F and its Directorate.

Janie Lamb wrote the most sympathetic warm and friendly letter of all suggesting that I had no intention of making trouble for the N3F. And in this she's right. I want nothing that will not build N3F to greater fanac and greater membership than ever before. Clay Hamlin wrote reiterating a life long friendship and suggested I might have sold that list of names and addresses to the GUARDIAN. The fact of the matter is money did not enter the question. I saw this as an excellent chance to get copies of the GUARDIAN into the hands of all my correspondents and every Neffer at no cost to myself. So naturally I jumped at the chance to get something for my fellow Neffers and fan friends. But I repeat once more that no one other than myself is responsible for the mailing. Furthermore I believe the whole thing was mailed on the same day so there is no danger of further GUARDIANS accompanied by Neffer stationery although I did write them asking them not to use the masthead. So far as I'm concerned, that closes the matter. I'm sorry I used the printed stationery but I'm even more sorry that so many interpreted this as being official opinion of the N3F or that N3F in any way promotes any newspaper or political camp whatsoever.

Phil Kohn
Main Road
Yokneam, Israel.

... I just don't have the free postage for mere corresponding at the moment and I have an important message which I hope you will support, or, in any case, print in the next TTH. If necessary, reformulate so as to make formal petition. URGENT - TO ALL NEFFERS. (But don't post to Spain). I was idly perusing the new roster, looking for more of us foreigners, when my eye lit upon a Spanish address!

Are you willing, from now on, to limit your comment to the requirements of the Spanish, and perhaps, in future, other totalitarian censorship? That means TIGHTBEAM, FANDBOOKS, TNFF, riders, and any zine send out to all Neffers. Or are you willing to take responsibility that because of some casual comment of yours - or of some Neo who never yet saw a roster - one of our members should get the full treatment by a secret police, for owning subversive literature? Or do you think we are all so spinelessly, opinionlessly non-political that the danger could not arise?

I say that all these alternatives are unacceptable and completely unrealistic. I propose the following resolutions; as a constitutional amendment:

(1) The N3F recognizes no membership of residents of totalitarian countries, US servicemen and diplomatic personnell excepted (such people are practically in no danger). Fees erroneously accepted are to be returned in full.

(2) All communist countries, Spain, Portugal, Haiti, Paraguay, South Africa, are defined as totalitarian for the purpose of this bylaw. An officer designed by the Directorate will check new memberships, and will obtain information in the case of doubtful new memberships, and will obtain information in the case of doubtful countries (State Dept. ought to be useful here, also New York Times, or News Agencies who have experience with reporters everywhere). End of message.

Am scratching thru an unpleasant winter, part sick, part out of work, trouble changing place, self-made trouble doing Dianetic autocontrol on an infected tooth - a procedure slightly less safe than drunk driving. The tooth is out now, and the autocontrol runs well, but the environment is too restimulative. Didn't know you were working in an Uranium mine - isn't that very unhealthy? I may start working soon at the dead sea works, not too healthy either maybe, but it's not Uranium (well, it IS potassium at that), and anyhow, I'll do it to CHANGE my status in a relatively short time, not just to get along.

If you write the secretary, please include my change of address. Since the post passes on letters anyhow, I can't afford to waste a postal merely on that, at present.

SHADES of a few years ago, in fact during the period of one of the previous issues of TIGHTBEAM I published. I DO NOT SUPPORT the motion contained in Mr. Kohn's letter, but I do believe he has the right to be heard. First of all, a constitutional amendment is NOT NECESSARY to achieve the very end that Mr. Kohn requests. It can be achieved under the present regulations, if thought necessary. Memberships can be refused now, by a unanimous vote of the Directorate, and I do not believe that it is necessary to divulge the reasons, publicly, for such refusal. I think it is within the jurisdiction of the Directorate to formulate a policy that makes the aims of Mr. Kohn law, without constitutional amendments. I do not believe, however, that such a policy declaration would be a good thing, at least not in so general a term as Mr. Kohn wants.

We had, a few years ago, a rather violent discussion on the desirability of this exact type of motion. We had, later, discussions on the desirability of correspondence being sponsored by the club, under U.S. State Department supervision, with s.f. enthusiasts behind the iron curtain countries. We had, again recently, discussions (this time in private) that had as its subject, the potential liason with a club to which the stigma of

potential (though not proved in any way) connections with Communism. In all cases, the discussions turned out that the N3F should not allow any such connections. It is an unwritten law, now, in the N3F, that a known communist (or later known, or even suspected) member, must be refused membership in the N3F. This has never been extended, however, to totalitarian-governed countries.

It is my opinion that the U.S. political scene is rather tender on this subject, and that even an official action officially barring communists, COULD, or maybe, have repercussions on those in the N3F who hold high security clearances. Because it is believed that any connection by the club with a communist country, or communist members, could jeopardize the standing in the mundane world, of some of our members, no such connections can be allowed to take place. To have such a motion officially on the books, it is thought would infer that the club IS in danger of communist infiltration, and therefore, make the club something dangerous for those members who could be endangered in either their social status, or work status. Therefore, no such motion has had a chance in the past. So, a U.S. citizen who believes that certain connections endangers his position, is duty bound to sever those connections. It is the responsibility of the U.S. member. I, therefore, believe that it is the responsibility of a member of a so-called totalitarian country to divest himself of any connections with the U.S. if that connection, to him, means that his security is endangered. It is not the responsibility of the club to worry about the Spanish member, since, if such danger does exist to him, by virtue of his membership in the N3F, it is HIS responsibility, and not one that obligates us to start censorship or membership refusal, by our officials.

