

File  
in Howard  
Hulgan file

June 15, 1956

Hon. Stanley M. Barnes

CONFIDENTIAL

Hon. Stanley M. Barnes,  
Assistant Attorney General,  
United States Department of Justice,  
Chief Anti-trust Division,  
Washington 25, D. C.

File No. 60-406-0

Dear Mr. Barnes:

I did not want to offend Mr. Baker, who is handling a case for me, and had I insisted that I go to Washington alone with Mr. Soffer, after Mr. Baker had asked for the postponement, I am afraid Mr. Baker would have been very angry. It was one year yesterday, June 14, 1955, since I had an appointment with Mr. George L. Derr, of your office, and first learned definitely that the National Wrestling Alliance was being investigated as to Anti-trust violations. Because of recent developments, I just thought I should write this letter to you and get some things off my chest. I wish very much that you would keep this letter confidential, insofar as my counsel is concerned, as they might not approve of my writing any letters now without checking with them.

For your information, I was disappointed when the June 8 meeting, with Mr. Kilgore, was cancelled. I had plane reservations for Mr. Soffer and myself, and these reservations were not cancelled until 10:40 A.M., June 7. I want so much to bring our matter to a definite decision so that I can relax and get down to the business of promotion, instead of having to worry about the Alliance and all the members. The members, most of whom are like ostriches, have buried their heads in the sand, as I have hardly heard from any of them in the past three or four months.

First, I want to explain to you why I brought Mr. Harold Baker, Sr., into the case. With the matter of the Consent Judgment about to come to a conclusion, I wanted someone who had had experience with the Anti-trust Laws to advise me and make sure that I, personally, was not making any mistakes. Mr. Soffer is an honorable gentleman, and has been my personal friend for thirty-five years. However, I know he has not had too much experience in Anti-trust Laws, and you must remember that it was his legal opinion that we were not, in any way, violating any Anti-trust Laws, that resulted in the National Wrestling Alliance carrying on. If it were not for this opinion, then the National Wrestling Alliance might have dissolved because most of the members felt, and still feel, that the business of promoting wrestling can be continued successfully without an Alliance, just as conditions were prior to 1948.

When we went to see Mr. Baker, Mr. Soffer and I, regarding the possible Consent Decree, I had no idea, at that time, that he had a trip planned for California, and would ask to cancel our meeting. As I told you previously, this cancellation was very disappointing to me. Mr. Soffer felt that it would be to the best interest of all, for all of us to be there together, and when Mr. Kilgore agreed to the postponement there was nothing I could do.

00659



July 15, 1956

Hon. Stanley N. Barnes  
June 15, 1956 - page 2

CONFIDENTIAL

File No. 62-404-9

I did not want to offend Mr. Baker, who is handling a case in Illinois for me, and had I insisted that I go to Washington alone with Mr. Soffer, after Mr. Baker had asked for the postponement, I am afraid Mr. Baker would have been peeved at me and I did not want this to happen. So, you can readily see where I was in the middle.

As I have written you many times, I think the Alliance has been a great thing for wrestling, and I think, if the Consent Judgment isn't too harsh, that the Alliance can continue and do a lot of good, not only for the members, but for all promoters. At the present time there is a recession in the wrestling promotion business, but I hope that after we get our matter cleared, and I am in a position to call a meeting of the Alliance to let the members know all the facts, which I haven't done up to the present time, at the suggestion of your office, then we can really improve our business.

When the meeting was scheduled by Mr. Kilgore, for Tuesday, July 10, I was very much afraid that we would not be able to get hotel rooms, or travel reservations, due to the fact that the All Star baseball game will be played in Washington on that day, and there will be a lot of visitors. However, I got busy and I have plane reservations for July 9, also hotel reservations for all of us at the Mayflower Hotel.

You can see by this letter that I, personally, want to get everything straightened out and I, for one, am against delays of any kind.

