

September 25, 95

Dear Brian:

Thank you for so quickly managing to summarize the gist of our meeting and for the courtesy of allowing me to comment on it.

You had told me in a previous phone conversation that there were two areas to be resolved: That I find a social-worker monitor, preferably a nun, and that I not become director. I am glad to report that I have resolved both. The social worker holds an important position in the New York Hospital system and was once employed by Leo House in his student days. Unfortunately he is not a nun. He and I will soon be meeting to discuss particulars.

Frank Pilecki has decided not to resign. Frank has talked to and won the approval of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Leo House to take a medical leave of absence while continuing to be the Director. I will remain as assistant to him. He will work only two or three days a week and will be constantly available to me for consultation. Most importantly he will be the point person on the continuing and vexing problem of the 7 residents' legal action. The lawyers expect this to be concluded imminently. As I understand it from you, this was the main concern of the Cardinal of NY.

Now let me address your request for me to verify your letter to me. May I suggest that in your description of the Leo House you might want to point out that it is a non-profit hotel that does a great deal of charity work. I probably forgot to tell you this. Also it has a chapel, daily Mass and a resident priest.

Only two of the Sisters work at providing breakfast. The others work throughout the hotel in a variety of positions.

You might want to mention that neither you nor Ed ever came across a child in your time at the hotel.

Some of the employees are not members of minority groups.

May I urge you to delete the reference to accusations once made against Frank? In addition to our belief that a man is innocent until proven guilty, it becomes doubly true that once found innocent, that should be the end of it. This kind and generous man lost his wife, his home, his job, his career, his reputation and his health as a result of charges which were eventually proven false. He deserves a medal for not becoming embittered. Instead there abides a tendency to describe him as a man who was once accused.

May I also urge you to delete the reference to McLean psychiatric hospital. His presence there, as with all patients, was a carefully guarded secret.

The December deadline is no longer a problem since Frank is not resigning.

I wish you would find a more felicitous phrase for: "He became guarded". It sounds as though I was being less than forthcoming with you when the reality is that I was simply trying to preserve your ability in the future to honestly deny to the [001] [redacted]s of the world that you knew where I was residing. The countries were Mexico and Guatemala. And of course I would have to send my medical bills to Tufts so ultimately I would still be traceable. It also occurs to me that you might feel you had to inform the bishop of the region and thus you would have to know where I was going. If Cardinal O'Connor, who is a friend of Cardinal Law has trouble with my presence then is there any bishop who will abide me? In any case it is a moot question now. It was a form of "ecclesiastical deportation" in any event. We don't require even murderers and rapists to leave their country. It appears that you, and I, will now be spared the uninviting prospect of my return to Boston and incarceration in Our Lady's Hall for the rest of my natural life. Several months ago you said you would look into the possibility of an increase in my stipend but you haven't told me of the results of that quest. My rent in NYC is \$1,630 a month and my salary is \$8,000 a year. At this very moment I wait anxiously for this month's check from you which has not arrived.

I don't think you suspect me of dissimulation but for the record and to assist you in your attempts to help me:

As you and John McCormack will attest I have scrupulously abided by every rule and restriction given to me. Even though I strongly disagree with the admonition that I may never again say Mass publicly I have never done so. I submitted, reluctantly to the evaluation in Connecticut. I returned from California and my support group. I have abided by my promise not to mention to anyone the fact that I too had been sexually abused as a teenager, and, later as a seminarian by a priest, a faculty member, a pastor and ironically by the predecessor of one of the two Cardinals who now debate my fate. I have been cooperative and obedient, have kept you informed of every aspect of my search for a livelihood, once I had been deprived of the ability to do so as a priest. Now I have finally found a way to survive as a layman, even though Fr. McCormack insists that I am "still a brother priest". Had I been forced to leave here it would have flown in the face of the one piece of psychiatric advice, the only caveat I was given in the psychiatric evaluation: namely, that the Rorschach test indicated that I answered questions about the cards in the same way that people did who eventually committed suicide. I assure you that I am not depressed and not suicidal but if anything might be calculated to render me so it would be to deprive me of the opportunity to make a living. As I look back on my life the only time I have been depressed was when such a prospect loomed. I think Freud might agree.

I spent 25 years or so rehabilitating myself, successfully, as attested to by the psychiatric evaluation you required of me in Connecticut.

Leo House has invested 6 months of pay, training, schooling (Fire Safety Director Schooling and Testing has cost nearly a thousand dollars) and expectation to prepare me for running the hotel which now is denied to me. I will accept that. But I wish it had been told to me from the outset that I cannot accept any job in which I will be in charge

if indeed that is the new principle. I cannot help but wonder whether there are any other restrictions which I do not know about?

I hope this lengthy letter is of some help to you Brian. If possible perhaps you would allow me to review your amended response. You always have a room at Leo House if you need to get away for a few days.

gratefully

Paul F. Shomley