However, there is a further danger, not mentioned in the motion Mr. Kohn wants enacted. I do not believe that the U.S. should dictate to other citizens or countries, what form of governments that is desirable for them. Bar membership beyond the current unwritten limit, and where will the new limit be set at? No thanks, however, even though I am against the motion, it is not for me to either support or take actions to get the motion defeated (even though my current words are in the nature of an opposition) since I am not an American, not in danger of having any security clearances taken away, in no danger personally, of retribution if such contacts with Communistic or totalitarian countries were started, it becomes the sole responsibility of those in the U.S.

Potassium is much more dangerous to a person, than is Uranium. The fears engendered by the word is foolish, but is understandable when it is realized that they are based on misinformation. Any radio-active substance CAN be highly dangerous, under certain conditions. These conditions do NOT include those under which Uranium is produced, at least not in the primary stages. 70% Uranium Oxide is less dangerous than a Potassium concentrate. I am not, however, currently working with Uranium, but its opposite (in a sense), LEAD. I think that Lead is potentially just as dangerous, maybe more so, than the Uranium was.

Mr. Kohn's letter was not printed in TTH, because at the time it was received, TTH was held to be feudish in nature, by the officials of the N3F, and any such motion printed in TTH, would have carried with it, the inference that it was being presented with the idea that it was to embarrass the officials, and therefore, it could not have been able to get the proper consideration that any motion should get. Whether it gets proper consideration or not, is not my responsibility, but it is up to me to prevent, when I can, unfair obstacles being created for such a motion, because of unjust inferences being attached to where it was published. Therefore, I've delayed publishing this letter, knowing that I would be printing an official publication of the club in a not-then-definite period of time. This issue of TIGHTBEAM is going to all members of the N3F, without regard to where they reside. If we still have a Spanish member, he will get his copy of this issue. I certainly hope that it does not endanger this member, but we must all be responsible for at least some of our actions, and the Spanish member must retain the responsibility of his membership in the N 3F.

Art. Hayes.

ALMA HILL
463 Park Drive
Boston 15, Mass. USA.

April 16, 1964.

TIGHTBEAM:

With most of us, certainly with myself, it's an article of faith that stfans are good intelligent readers. Otherwise, would we be so well able to appreciate science fiction? This is the mode of modes, the story form with the most scope. Among the non-stffers you meet, some frankly admit that they don't have the vocabulary, and others plainly show that they don't have the imagination. --As to wisdom, I couldn't say about anyone else or even myself; and as to information, that is as may be and who has enough; but as to comparative reading ability, I think that we're all with it all right.

But by gorries there's too much stress nowadays on how fast you can read. Now don't get me wrong; I'm not holier-than-thou about this. Sometimes I think I have to hurry too; that's how I know it can waste more time than it saves. I'm as fast a reader as any when the material is suitable and maybe sometimes when it's not; but that's it; some writing is set up for you to read easily and come to no harm if you miss a subtlety; but not all subject material can be set up that way, can it?

When I learned to read, I wanted to go as fast as I could in order to find out what in creation those marks were going to tell me next, and I've been pushing ever since. That was before I started in school, though. In grades one and two I suffered much discomfort because the teacher made me wait for the rest of the class to finish the page before I could turn mine. By the third grade I suffered less because I was getting used to it; so by the time I got to high school I had fixed habits of patience, (which was good and has stood me in good stead the rest of my life) and of inertia (which wasnot so good: I flunked out of a college course before I seriously realized that for some stuff you need to give full attention -- once I get a notion in my head it can be moved out, but not easily). -- Anyway, when I was free to read anything I wanted, evenings by the parlor lamp or whenever, and I could go at my own speed, naturally I'd be glad of the chance to push faster and would go as fast as I could, so by now I can flip through a lot of stuff in a hurry if need be. Back when I was teaching English, I could go through a stack of student themes about as fast as I could turn turn the pages, grade them all about 10% high to temper justice with mercy, post themes and grades for the edification and mutual consultation of the whole group, right on the bulletin board, and never get a complaint about a grade too low. (They keep mum about anything that looks too high; we always reached an early understanding about that.) But it just isn't suitable to hurry through student papers always, so when I could, perhaps while they were writing in class time, I'd prowl around looking over shoulders. That is a good way to keep mischief from getting your range anyway, and a trip to the dictionary is a relief to young growing muscles. And then, essay questions on examination papers -- I read those at least twice, sometimes three times, looking for luck.

What I am trying to say is this: in some kinds of reading you can play tag with the author; but the more a thing a thing requires thought, the more one should slow down and let things reach one's awareness. Mathematics, of course, is the extreme example because every step supplies a new idea with a new name. Most people have to study, think, discuss it with friends and teachers, before we get it in mind enough to understand it well, and then it has to be practiced a bit in order to get ir from the head and into the hand, so to speak. Now that is very slow reading indeed, but if that's what it takes, then so mote it be.

All new ideas take more thought, in that general way if not to that extent, and the reason I'm expounding this (admitting that sometimes I err too, but still saying that it's an error to read too fast) is that I keep having to re-explain some of the

newer idea-contents in Project Semi-Pro, personal fanac for which I alone am responsible and therefore feels somewhat obligated to keep on explaining. If I just wrote and told you that WORDSHOP, the new Pro/2 fanzine, is NOT something you can subscribe to, and NOT something you can just be put on the list for, no matter how much I love you, damn! I was glad to hear from you so all the more I hated to have to answer you that way. I guess I didn't explain well enough in MARK 8? Or did you get some kind of second hand information? If I can't explain well enough as a first-hand source, what can we get getting further out in the galaxy????

So here's trying again, okay?