I know our meeting is with Mr. Kilgore but if, in any way, I can see you that day and thank you, personally, for the way this matter has been handled by you and your staff, I would certainly like to do so. You have been very fair with us in all our dealings.

Thanking you again, and with kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

When we went to see Mr. Baker, Mr. Soffer and I, regarding the possible Consent Decree, I had no idea, at that time, that he had a trip planned for California, and would cancel our meeting. As I told you previously, Mr. Soffer felt that it would be to all of us to be there together, and when Mr. Kilgore agreed to the postponement there was nothing I could do.

SM:mn

Sam Muchnick, President and Secretary,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

00653



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.



August 27, 1956

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

VRR:WIK  
60-406-0

AIR MAIL

John M. Ferguson, Esquire  
Baker, Kagy & Wagner  
234 Collinsville Avenue  
East St. Louis, Illinois

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

In response to your request made to Mr. McAleer of my staff this is to advise that the Department will agree to a judgment against National Wrestling Alliance in the form which has heretofore been worked out by you and other counsel with staff members, if the same is consented to by Alliance and its present members.

I am unable at this time to advise you what steps the Department will take should the members of Alliance refuse to sign the judgment as "consenting members". It is my understanding that Mr. Kilgore has stated to you and other defense counsel that it will be his personal recommendation, should the members of Alliance refuse to sign the proposed judgment, to revise the proposed complaint to name as additional defendants each and all of the members of Alliance.

It is my further understanding that the second line of Section V (A) (3) now reads as follows: "of wrestling exhibitions to related promotions or to promoters or bookers who are members of defendant".

Sincerely yours,

*Victor R. Hansen*

VICTOR R. HANSEN  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

00660



**BAKER, KAGY & WAGNER**  
**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**  
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS — EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS

East St. Louis, Illinois  
August 29, 1956

Hon. Victor R. Hansen  
Assistant Attorney General  
Anti-Trust Division  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington 25, D. C.

Re: National Wrestling Alliance  
VRH:WDE 60-406-0

Dear Judge:

We acknowledge with thanks your letter of August 27, 1956. We also received under separate cover the mimeographed copies of the proposed Consent Decree sent to us by Mr. McAleer.

A special meeting of the members of the National Wrestling Alliance is to be held in St. Louis, Missouri commencing on August 31. A full report of the antitrust investigation and the proposed settlement by consent decree will be made to the members at this meeting.

We will be in touch with your office following the meeting.

Very truly yours,

BAKER, KAGY & WAGNER

JOHN M. FERGUSON  
.....

JMF:lb

cc: Mr. William D. Kilgore  
Mr. Sam Muchnick ✓  
Harry N. Soffer, Esq.

00661

**BAKER, KAGY & WAGNER**  
**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**  
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS — EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS

East St. Louis, Illinois  
November 20, 1956

Hon. Victor R. Hansen  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Re: United States vs. National Wrestling Alliance  
Your File: DRH:VDK-60-406-0

Dear Judge:

We have your letter of November 16, 1956. We regret that we did not have time before going to Des Moines, Iowa to type in the correct names and addresses of all of the consenting members on the Consent Decree which was entered in this case.

We are enclosing herewith a copy of this letter so that the original may be forwarded to the Clerk of the U. S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa.

The correct names and cities of the "Consenting Members" who executed the "Consent Decree" are as follows:

Sam Muchnick  
St. Louis, Missouri

Cal Eaton  
Los Angeles, California

Frank Tunney  
Toronto, Canada

P. L. "Pinkie" George  
Des Moines, Iowa

Salvador Lutteroth  
Mexico City, Mexico

Al Haft  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Sam E. Avey  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

N. W. "Tex" Hager  
Spokane, Washington

Orville Brown  
Kansas City, Missouri

Stewart E. Hart  
Calgary, Canada

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November 20, 1956

Paul Jones  
Atlanta, Georgia

Joe "Toots" Mondt  
New York, New York

Jim Crockett  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Fred Kohler  
Chicago, Illinois

