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CABLE "ROSNOR"

3 September 1957

IN REPLYING REFER TO:

Kirk Douglas
General

Mr. Kirk Douglas
c/o Bayerischer Hof Hotel
Promenadeplatz 6
Munich, Germany

Dear Kirk:

The purpose of this letter is to give as up-to-date a report as possible on the status of pictures and properties.

"Last Train From Harper's Junction" - This is a Hal Wallis project. Ronnie Lubin will write you directly concerning this.

"Jayhawkers"-- This is a Panama and Frank project. Ronnie Lubin will write you directly concerning this.

"Alitet" - Dorothy Dandridge has read this property and is excited about doing it. Everyone concerned seems to feel that this property with yourself, Dorothy Dandridge and Jack Palance would be an exciting project. What do you think?

"Mauvourneen" - It looks as though we may have to abandon this project as we are unable to come up with the European financing. Unless we are able to come up with a definite deal real soon, and by this I mean a week or two, we will in all probability lose Tony Quinn.

"Sound and Fury" - This is a 20th Century-Fox project to be produced by Jerry Wald and directed by Marty Ritt. Ronnie Lubin is endeavoring to obtain a firm offer from Fox before submitting this property to you. He quoted them \$350,000.00 or \$250,000.00 plus 25 per cent of the net profits. I do not think it is possible to get a gross proceeds deal from Fox. As a part of this deal, it might be possible to get an option from Fox on Ritt's services for one picture for your own activities. You will recall that Marty Ritt was the director whom David Susskind regarded so highly and with whom he had a contract. Ritt has done two or three

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pictures at Fox and at the moment appears to be the fair-haired boy at the studio.

Letter to Dick Tracy Slant

"Silent Gun" - I spoke to Ronnie Lubin and he advises me that it is impossible to get Gary Cooper for this project. If you think that Tony Curtis would be right for the part, Ronnie will send you the "kinnie" so that you can show it to Tony.

"Life of Goya" - This is an Albert Lewin project. Ronnie will write you more about this but at the moment it appears that Ava Gardner is set for the role of the Duchess of Alba and the property will probably be produced in Spain. Despite the fact that Al Lewin may have had some unsuccessful pictures, it is my opinion that he is one of the most talented individuals in the industry.

Sam Mirisch's Gang?

"The Husband" - This is a Vera Caspary novel which is to be published in the next few months by one of the leading publishers both here and in England. I have discussed this property with Harold Mirisch, who has left Allied Artists, and who would like to produce this property. I discussed a possible deal with him for your services and those of Doris Day to play husband and wife in this two-role project. I discussed a deal wherein each of you (you and Doris) would receive \$500,000.00 cash for the picture payable at the rate of \$50,000.00 per year for ten years. This would create an annuity for each of you and even though \$350,000.00 properly invested might return more than this amount per year, it is my opinion that diversification is preferable in this instance. Marty and Doris have both read the property and like it very much, although Doris has some reservations about doing it because the part is emotional. Doris has wanted to stay away from emotional roles because she can't seem to separate her own life from her picture parts. I will try to get a copy of the galleys for you to read as soon as something more definite is available for your consideration. G. G. Goldsmith, Vera Caspary's husband, has a tentative commitment with Fritz Lang to direct the picture and it will probably be made in England since it has an English background.

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"Revival" - I am awaiting your reaction to this property after reading same. This is also a project in which Harold Mirisch is interested and I think that probably the same type of deal could be made on this property as indicated above with respect to "The Husband".

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Did?

what is Mirisch role -

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"Angry Hills" - Producer Raymond Stross made a deal on this property with Robert Mitchum so it probably is no longer available.

"Tunnel of Love" - Doris Day will probably do this at Metro with Glenn Ford. It appears that Metro insisted on using Glenn Ford for this project although the deal has not yet been closed.

"Indian Fighter" - Reports indicate that the domestic gross will be between \$2,200,000.00 and \$2,300,000.00 and the foreign gross between \$1,500,000.00 and \$1,600,000.00. This indicates a total net profit to all profit participants of between \$600,000.00 and \$700,000.00.