1. "Project Semi-Pro" consists entirely of writing about writing, and its only central point has been my mailbox. It has come to be abbreviated "Pro/2".
2. "Mark" (with serial numbers) is the name of a news column relaying Pro/2 matter: market news, technical remarks, things and stuff from Pro/2.
3. "WORDSHOP" is the official fanzine of Pro/2. It is not about to go to anyone but participants.
4. Participation in Pro/2 is a lead-pipe cinch; maybe too easy so I re-defined it and set up Mathew Drahan's little story as a referent. Any good reader can comment on how a story strikes him; and that can be valuable information for any writer. So if anyone is even mildly curious about WORDSHOP, the way to get on the list for it is to send me any few words or more about Drahan's story, and that's participation in Pro/2 and you get the zine until you tell me to stop, or I notice that you haven't been heard from for a year and a day, or something like that. In short, this thing is just getting going so I don't want to be overly-fussy with people of good will; but we do have to draw a line between action and inaction, so this is where it is. Did Art Hayes' fmz, THRU THE HAZE, miss you in the mails? Write to me, and I'll send you my copy; or ask your friends; it has been going not only to all NFFF but almost as many more outside this club.
5. Various people have classified themselves as members and friends of Pro/2 on the strength of kind words of whatever sort occurred to them but that was in 1963 when this thing was getting going. Then it was all the help I needed or could use. But a fanzine needs a mailing list; not all kind words mean much; if you meant much by yours, come again; if not, go your ways, in good health.
6. A fanzine has been called for and various models proposed, from the very beginning. Later, we may want to get out a subzine, I dunno. Certainly the material is plentiful and interesting enough. It just appears to me that the core of the whole project is participation, the consultation about specific stories; so that is what ought to be worked on first in my personal opinion. Now, refer back to item #1 of this list; the only central point of Pro/2 has been my mailbox. I'm the one with the data so for now you're stuck with my personal opinions. If the workshop stage goes well, maybe a more democratic system can be developed. I'd love that. But before anyone can decide about anything, they need information, yes? A fanzine we need and agree to because the one thing "Mark" cannot carry is a story to be worked up for sale and that is the core of the project, Semi-Pro! TTH has a circulation close to 500 and material in that has "common law copyright" and therefore cannot be marketed as new unpublished writing! Obviously then, the thing to do is to keep on running stuff of general interest in TTH but keep the serious business within limits so that after a story has been worked over by the reading-and-comment participators, then the writer who's "it" for that round can use the information at his discretion, rewrite his stuff to his own better satisfaction and we hope a better sale, because Project Semi-Pro is NOT, repeat NOT just a back-patting-and-stabbing amateur league. Participation is made easy because competence takes practice and that's the other side of Pro/2. Simple? It seems so to me, but as aforesaid I do have the most centrally-located information.

7. Please, no free plugs, no advertising. If you want to recommend me to your friends, thanks, but let them write to me for details; and please, whatever you say, if you publish it please, please, please let me check your statement for accuracy, is this much to ask? I can welcome up to 99 people but some of those are already in, and what could I do to cope with a rush?

8. If, through participation, you get to know what Pro/2 is like and want to use the pattern, sell, may you prosper too. Just call it something as different as you can so we don't both lose time answering one another's mail. THAT we N EITHER of us need. Of if you do, I don't. Please. I have NO paid staff and if I did, why would I want to pay for useless work?

9. The max imum circulation for WORDSHOP is 99 because as far as I have been able to find out, editors feel safe to buy a story if the number of consulting readers does not exceed that number. I include my file copy in that count and must be in a position to defy anyone to locate more than that number. I've stressed this before; there is no substitute for care about matters of record, whether the matter be pro or amateur; don't ask me for extra copies. A fumble about this 99-count could cost me more cash money than I have, so I not only don't care to, I don't dare to. This is one of the many places where Pro/2 not only can but must do better than average-amateur. The better amateurs are as good as the pros in this and many other ways, so I'm only stressing that this isn't something that socialibility can loosen up anywhere. For the same reason, NO SUBSCRIPTIONS.

10. If the circulation stays under 99, good, that saves me time and postage. But I'm not anxious to save that little bit that way. If I didn't enjoy this, would I be doing it at all? If it occurs to you to put a word in, you are just the one I'd love to hear from next. But remember - Drahan's story, not just loose talk, okay?

Having mentioned that I enjoy doing this, let me explain how and why. For one thing, I've loved listening to people since before I could talk; reading and writing are but extensions of this, as one of the people called it, an "affection for language". That seems to be a universal trait in mankind. In me it is not only very strong apparently by nature, but also by training and a long lifetime, over half a century of experiences. Pro/2 has been fun and probably will so continue. But as its title implies, it's only half in fun, and I for one greatly benefitted. The people have pestered me about my angle shooting style until I learned to make plainer the road of the reader. More of them willing to approve more of my fiction as probably salable; I just sold one to Fred Pohl, and never in my life did I expect to actually get past his critical judgement; you know it's rugged. I have more coming along and think that some of those will sell too. It gets easier with practice provided you get enough good coaching -- so you see, I KNOW how valuable this participation CAN be. Still, it has to be a part-time thing for all of us; so as I said at the beginning, if you too are a fast reader.... watch the curves. Okay?

PHIL KOHN
Main Road
Yokneam Israel

April 16 1964

Dear Don (Mr. President, Sir!) and Directors, and Neffers!!!

This letter is officially sent to the President and Directors of the NFFF. It is also intended for TIGHTBEAM. I would write another letter to TB, but I have no chance to catch deadlines - I don't know yet who the May Editor is, so I'm requesting you to forward it to same, after consideration by yourself.