Harry Light  
Detroit, Michigan

Mike London  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

C. P. "Cowboy" Luttrall  
Tampa, Florida

Ignacio Martinez  
Buffalo, New York

Hugh Nichols  
Hollywood, California

Eddie Quinn  
Montreal, Canada

Dave Reynolds  
Orem, Utah

Karl Sarpolis  
Amarillo, Texas

Dennis Stecher  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Roy Welch  
Dyersburg, Tennessee

Billy Wolfe  
Columbus, Ohio

Cliff Maupin  
Toledo, Ohio

Joe Gunther  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Max Clayton  
Omaha, Nebraska

Rudy Dusek  
New York, N. Y.

James A. Whitfield (Billy Lewis)  
Richmond, Virginia

Al Karasick  
Honolulu, T.H.

Don Owen  
Eugene, Oregon

Paul Bowser  
Austin, Massachusetts

Morris Sigel  
Houston, Texas

Rod Fenton  
Tucson, Arizona

We trust the foregoing will enable the Clerk to correct his records so as to reflect the proper spelling of each name.

Very truly yours,

BAKER, KAGY & WAGNER

JOHN M. FERGUSON  
.....

JMF:lbt

cc: Mr. Sam Muchnick ✓  
Harry Soffer, Esq.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

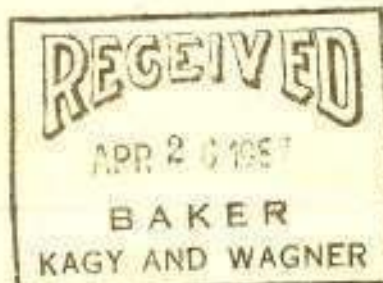
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 24, 1957

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

VRH:WDK  
60-406-3

John M. Ferguson, Esquire  
Baker, Kagy & Wagner  
234 Collinsville Avenue  
East St. Louis, Illinois



Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Please excuse the delay in our answering your letter enclosing a copy of the proposed new By-Laws of the National Wrestling Alliance and requesting our comments thereon.

In making the following comments you will note that in places, we may have gone beyond the actual coverage of the judgment, but we feel that you will appreciate being advised of provisions that might be sensitive from an overall antitrust viewpoint. As a matter of policy, the Department must always reserve the right to take action if operations under the by-laws raise problems under the judgment.

In general, we feel that the right to membership and the continuance of membership should be governed by Sections IV (C), IV (D) and IV (E) of the Final Judgment. The general attitude on membership should be to have it as open as possible and to deny or cancel membership only when absolutely necessary.

We question whether the clause "who operates offices" in Article III, Section 1 is intended to be limiting. Should it not read "engaged in the business of?"

We construe the last paragraph sentence in Article III, Section 3 as limiting the discretion of the membership committee as expressed earlier in the paragraph. In other words, the discretion of the membership committee must be subject to the standards of eligibility as expressed in Section 1 of the same article.

The portion of the same section which provides that a rejected applicant must wait two years before reapplying for membership might work an unjustifiable hardship in some cases. For instance, a person

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whose application is denied because of a dispute over the period of time in which he has been engaged as a booker should be admitted to membership when he does, in fact, become eligible. The provision might, however, be reasonable in the case of a bad credit risk to give the applicant a reasonable time to prove financial responsibility.

In Section 5, we would add the words as "set forth in Section 1 of this Article III" after the first membership in the sixth line.

Section 6, Paragraph 2 presents an area of thin ice where caution must be exercised. We do not take the position that no situation not contemplated by the judgment will arise which will justify expulsion of a member, but once again, we repeat that the standards for eligibility for membership must be accepted as the standards for expulsion. The paragraph should not be used as a device for evading the judgment.

Article IX which provides that the world champion post a substantial amount of money as an appearance bond presents another area of possible antitrust danger. We would appreciate hearing from you as to the necessity for such a requirement. In addition, we would like to know (1) the amount of the bond, (2) the circumstances under which the bond would be forfeited, (3) the action which the Alliance would take in the event the champion refused to place the bond and (4) whether a bond would be required if the champion were being booked by someone other than the Alliance.

