

29, Palace Street,
London.
S.W.1

18th January, 1937
(Dict. 17.1.37)

11106

Dear Douglas,

I am going away on Wednesday for some considerable time although it is possible I may be back for a short interlude in the month of February.

.....

I received an application from the Trustees of the English League for refund of the balance of the money which they subscribed for the purpose of starting the Schools. As this was a voluntary gesture on their part I do not see that anything can be done except return them whatever is due. As I could not get hold of you I borrowed a cheque and made out the cheque in their favour for the sum of £26.6.1. This is the difference between the total balance available in the Bank and the amount subscribed from other sources which so far as I can estimate was £30.6.0. A cheque for this latter amount will be paid to you in due course.

.....

I am going off to Scotland tonight and shall only be in London for a few minutes on Wednesday morning but a letter to my Office will always find me.

With kind regards and best wishes for the success of your efforts,

I am,
Yours sincerely,
R. R. Stokes.

F. C. R. Douglas, Esq.,
UNITED COMMITTEE FOR THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES LTD.,
94 Petty France,
London, S.W.1

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

94 Petty France,
London, S.W.1
19th January 1937

R. R. Stokes, Esq.,
29 Palace Street,
London, S.W.1

Dear Stokes,

Thank you for your letter of yesterday. I am sorry that I must sharply disagree with what has been done.

First of all, I know of no reason entitling the trustees of the English League to require the balance of the money given to the School to be repaid to them. My view is that this money, having been paid into the School's banking account became the property of

the School.

Secondly, with all respect to you I cannot admit that you had any authority of any kind to deal with this matter. The Temporary Committee has ceased to exist, and no member of it as such has any power. The Temporary Committee brought the Board of Governors into existence, and that is one of the objects for which it was appointed. With the coming into existence of the Board of Governors all the functions and powers of the Temporary Committee passed to them.

If therefore the Trustees of the English League desired to have the money repaid to them they should have made application to the Governors. I leave aside, for the moment, whether they had any right to make such an application except upon the express authority of the English League and whether such authority was sought or given.

Moreover, it is not unfair to point out to you that the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors, acting under the powers of management conferred upon them by the Governors, decided to close the present banking account and to open a new one at the Midland Bank, 22 Victoria Street, which is more convenient to this office. In pursuance of that resolution I wrote to Mr. Hildreth as one of the persons entitled to operate upon the banking account and as treasurer to the Temporary Committee, informing him of this decision and asking him to sign a cheque made payable to the School and crossed for the amount of the balance in the bank in order that it should be paid into the new banking account. I also asked him to get the signature of Mr. Berens to this as cheques require two signatures. He wrote to me asking for the minute of the Executive Committee and I supplied him with this. He also said: "I cannot quite see why it is necessary to issue a cheque for payment to the School for money which already belongs to them". To which I replied that if he knew of any better method of carrying out the resolution I would have no objection to that method being adopted.

You will observe that in this there was no suggestion about any claim by the English League or its trustees, but on the contrary the clear statement that the money belonged to the School.

I must therefore say that I consider this whole transaction to be wrong and irregular. I do not know what representations may have been made to you, and I need hardly say that I do not think that you intended to bring about an unfortunate state of affairs, but I and the Governors are now faced with a deplorable situation.

Yours sincerely,

F. C. R. Douglas

P.S. It may be well to add, although this has nothing to do with the merits of the matter, that the figures you give do not appear to tally with the information given to the Temporary Committee and the Governors.

Jany 14th 1937

Dear Mr. Douglas,

In reply to yours of the 12th inst re cheque - I cannot quite see why it is necessary to issue a cheque for payment to the School of money which already belongs to them - Could you oblige me by sending an extract of the minutes deciding this.

On receipt, I will pass the cheque on to Mr. Berens.

Yours sincerely,

W.H.Hilfreth

F.C.R. Douglas, Esq., M.A.
94 Petty France,
London, S. W. 1

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

94 Petty France,
London, S.W.1

15th January 1937

Mr. W. H. Hildreth,
Brockswood,
Gurney Court Road,
St. Albans.

Dear Mr. Hildreth,

Thank you for your letter of yesterday. The resolution of the Executive Committee regarding the banking account was: "It was resolved that the present banking account at the Westminster Bank Tavistock Square be closed and that a new banking account be opened at the Midland Bank, 22 Victoria Street, and that cheques or other instruments operating on this account be signed by any two of the following: W. R. Lester, Wilfrid Harrison, and F.C.R. Douglas".

If you know of any better manner of carrying out this resolution than that suggested (which I mentioned to you also in my letter of the 1st inst.) I will have no objection, but I should be glad to have this matter dealt with as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

F.C.R. Douglas

Brockswood,
Gurney Court Road,
St. Albans,
Jany 19th 1937

Dear Mr. Douglas,

With reference to yours of the 15th inst. I learnt on Saturday that Mr. Stokes, as Chairman of the Temporary Committee has issued a further cheque against the account and that £56.12.1 does not now represent the balance.

I have signed the enclosed cheque to save time but in view of

the fact that it will require altering before presentation, I am returning it to you as Mr. Berens will not wish to sign the cheque for the amount it stands for at present.

Yours sincerely,
W. H. Hildreth

F. C. R. Douglas, Esq., M.A.,
94 Petty France,
London, S. W. 1

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

94 Petty France,
London, S. W. 1

21st January 1937

Mr. W. Hildreth,
Brockswood,
Gurney Court Road,
St. Albans.

Dear Mr. Hildreth,

I am in receipt of your letter of 19th inst. I do not gather whether you were consulted or whether you offered any observations upon the very strange transaction which you refer to. I therefore make no comment upon it in relation to yourself.

I note you say that you have signed the cheque "to save time", but as it could not now operate unless altered and initialled I am unable to see the saving of time.

Yours faithfully,

F. C. R. Douglas