(1) In the last (fall) roster I found a Spanish address. I know the N3F is determinedly nonpolitical. However, we are a freely spoken bunch, even in TB. Fans on the roster are, moreover, likely to get letters and fanzines of all kinds, including decidedly political ones, from Birch to Trotzki. I have (and thanks) . If we accept members from totalitarian countries, is it your proposal that we all shut up, except what pleases all the censors in the world? And, if so, how will you enforce it, not only on all old and new Neffers, but on anyone who gets his hands on the roster? If not, is it that you do not mind what happens to people in some countries who get the wrong kind of mail, starting with the knock on the door at 3 in the morning? These things still DO happen, and not only in Albania or Spain! I propose that we quietly cancel all membership in all communist countries, Spain, Portugal, South Africa, Haiti, Paraguay and such others as the Directorate may find proper after inquiry, excepting only immune personnel, such as diplomats, or U.S. forces. This is a very personal matter to me, since I'm neither ready to shut up, nor to endanger innocent people!

(2) (If anyone says we ought to DO something, and not just run away from communications, I'm ready to hear proposals: At your risk, and mine, but not at the risk of a third party who wasn't asked and did not know what he was getting into!) Cut this out of copy sent to SPAIN. I note with regret the general agreement that Directorate Business has to be secret. If it made sense, I'd now stand for director or president, on an anti-secrecy platform. Unfortunately I have the wrong address and could not possibly do the work involved. I wish, anyhow, to register a protest. I am challenging you to produce, in the form of fan fiction with changed names and characteristics, some pieces of directorate business which call for secrecy or even discretion.

(3) I would understand, and even approve, if the club adopted Gernsbacks education al aims, or political aims, whether from Ayn Rand or the Futurians or even from myself. However, all such things have been resolutely rejected. To go FIAWOL over STF itself is too ridiculous for words. I wish, consequently to protest against those who try to take matters too seriously. On one hand, they tell us, 'The N3F will have to....' no matter what. The N3F DOESN'T have to anything, not even exist! As long as it does exist, it is for the fun the members get out of it, including somebodies fun at feeling important - and mine at puncturing his balloon!! On the other hand Felice R life in the last EB, #23, they tell us to be polite or shut up - same mistake, and over my broken typer will it be done. I say we should feel at home, not be polite. I do not go as far as the White-house, where they threw each other into swimming pools (or was that some private Kennedy residence?) but that is the spirit I approve. So what if someone wants to call me an unmitigated idiot? Just go ahead, and wait what I'll call you back!! As the little girls sing, 'sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will never hurt me.' It's the same mistake since it also comes from taking things too seriously. And what kind of people are they, who promote empty communications such as greeting cards, who discourage interest in politics, in educational stf and gimmick stf, who want to tone us down to a polite whisper in disputing who, in short, want only to be entertained, and to play at polite society... and to be taken seriously when they do these things? I stand for real, serious things seriously, and playtime lightly. And IF they want to take stf seriously, well, lets do something about the distributor racket which has always hounded the field-the Reader's Digest has its net of representatives... why can't we copy it? And to the greeting carders I say, I understand your creative urge, but why not, at least, find some fictional causes, such as the First Fandom retirement and resurrection Fund, FFRRF! Or Saturnalia, or something, and send out leaflets!

Good FIAGH.

((Since there never was a March Tightbeam, this issue of TB is something that is rather skimpy, so you will, I hope, excuse me if I tend to be interspersing more of my own opinionated words in this issue than would normally be excusable for an individual member. Even at the expense of repetition. This idea of Phil's, of denying membership to those who live in countries having governments not agreeing with what the U.S.A. tends

to believe advisable is not one I tend to approve.

I have no intentions of censoring the copy of TB going to Dr. Antonio Dupla. He is no juvenile, not an uneducated lout, and he should know what he gets into by joining the N3F. For one thing, being a professional man, he should know that there are disparaging views in North America, about Franco and the Spanish form of government. He should be able to judge what he is likely to get in trouble with. He has joined the N3F. If he is ignorant of the political consequences he might encounter by joining the NFFF, then it is something H E will have to pay for. However, it should be pointed out, that over here, while jail is not likely to be the punishment, beware if you are even suspected of being in contact with a commie, specially if you are one who requires security clearances. You might, all of a sudden, be without a job, and not even able to get more than a medials job, even in non-security-requiring jobs. We have our own form of retribution for those who are undesirable, politically. However, we are not, at the moment, discussing what might happen to us, but to Dr. Dupla. I believe in letting him take care of himself, and that we are not to be restricted in our comments. I don't believe we should go out of our way to attack Spanish philosophy, but if, in the general course of discussions, something regarding Spain comes up, then let it come up, and let Dr. Dupla take care of himself. In the other letter from Mr. Kohn, he stated that he wanted a constitutional amendment to deny membership to citizens of totalitarian countries. It is within the powers of the Directorate, currently, to deny such membership, if they believe it will harm the club. I believe that such safeguards are sufficient for the present. I do not believe that it will be necessary to have Mr. Kohn shut up.

