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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

General Headquarters
January 30, 1948

E. F. Day - Waukegan

Dominic Bertogliat -

Confirming our telephone conversation of yesterday and today, we have word from Mr. Burkett, of our Insurance Department, that the decision on the part of Travelers to pay Mr. Bertogliat's widow the death claim insurance of $5,000 is a definite one and that the check was to be sent out by the insurance company yesterday.

They say that they, too, had a letter from an attorney representing the widow. As far as we know, the decision on the part of the insurance company to pay this claim was because of Mr. Burkett's continual checking with them, even to the point of talking to a number of men at Hartford, Connecticut, their headquarters. It would be unfortunate if the widow should get the erroneous impression that the death claim is being honored because she hired a lawyer to get it for her. We are not entirely certain of the part the lawyer played in it, but it is our understanding that it was our Insurance Department's work on it that brought about the results.

Hugh Jackson and I have just been discussing this case and we are wondering if it would not be a very gracious thing to do, as well as a worth-while thing to do, if you would take the time to go where Mrs. Bertogliat is now located and talk with her about the situation. By a personal visit, you would not only show the interest that is truly felt in the case, but you would also be able to get, we think, a better "feel" of what her attitude is about it.

We think, of course, that you would at this time see that she understands how thoroughly the Company is going into the case in an attempt to establish the facts surrounding Dom's sickness and death. Certainly we want to do whatever is the right thing to do, but we want to base our actions on the facts of the situation as they are developed.

We wish you would go over this with Mr. Mikal and let us know what you decide to do.

Inasmuch as this case might become a legal situation, will you please send us copies of any and all reports, letters, or memoranda that you have or may have that bear on the case.

For the same reason, since we don't know what the future development will be, I think it would be well if you would send us any letters you may receive which have any legal phases or which may be from anyone in the case from a legal standpoint, so that the matter may be considered by our own legal staff here before a reply is given. This is the usual practice in cases of this kind and certainly it is advisable when we don't know what the future developments will be.

J. P. Woodard

cc: Vandiver Brown
W. S. Burkett
H. M. Jackson

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