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Metropolitan Opera Association, Lincoln Center, New York, New York 10023 (212) 799-3100

January 8, 1979

Mr. John T. Connor
Blue Mill Road, R. D. 2
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

Dear John:

I have your letter of January 4th to Frank Taplin regarding the unsigned letter of November 23rd which you received at your home. I will answer your questions in order:

(1) We have no knowledge of any criminal activities on the part of Mr. Levine. We have talked extensively with him and with his manager, and certain newspaper reporters have made extensive searches of the newspapers of cities where the incident was alleged to have occurred. We do not believe there is any truth whatsoever to the charges. Scurrilous rumors have been circulating for some months and have often been accompanied by other charges which we know for a fact are untrue. For example, I have been alleged to have engaged Leinsdorf to replace Levine; he has resigned; the Board has had a secret meeting and directed me to fire him; he was arrested at a certain hour on a certain day when in fact he was sitting in my office talking with me.

(2) I do not believe any "alleged" conduct is grounds for dismissal in the absence of proof.

(3) There is no question that the opera, indeed the musical and theatrical world, does contain many people in important positions who are homosexuals, and this has always been the case and probably always will be. I try to observe the situation sufficiently closely to insure that there are no personal vendettas involved, but I do not believe that the existence of homosexuals within

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management, or for that matter on our Board, can be considered a cause for dismissal.

We have a clue to the possible identity of the letter writer; namely, the friend of a disappointed singer who is no longer on our roster, but as usual with anonymous letters, it will be very difficult to prove.

Sincerely,

AAB:JK