Directorate secrecy: This has been a sore point for some years, and keeps coming up every year or so. I remember when the discussion surrounding Mr. Rehorst was rampant in the club, that Stan Woolston initiated a motion to restrict the dispensing of information direct from directorate discussions, to others not in the Directorate. Actually, it was based on actions I had taken. It may be true, in childish circles, that 'Names will never hurt me', but when adults play at childish games, the rules are changed somewhat, and the result of 'names' can be, and has been, the law-courts. Therefore, whenever we find ourselves faced with matters of such a ticklish nature, the Directorate resorts to 'preveleged' communication, which is the correspondence that takes place between the Directors, in discussing, investigating, and deciding on what action will be taken in regard to certain matters. The moment these deliberations are made public, they lose their 'præveleged' nature, and become potentially liable for court-action. I, personally, am againt 'secrecy' by our Directors, but I must admit, from previous experience, that there are times when it is absolutely necessary. Another example of where such a necessity may exist, is when the subject under discussion is potentially of a feudish nature. Such discussions need not always be restricted only to the principals involved in the Directorate but may, at times, also include some outside of the official family, but the list of those so included must also be restricted so as to minimize the potential, real or imagined, that could result. This is where discretion is required. The result may not be along lines that others would agree with, but a decision is called for, and a decision is made. What I do object to is the frequent tendency to refuse to consider anything coming from certain individuals, labelling, without consideration, anything coming from that person, as 'feudish', without 'worthiness' and in general, closing one's eyes to any potential merit such a person may actually have, and replying in such a fashion as to be a complete side-tracking, and deliberate attempts to ridicule whatever emanates from that source. However, from previous experience, I KNOW that Directorate work is not only difficult, but also not very rewarding.

From the words of Mr. Kohn, I do not believe that he demonstrates an understanding of the 'creative urge' of the Greeting carders. But, I've taken up too much space already on the items Mr. Kohn has come up, and it is time to see how I can terminate this issue of TIGHTBEAM. But, one last word, on Mr. Kohn's comments that I must express public agreement with, is that Greeting Carders could, with merit, take up the public acknowledgement of SATURNALIA. Everyone who has ever had anything to do with me, will know that anything dealing with SATURNALIA meets with my approval.))

Harriett Kolchak
2330 N.Hancock St
Phila. Pa. USA 19133.

April 28.

I enjoyed "The World Of Andre Norton" especially. You see I think that she is one of the very few writers in S.F. today who still maintains the old view of writing S.F. I mean that her sense of wonder has not been destroyed by too many contacts with outsiders. Being a shut-in has helped her maintain the sense of balance that it takes to make a good S.F. writer.

Too many of our writers have overlooked the fact that S.F. should be written because they enjoy writing it and not for commercial value. I do not believe there is one other writer in the field that writes strictly from the longing to write S.F. I do believe that this is the very reason that we need some new blood in the field. To write a good story, we must want to write it and to say what we want to say in our own way. A story can be spoiled by too much cutting, changing and altering of statements. In fact we can lose the whole perspective of the story if we give in to editors and publishers' every whim and fancy. To add words just to bring in more money does not make a good S.F. edition or story. I maintain that a writer should write two or three stories to bring in money, rather than add a lot of meaningless words to one story. I also think that if the authors put up more of a scrap, we would have less cutting of good material from some of the stories that are printed. I blame a good deal of the trash that we have been getting, solely on the editors and publishers. If they want to sell, they should not insist that a story has to conform strictly to set ideas. They should not make SF a technical standpoint for meaningless, scientific, valueless articles. It is meant to be a sort of outlet for readers and it should maintain this quality at all expense. If it is to become a book of scientific reference, then it is no longer S.F. and it should be taken off the market as such. Maybe that is the reason so many of the young fan I meet are reading back issues of S.F. in the 40's and 50's and enjoying them, rather than buying the newer works. They maintain they get more enjoyment out of the older issues. Remember I hear a lot of this because ninety percent of the MERCURIANS are under 21 years of age.

((Is an author capable of judging his own work? Is it sinful to want to write for money? ARE editors and publishers solely to blame for what Harriett calls 'trash'? Is there too much 'scientific references' in some of our prozines, and stories to-day? Is it wrong for an editor to want stories based on 'set ideas'? Many a question could be asked but who will supply the answers is something else, since answers may vary as to the number of individuals answering.

I've just finished reading THE WANDERER (Fritz Leiber, Ballantine U6010 - 75¢). I am not sure whether an "excessive padding" charge can be given to this story, and, if so, who to blame. One possibility is that Fritz tried to cover too much in an involved wheel within wheel method, for the story to hold the reader's (mine) interest. I also, recently read ALL THE COLORS OF DARKNESS, (Lloyd Biggle - Star Weekly - SF Book Club & Double-day) in the Star Weekly edition, wherein MORE than half had been cut to fit the space allotment in this weekly paper. It was somewhat of a b & w deal. I haven't, yet, read the Book Club edition for comparison. Lloyd shuddered when he heard how much the paper was cutting out. The paper's staff did the cutting, not the author. Lloyd was afraid the story would be good in the reduced form, since, if it was, then it meant that he had had excessive verbiage permeating it in the original form. While it was somewhat b&w as I said, it was still good. Don't know, YET, what that proves, but maybe we will see when we read the longer version.

It is my understanding (and as somewhat shown by a Market survey printed in TTH not very long ago) that rates in the prozines are far from being high. Can it be said that our SF authors ARE writing for money?

To-day, we are also in the position wherein AUTHORS have taken over as editors and publishers in most of our prozines. Are they practicing what they wanted the former editors to do, when they themselves were the authors? Are authors capable of judging ANY writing, IF, what we are getting to-day IS TRASH?

How much 'scientific references' is too much? Does this include the use of scientific principals within the story structure, much, as I think I interpret what Mr. Gernsback yearns for? Does it include gimmicks?

With several prozine editors in charge to-day (though not as many as a few years ago) would not each individual editor, in wanting some attachment to 'set ideals', providing they are his own individual 'ideals' and not a copy of some other, not creating a situation wherein, through the different editors, we get several DIFFERENT SETS OF IDEALS? A form of competition of Ideals in which the one that is the most pleasing to the greatest number of readers, wins?