"Spring Reunion" - I sent you a copy of Mike Beck's last letter to me. It indicates that the picture is not doing well and in all probability will lose a considerable sum of money - probably between \$300,000.00 and \$400,000.00.

"Careless Years" - This picture has not yet been released, but the release date will be in the next few weeks. Stanley sent you copies of the trade paper reviews which you will see were quite good. The song "Careless Years" has been on the hit parade for many weeks and this should help the gross of the picture.

"Lizzie" - The last report which I received from Metro was for the period ending June 6th. It indicated a gross of \$156,000.00. This represented only a few weeks engagements and, therefore, any definitive information is unavailable. However, Red Silverstein indicated to me that the picture would make a profit but that he would make no prediction as to the amount.

"The Shadow" - Allan Scott has been very ill and unable to work so that this project has slowed down. However, in a conversation I had with Allan last week, he said he was going to go back to work on the property.

"King Kelly" - Allan Scott completed the screenplay of this property and I am sure that the office will send you a copy, if they have not already done so, as soon as typed copies have been made up.

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"Ride Out For Revenge" - Stanley has probably written you in detail as to the reaction to the picture at the preview. Bob Blumofe thinks the picture should break even based on its low cost. The picture has not yet been released so there is no definite information at this moment.

"I Stole \$16,000,000" - I spoke to Jimmy Harris regarding this property and he advises me that Al Manuel, the author's agent, stated that he would recommend to the author that he accept \$7,500.00 for all rights. When the offer was submitted to the author, the author stated that he wanted \$10,000.00 plus 5 per cent of the profits. It appears that the author is adamant on the profit participation since this seems to be all that he has left from the \$16,000,000. I think that \$5,000.00 with 5 per cent of the profits might buy the property. What is your further advice? *

"Devil's Disciple" - As you know, Ronnie is very excited about this project. As yet Harold Hecht has not made a firm offer. Harold has said that he wants you very badly for the part although Ronnie has the feeling that he is still trying to get Marlon Brando.

"Man Against Himself" - This a property the screenplay for which has been written by Ernie Lehman and which is to be produced by Allen Pakula. Ronnie Lubin will write you more fully about this project.

"Party Girl" - This is a property written by Charles Schnee and to be directed by Bob Wise. Ronnie will write you about this one also.

"The Transfer" - This is a Panama and Frank project. Ronnie Lubin says this is not as important as "Jayhawkers", which I mentioned earlier, but he will write you about this in any event.

"Ben Hur" - This is still cooking as the deal with Burt Lancaster did not go through.

"Maltese Falcon" - This you know about since Ray apparently has been calling you directly.

* Since dictating above, Jimmy tells me that if manana's instructions prop you be offered \$1000 plus 5% & will take title temporarily in his own name.

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"King of Paris" - Same situation on this as on Maltese Falcon.

"Matador" - Ronnie says that he is trying to acquire this property for you. I do not know what correspondence you have had with him regarding this so I would appreciate your filling me in. I saw Jose Ferrer at the tennis matches and mentioned this property to him. This was several weeks ago. Jose said the property was for sale but would not let me read the screenplay. I gathered from the conversation that the screenplay was no good. He indicated he wanted a lot of money. That was about the extent of my conversation with him. I presume that Ronnie is aware of this situation. If not, he will be when he receives a copy of this letter.

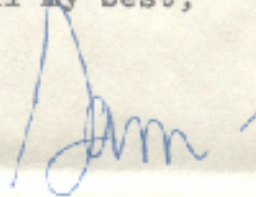
According to Ronnie, the three hot projects for your next picture are "Sound and Fury", "Devil's Disciple" and "Jayhawkers".

I believe that the above list is complete. If not, either Ronnie or I or both of us will supplement same in a subsequent letter.

I will write by separate letter regarding other matters.

Also, tell Anne I will write her in the next day or two.

All my best,



SPN:em

cc: Mr. Ronnie Lubin

P.S. Passport To Nowhere - This is a rewrite of "Johnny August" which has now been read & liked. Go through rewrite it into Ted Harris. This will be sent to you soon. I think the rewrite is a tremendous improvement. Ted Harris is a genius, but mad.