If you would like to discuss the by-laws in person, members of my staff will be pleased to meet with you.

Sincerely yours,

*Victor R. Hansen*

VICTOR R. HANSEN  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division



# BAKER, KAGY & WAGNER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

HAROLD G. BAKER 1899 - 1956  
LEIGH M. KAGY  
PAUL WAGNER  
FRANCIS D. CONNER  
JOHN M. FERGUSON  
RALPH E. GREEN  
BERNARD H. HERTRAND  
HAROLD G. BAKER, JR.

234 COLLINSVILLE AVE.  
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UPTON 5-0400 BRIDGE 1-8428

8 EAST WASHINGTON ST.  
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS  
ADAMS 3-4846

East St. Louis, Illinois  
April 29, 1957

Mr. Sam Muchnick  
National Wrestling Alliance  
Claridge Hotel  
1800 Locust  
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Sam:

Enclosed herewith is a photostatic copy of a letter dated April 24, 1957, from Judge Victor R. Hensen of the Antitrust Division, Department of Justice.

I have not had the opportunity to thoroughly study the letter and will not until my return from Chicago next week.

In the meantime you should be giving consideration to the comments made in connection with certain provisions of the By Laws.

Cordially yours,

BAKER, KAGY & WAGNER

*J. M. F.*.....

JMF:lt  
Enc.

cc: Harry N. Soffer, Esq.

99665

Hon. Victor R. Hansen

**BAKER, KAGY & WAGNER**  
**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS — EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS

May 9, 1957

Your construction of the last paragraph in Article III, Section 3, as limiting the discretion of the membership committee to the standards of eligibility as expressed in Section 1 of the same Article is correct.

East St. Louis, Illinois

May 9, 1957

We also agree with you that the provision inserted in the sixth paragraph of your letter and have accordingly inserted on page 3 of the By-Laws a provision in the last sentence of the first paragraph on that page so that it now reads as follows (added portion in brackets):

"A rejected applicant whose application is rejected for that specified in Section 1, paragraph 1, may not reapply until the expiration of the rejection or in event of appeal, appeal is denied."

Hon. Victor R. Hansen  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington 25, D. C.

We have also added the words "as set forth in Section 1 of this Article" to the second paragraph of the second page of your letter.

Re: U. S. vs. National Wrestling Alliance  
Your File - No. 60-406-3

Dear Judge:

Thank you for your letter of April 24, 1957.

We recognize your general feeling with respect to the membership and continuance of membership provisions of the By-Laws and we respect your desire that membership should be as open as possible and should be denied or cancelled only when absolutely necessary. You will note that Section 6 of the By-Laws dealing with expulsion of members is divided into two distinct paragraphs. Paragraph 1 deals with "offenses for which members must be expelled" and contains, practically verbatim, the matters and things contained in Section V of the Final Judgment which defendant and the consenting members are enjoined and restrained from doing. On the other hand, Paragraph 2 deals with "offenses for which members may be expelled" and lists only offenses which are commonly and practically universally used by any membership organization or association.

You can appreciate, we are sure, that the National Wrestling Alliance, if it is to continue in existence, must have for its purpose and as its standards, something else besides the enforcement of the Consent Decree.

The question raised in the fourth paragraph of your letter dealing with Article III, Section 1, presents no problem. We are willing to change the provision to read as follows:

"Who eligible. Any person engaged in the business of promoting wrestling exhibitions or the booking of professional wrestlers for professional wrestling exhibitions . . ."

00666



May 9, 1957

Your construction of the last paragraph in Article III, Section 3, as limiting the discretion of the membership committee to the standards of eligibility as expressed in Section 1 of the same Article is correct.