Is it really so surprising that the younger set to-day, seem to prefer the older stories? I don't think so, since both the former younger set, and the older set of those days, were 'younger sets' in the sense of having S.F. available in such quantity, and as such, required a type of S.F. that catred to the more adventurous spirit of the younger set. Now, the former 'younger set', having become and gone through, such adventurous 'blood & guts' type of stories, want more complicated involvements in their stories, leaving behind and out of the picture, the new younger set, who still and who will always need, the B& G type of story.

What do YOU think?))

IDA IPE
1625 E. Indianola Ave.
Youngstown, Ohio, USA. 44502.

April 9, 1964.

I am now heading the Story Robins and would like to hear from at least fifteen more Neffers who are interested in joining. We have half the number needed and will start launching the robins as soon as the quota is filled. The organizational plans will either appear in the current TB ((Ed: March)) or the May TB . Please contact me at the above address.

((Ed: As is now known, the March TB did not make the scene. As of this late date (May 3rd) I do not have the detailed organizational plans for this group. As soon as the confusion dies down from the loss of an issue of TB, I imagine that such additional information as is needed for participation in the Story Round Robins will be published. However, most fans who have been around for even a short while, know, in general, how such robins work. In this case, the first necessity is that you be willing to write fiction. The next being that you accept the idea that you, in these RRs, write only one portion, allowing the others to do their part. Your part may be in the middle, the end, or maybe the beginning. If collaboration in fictionwriting is something you would like to try, write Ida Ipe, and she will advise you of the actual details, where they differ from the normal story robins. The above notice was actually intended for use in TTH, but is being used as a filler in this issue of TB.)

##*#*#*#*

CLAYTON HAMLIN
Southwest Harbor,
Maine USA.

May 5, 1964.
(Sorta past deadline.)

FOR TIGHTBEAM (If still possible).

The story contest is doing very well, and VERY badly. Well, because there are now TWO professional sales of entries, both Frances Hall and Robert Margroff. Did someone use the word 'useless' to describe this, Mr. Tackett?

Badly, because I goofed. Only now, the end of April, are the comments and entries being returned to the authors. A look at the calender may explain why. That horrid day, April 15th, the Ides of Revenue. I am an accountant you know, and writing comments (or personal letters) could be done only during my noon hour at work. At work I do a considerable amount of work on those Tax returns. Even Directorate letters had to wait. Something had to give, and it sure did.

This year it will be different. A change of procedure is being made, so that entries to the contest will have only a short wait before they receive the comments on their stories. Probably about a month. No more of this waiting till the contest is all over and then having to do all the work at once. This is only fair to the contributors, they deserve better than a long wait like this, of several months of time. Eventually we may get this contest working properly.

There will be, definitely, a delay in publishing the winners. A matter of copyright. We must wait until original publication is completed, naturally. But eventually, yes, you will be seeing these stories, and they are well worth waiting for, that you can be sure of.

Now some other things. Memo to Al Lewis. Whatever did happen to that index to Doc Smith's Lensman stories you were going to publish a couple of years ago. If you have not already published, or have no plans to do so in the immediate future, say so, and I will do it myself. Probably with additions, like adding the Skylark epic, the two Tedric stories, and all those odds and ends like the Vortex Blaster, Spacehounds of IPC, Galaxy primes and such. I have been waiting for years to see this printed, if you can't do it, or have lost interest, please release the rights at least so someone else can get it done.

About this recent incident of the National Guardian which was sent out to members, I feel it is a privilege to have been a part of this directorate when it happened. They are better men than I think many of you may have realized. Oh, there was the usual hasty talk from outside about expulsions, there always is of course. In the past half dozen years, it has been suggested at least eight times that I know of, plus a case of suggested impeachment. Nothing unusual about that. The main idea is to keep these things from upsetting the rank and file members of the club. But this time it was a joy and a delight to find just how sensible and reasonable the directors were in coping with a situation that could have been troublesome. Naturally, the minimum action that would accomplish the desired end without a lot of fuss was desired. In this case, to correct the immediate situation, and see what action might be taken to prevent it from arising again is all that is needed. Expulsion of course is a final, and drastic remedy, about on a level with insisting that electrocution should be the one and only penalty for all criminal actions.

Special praise is due to Dave Locke, for understanding what might happen and giving advance warning, the extra week made lots of difference. To Don Franson, a better man than perhaps most of you realized. To Janie Lamb, who probably did more to correct the situation than all of the rest of us combined. And yes, to Seth Johnson, who was man enough to admit that he had made a mistake, and to correct it. It isn't easy to back

down in public.

Because personal privacy is important to a person, I suggest that any member who receives anything through the mails that disturbs him, that he has an easy out, he can return this material to the post office, and mark it refused.

I think it has been made clear to the members by now, that the club does not and will not sponsor any outside group, either by action or by implication. After all, we are odd enough by the usual standards in being science fiction fans. Politics is a most worthy subject for any person to become interested in, a good discussion subject amongst fans, in round robins, or fanzines, but the club is not involved in it by any means. I assume this whole subject can now be laid to rest, in an unmarked grave, and the club can go back to other things again.

To all authors in the club, including part-time authors as well, who may not have been made aware of it, there is a change in the income tax regulations that will really give them a good break when it comes to paying their tax next year. It is the matter of averaging income over a five year period, to come up with their taxable income. A great possibility here for anyone whose income may vary considerably, depending on their sales in any one year. Oh, it is complicated, anything to do with tax returns is bound to be confusing, but if any of you wish exact data on this, I now have full and detailed data and if you wish to write me personally, I'd only be too glad to save a fan a few bucks.

((Editor: Now, I have difficulties. How will I fill this part of the page, specially since it is the last letter I can accept for this issue. Heck, most of the issue has already been run off. Of course, I'm not really surprised, in that something like this was bound to emanate from under that rock. Strange things indeed can come from the twisted ethics that is the 'proud' banner of The Odd Ones.

