

Houghton Mifflin Company

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Barbara Bruce Williams
Counsel

July 27, 1987

Mr. Robert Clancy, President
Henry George Institute
5 East 44th Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Clancy:

Your letter of December 5, 1986 has been referred to me.

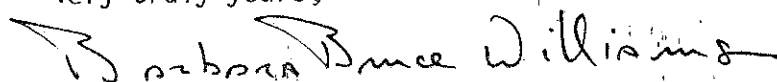
After careful review of the "misinformation" pertaining to the origins of the "Monopoly" game which you claim was included in our book The Entrepreneurs, we find no error on either our part or the part of the authors. Although we appreciate your bringing the matter to our attention, we wish to emphasize to you that the purpose of our book was to inform readers about the men and women who marketed innovative ideas -- the entrepreneurs -- and not about the actual inventors.

Although our authors have admitted, in print, they were unaware at the time they did their research of the contested validity of the "Monopoly" patent, that information still would not have been pertinent to our book, and would not have been included because it does not relate to Darrow's entrepreneurial techniques. Furthermore, as the Court in Anti Monopoly Inc. v. General Mills Fun Group Inc., stated in its opinion, the game invented by Mrs. Phillips was simply a "precursor" to Monopoly. Mr. Darrow then "made many improvements in the Landlord's Game and called his game Monopoly." Id. at 1320, quoting letter from Robert B. M. Barton, former President of Parker Brothers to an inquirer (1957).

As far as the television series, Houghton Mifflin Company was not a party to that effort, only getting involved in the production of the book after the television series was created. Parker Brothers supplied the information for the series, which is unlikely to air again. The book is off of the bookstore shelves.

I have enclosed a copy of David Sicilia's rebuttal to Mr. Warsh's allegations in his Boston Globe column which may help to clarify the authors' approach to the situation. Also enclosed is a copy of the book The Entrepreneurs, so that you can see for yourself its focus.

Very truly yours,



Barbara Bruce Williams

BBW/sp
Enclosures

16

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