

M.M. editor on Richard Williams.
(please publish 'equal time')!

November 24, 1971

Dear Paul, Linda, et al the wee McCartneys,

Thanks for your letter.....

1. We give you money for your bits of Apple.
2. We give you more money in the form of royalties, which legally belong to Apple. (I know we're Apple, but on the other hand, we're not.)

Maybe there's an answer there somewhere...but for the millionth time in these past few years I repeat, What about the TAX? It's all very well playing 'simple, honest ole' human Paul' in the Melody Maker, but you know damn well we can't just sign a bit of paper. You say 'John won't do it'. I will if you'll indemnify us against the tax - man! Anyway, you know that after we have our meeting, the fucking lawyers will have to implement whatever we agree on - right? If they had some form of agreement between them before we met, it might make it even easier. It's up to you; as I/we've said many times -- we'll meet you whenever you like. JUST MAKE UP YOUR MIND! e.g., two weeks ago I asked you on the phone, 'Please let's meet without advisors, etc. and decide what we want', and I especially emphasized 'Maclen' which is mainly our concern, but you refused - right? You said under no condition would you sell to us, and if we didn't do what you wanted, you'd sue us again, and that 'Ringo and George are going to break you John', etc., etc. Now I was quite straight with you that day, and you tried to shoot me down with your emotional 'logic'. If you're not the aggressor (as you claim), who the hell took us to court and shit all over us in public?

Who was buying up Northern Songs shares behind my back? - Even before Klein came in! (No excuse) Who's the guy threatening to 'finish' Ringo and Maureen, who was warning me on the phone two weeks ago? Who said he'd 'get us' whatever the cost? -- As I've said before -- have you ever thought that you might possibly be wrong about something? Your conceit about us and Klein is incredible - you say you 'made the mistake of trying to advise them against him (Klein), and that pissed them off' and we secretly feel that you're right! Good God! You must KNOW we're right about Eastman; he can't even control himself in PUBLIC - even the people he buys paintings from squirm! (Shit from the inside, baby!) One other little lie in your 'It's only Paulie' M.M. bit; Let It Be was

not the first 'bit of hype' on a Beatle album. Remember Tony Barrow? And his wonderful writing on Please, Please Me, etc., etc. the early Beatle Xmas records! And you gotta admit it was a 'new phase Beatle album', incidentally written in the style of the great Barrow himself! By the way, what happened to my idea of putting the parody of our first album cover on the Let It Be cover? Also, we were intending to parody Barrow originally, so it was hype. But what was your Life article? Tony Barrow couldn't have done it better. (And your writing inside of the 'Wings' album isn't exactly the Realist, is it?) Anyway, enough of this petty bourgeois fun.

You were right about New York! I do love it; it's the ONLY PLACE TO BE. (Apart from anything else, they leave you alone too!) I see you prefer Scotland! (M.M.) - I'll bet you your piece of Apple you'll be living in New York by 1974 (2 years is the usual time it takes you - right?).

Another thing, whadya mean 'big thing in Toronto'? It was completely spontaneous, they rang on the Friday - we flew there and played on the Saturday; I was sick 'cause I was stone-pissed! Listen to the album, with no rehearsal too! Come on Macka! Own up! (We'd never even played together before!) Half a dozen live shows - with no big fuss - in fact we've been doing what you've been talking about doing for three years! (I said it was daft for the Beatles to do it, I still think it's daft) So go on and do it! Do it! Do it! e.g., Cambridge (1969 completely unadvertised! A very small hall) Lyceum Ballroom* (1969 no fuss, great show - 30 piece rock band! 'Live Jam'* out soon! Fillmore East* (1971 unannounced! Another good time had by all -* out soon!!) We even played in the streets here in the Village (our spiritual home!?) with the great David Peel!! We were moved on by the cops, even!! It's best to just DO IT, I know you'll dig it, and they don't expect the Beatles now anyway!

So you think 'Imagine' ain't political, it's 'working class here' with sugar on it for conservatives like yourself!! You obviously didn't dig the words. Imagine! You took 'How Do You Sleep' so literally (read my own review of the album in Crawdaddy). Your politics are very similar to Mary Whitehouse's -- 'saying nothing is as loud as saying something!'

Listen my obsessive old pal, it was George's press conference - not 'dat ole debbil Klein'. He said what you said - 'I'd love to come, but...' Anyway, we did it for basically the same reasons - the Beatle bit - they still called it a Beatle show - with just two

of them! Has Eastman ever donated the amount Klein gave for Bangla (\$50,000) - that's his personal gift! Join the Rock Liberation front before it gets you.

Wanna put your photo on the label like uncool John and Yoko, do ya? (Ain't ya got no shame!) If we're not cool, WHAT DOES THAT MAKE YOU.....

No hard feelings to you either. I know we basically want the same, and as I said on the phone and in this letter, whenever you want to meet, all you have to do is call.

All you need is love,
Power to the people,
Free all prisoners, Jail the Judges,
Love and peace,
Get it on, and rip 'em off!

John Lennon

P.S. The bit that really puzzled us was asking to meet WITHOUT LINDA AND YOKO. I know you're camp! But let's not go too far! I thought you'd have understood BY NOW, that I'm JOHNNANDYOKO.

*P.P.S. even your own lawyers
know you can't "just sign a bit of paper"
(or don't they tell you?!)*