First of all though, because there is a paragraph addressed to Al Lewis, who is no longer a member of N3F, I would like one of the California members who gets this, to bring the matter to Al's attention.

National Guardian: When I received, I recognized it as being something I wasn't interested in, and it went into File 13 immediately. I did not realize that Seth Johnson had been the one to have it mailed to me until the first rumblings reached me later. I am certainly pleased that it was handled with relative quietness, though, wouldn't it have been embarrassing if the officials had taken stronger retaliatory action against Seth, and to have it come out at the time when Seth was announced as being the winner of the Kaymar Award? But, this is an example where at least a moderate amount of secrecy is required surrounding Directorate discussions. It is normal, in these discussions, to have at least one come out with such vehemence that it could cause greater embarrassment to the club than the action cause warranted. Then again, while it is kept within the confines of the Directorate it is privileged matter, and is not the basis for which court actions can be taken. Of course, we do not know exactly what went on during this set of discussions, we won't know either, but to get 'unanimous' consent for expulsion is difficult to achieve, since all it takes to prevent such, is ONE vote against it. Yes, I agree that the action by Seth was unwise... but certainly not warranting expulsion, nor any lengthy continuation of the discussion after this issue of Tightbeam.

And, for the fourth time, THIS IS THE END of this issue. As it is, it has turned out to be larger than anticipated, as large as some issues of Tightbeam of the past.))

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POST-PPOST-POST deadline. A couple of letters inserted after the zine had been run.

JANIE LAMB
Route 1, Box 364,
Heiskell, Tenn.USA.
37754..

May 5, 1964.

Dear TB and all:

I noticed in the recent TNFF that Seth Johnson had won the "KAYMAR AWARD". I was very happy to see this, having been a member when Seth joined N3F I've had time to see how hard he has worked for the club. No member could be found who would be more deserving of this award. Not only has Seth recruited several members, but he has been on the WC for quite a while, and he usually writes to all new members. He has paid his money for ads in the promags which has helped in recruiting members for the club. At no time has he expected praise or egoboo for his work.

Have you recruited a new member this year? Even Wally Weber took time in a busy TAFF schedule to tell British fans about N3F. How do I know? I had requests for application blanks before Wally returned home, saying Wally had told them about N3F.

More of our members are becoming pro-writers, congratulations folks and keep up the good work. But, don't forget you were a neffer when you sold your first story.

Had you thought about announcing for a N3F office? Election is just around the corner. This is your club, you owe a certain responsibility to it, think it over and see if you have time to be an officer. Honest Injun, it only takes 14 hours a day and a well filled bank account, plus a lot of patience. A pleasing personality does help but you can be a plain human being if you have the time and the money. Of course, few active fans read any stf, I have boxes of unread books and mags now. Someday, somehow, I mean to read those books.

As I indicated elsewhere in this issue, I want to congratulate Seth Johnson on his winning the award. When I was in charge of the Welcommittee (for several years) there were many times that the only one I could depend on in the Welcommittee, and he was the only one about which I could expect frequent letters expressing approval of his letters.

Don Franson
Address elsewhere in this issue.

Subject: Tightbeam Schedule: (Not a complete printing, but experts of a May 5th letter)

Thanks for your prompt response, and your decision to bring out the MAY TIGHTBEAM as originally scheduled, regardless of the delay or non-appearance of the MARCH TIGHTBEAM. Your issue should therefore come out by May 10th (This is the 9th, as this is written).

Please label it the MAY issue. (Sorry everyone, I HAD it marked that-a-way, but I changed the stencil to read MARCH, and it's all run off). Please indicate clearly that the deadline for letters for the next issue, ROY TACKETT's July TIGHTBEAM, will remain as June 15th, regardless of any statement to the contrary made by Ken. The July and September TBs will not be rescheduled, but will come out on time as originally scheduled providing the editors can put them out on time, but they will have no handicaps caused by a delay in previous issues. Publishing deadlines are July 10th, to Roy Tackett. This will take care of any letter received as a result of Ken's announcement, or in answer to Ken's TIGHTBEAM when it comes out.

Roy Tackett: Please take notice that the deadline for letters to you for the July TIGHT-BEAM is June 15th, as originally set up. The July TIGHTBEAM should then be published by July 10th at the latest, on time, and will give you the full time for publishing as originally provided. As you were, in other words.

We are going to bring TIGHTBEAM back on schedule, not by delaying three issues, and then catching them up, but by dropping the MARCH issue out of the schedule entirely, since it is 60 days late now, and let it come out when it comes out. This was my idea originally, before I saw Ken's announcement, which I thought might require rescheduling of the next few issues. I did not like the idea of the lateness of one TIGHTBEAM delaying the other issues -- that's one of the reasons we have rotating editors. I made up a tentative rescheduling anyway, but I gave Art Hayes the decision to carry on as before if he wanted to. I am glad that he decided he wanted to go ahead as originally planned, even with a slim issue. If he wants another issue later, I will consider him ahead of others for the November issue, perhaps even the September issue if we don't get a reliable volunteer.

Since the planned schedule is now back to the same as originally legislated, no Directorate vote is necessary on re-scheduling. To recap: The MAY issue (Art Hayes): deadline is past: deadline for publishing is May 10th (vote to pay if a few days late). The July issue (Roy Tackett): deadline for letters is June 15th; deadline for publishing is July 10th. The September issue (no editor yet): deadline for letters is August 15th; deadline for publishing is September 10th. And so on.

And so it goes for another page, and I'm getting late, later, and later, so will put in a few words here, and call it really quits. Actually, while SOME copies will go out on Sunday the 10th of May, most of the copies will not go out until Monday or Tuesday of the 11th & 12th of May.

This is a Hodge-podge issue, wrong date on the cover. I don't know if the issue # is correct, will have to let the completists worry about that one. Too many additions made at the last minute, inserted even after the issue was run off, so those extra additions were inserted where it would come in the middle of a letter. Then, at the same time, I have been trying to get TTH going out too.

At this moment, I've got a youngster pumping the Gestetner, and I hope he doesn't mess things up on me. The youngster is a 13-year old who is not a fan, who probably will never become a fan. He was getting impatient waiting for me to make up another stencil, so I decided to let him go ahead and run some off. We shall see. How is it that I seem to always get into these messes anyhow. I wanted an easy issue to run off, for once, and it is as hard as any of those I've run off before. While I'm still volunteering for a future issue, I'm beginning to dislike the TIGHTBEAM zine.

So, bad or indifferent, this is my issue of TIGHTBEAM. Read it and weep.

Art. Hayes.

J W BOGART Jr
P.O. Box 207,
Central City, Iowa, USA, 52214.

April 15, 1964.

In regard to your comments on your coming plans for the overseas bureau. You feel that the success of any endeavour depends on the interest of the members. This is, of course, only too true. Well, I'm responding and by the time this reaches you I hope to have already started on my own. If you'll recall, the 23rd issue of TIGHTBEAM carried a letter, on the sixth page by Roy Tackett. In it he mentions the requests of a sf group in England. Birmingham to be exact. This request concerns their inability to get American sf articles, such as Book Club editions. I decided to contact them. However, for one reason or another, I've been putting it off. Your article in the latest TTH served to push me the final step from indecision. I'm writing them the same time I'm writing this. (Well, not quite the same time, I've only got two hands and one typer.)

Of course there is some difference between this plan and yours. In this case we would eliminate the middle man.... YOU. It'll save you some work. Howsomever, if you want to be kept informed on the progress, if any, of this group; I'll be glad to give you any info if and when you want it.

It might be a good idea to print this request by the Britishers as an add of sorts in the next TTH. From the way Roy's letter is written, this group wants a fairly large response from the U.S. fans. One or two isolated fans, as me for instance, couldn't supply all their requests. I think I could carry a pretty profitable friendship with one, or two at the most of the Britishers, but with any number beyond that, because of my own time and monetary limitations, such would be nigh on impossible.

Of course, I'm also interested by your project. If nothing else, your chart of British sf material will be very useful as a guide which I can use when I ask the British boys to carry on their part of the bargain.

As I said, this is all, as yet, experimental on my part. It could be very worthwhile.... then again, it could flop miserably. However, I'm hoping for the best.

P.S. Am grateful for the Norton Guide. Am fast becoming a fan of hers.

Editor: I am switching from stencil to stencil, trying to cut stencils for TWO publications at once. I'm preparing TTH and this issue of Tightbeam. TTH is late, TB is not (inso far as my own original deadline was concerned). Am also trying to find time in betwixt and between that, my work, sleep, etc. to do some work on this fishing boat we are conditioning for this summer. It should already be in the water, but that too is late.

I am pleased that there has been ONE response to the idea of trading with those who are unable to get some of the U.S. sf material. It has been reported to me that in most countries now, the exchange and purchase of currencies are not restricted, even in England. BUT... there are other considerations involved here. I'm not sure I understand the situation, but copyright and international regulations prevent the official commercial exchange or purchase of material from one country to another, in some cases. It seems that this is the case though. The best thing for me to do is to print the original letter I received from the Birmingham group, and let you see for yourself what the situation IS: On to the next page.

Birmingham S.F. Group.
Peter R. Weston
9, Porlock Crescent,
Birmingham 31.
ENGLAND.

Dear Art Hayes,

You will have never heard of me before. I am a member of the above SF group, and run a little amateur magazine, ZENITH. Regretably, Number 1 is at the moment all mailed out, but the second issue will be out very shortly, and I will try and post you a sample.

I was speaking to KEN CHESLIN a little while ago, and he recommended my writing to you about a problem that I have. I want to obtain certain US books and magazines which are pretty difficult or expensive to buy in the U.K. For instance, ANALOG, cost us about 8.50 dollars, while US subscriptions are only \$5.

We are in touch with some dealers, including F & SF Centre, Staten Island, and while we have had some material from them, we find some prices a bit high. What we would like, would be to find someone willing to exchange books and magazines, for material bought out in Gt. Britain. (And there is quite an output over here now). We want most particularly to join the DOUBLEDAY SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB. We could really use the three for \$1. initial offer, at at \$1. each, we are quite willing to take every book in the year. (As you know, copyright difficulties prevent our direct membership in the club). We need someone willing to join, and send releases over here. We are as I say, willing to exchange, or otherwise pay cash (including cost, postage, and perhaps a bit more). Can you help, or put us in touch with anyone who might be able to?

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Editor: There you have the story. I've been on the lookout for a Book club ad lately, but haven't seen any. I was going to join in on a second membership, but want to get as good an initial offer as I can, but they do not seem interested in gaining new members, and suspect that the club may stop in a year or two. I've taken every book they had to offer since they started. Sometimes, in their initial offers, they had books that were printed ONLY for those initial offers and never actually sent out to members. Most of these I got too. Another thing for the Birmingham group to remember is that the books are NOT \$1. per book, except under special conditions. The books, in the U.S. are \$1. each, PLUS around 25 to 30¢ of postage and handling cost, and the additional postage to send to England would add another 10 to 15¢ to the cost. In Canada, the books are \$1.10, plus those other costs. Some editions are priced higher. I would say that the \$1. book, if I sent them to England, would cost them between \$1.50 to \$1.60 each.

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