We also agree with your suggestions contained in the sixth paragraph of your letter and have accordingly inserted on page 3 of the By-Laws a provision in the last sentence of the first paragraph on that page so that it now reads as follows (added portion in brackets):

"A rejected applicant whose application is rejected for reasons (other than that specified in Section 1, paragraph (1) of this Article) may not reapply until the expiration of two (2) years after rejection or in event of appeal, two (2) years after the appeal is decided."

We have also added the words "as set forth in Section 1 of this Article III" in Section 5 on page 2 of the By-Laws in accordance with the suggestion in the second paragraph of the second page of your letter.

We assure you that Section 6, paragraph 2, is not inserted and will not be used as a device for evading the Consent Decree. You will note that the machinery for the expulsion of members commences with action by the grievance committee and the procedure is set forth in Section 8 of Article III, commencing on page 6 of your draft of the By-Laws. This section provides for investigation, opportunity to answer charges and right of appeal to the full membership.

In the penultimate paragraph of your letter you request certain additional information with respect to Article IX dealing with "recognition of champions." This is one of the most important functions of the National Wrestling Alliance and is probably responsible more than anything else for the continued existence of the organization. In order to explain why an appearance bond for the heavyweight champion is necessary, it is perhaps better to start with an explanation of "recognition of champions." Wrestling is different than boxing in this respect. In boxing the various State Athletic Commissions recognize "champions" in different weight divisions. Most of these commissions are affiliated with each other as part of a group known as the National Boxing Association. If any boxers other than those recognized by the National Boxing Association should start claiming a title, he could be barred by the National Boxing Association and its State Athletic Commission Members and, under such circumstances, would be unlikely to get any work from promoters.

Inasmuch as most athletic commissions designate wrestling events as "exhibitions," these commissions do not undertake to recognize wrestling champions, nor have they been asked for such recognition. This is true particularly since the National Wrestling Alliance was



May 9, 1957

organized in 1948. The National Wrestling Alliance believes that the present heavyweight champion holds his title by lenial descent from Frank Gotch in 1905. Before the N.W.A. was organized, there were more than half a dozen claimants for the heavyweight title. Upon the organization of the N.W.A., and at all times subsequent thereto, the N.W.A. members have had as one of their purposes the recognition of one heavyweight champion in order to eliminate confusion and conflicting claims.

It is absolutely necessary for a heavyweight champion, whether he be booked by the N.W.A., or whether he be booked by some individual, to post an appearance bond. The champion's dates are allotted months in advance and the various promoters go to considerable expense in arranging for the appearance of the champion in the way of advertising and public relations. The ticket prices for championship exhibitions are higher than others, and because of this price differential there can be no substitute in the event of a champion's non-appearance. If a champion should fail to appear in a city such as St. Louis, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, or Houston, the promoter would be out of pocket at least \$3,000 to \$5,000 in expenses incurred in arranging for the event which would constitute a serious loss to that promoter. The appearance bond is designed to protect the various promoters against this loss.

With this background, we will now answer the numbered questions in the penultimate paragraph of your letter:

1. The amount of the appearance bond for the heavyweight champion, as determined by the Board of Directors is presently \$10,000. No question or objection to the posting of this bond has ever been made.
2. If the heavyweight champion arbitrarily failed to make an appearance and a promoter suffered substantial loss, the amount of the loss would be paid out of the bond. The "Heavyweight Championship Committee" would determine this matter.
3. Thesz and Watson at various times have been the only heavyweight champions since the N.W.A. was formed and neither of them, upon gaining the title, has refused to post the appearance bond of \$10,000 each. Two things could result from a refusal to post the bond, (a) The N.W.A., upon recommendation of the Heavyweight Championship Committee, could withdraw its recognition, declare the championship forfeited, and order and supervise a tournament to determine a new champion, or in its discretion select and declare the leading contender as the new champion (all as provided in Article IX), and (b) Many of the promoters would be reluctant to book such champion and go to the expense of advertising, etc., without the protection of the bond. Many promoters, even under the present setup, do not use the champion and manage to operate successfully.



Hon. Victor R. Hansen

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May 9, 1957

4. The By-Laws do not make any distinction with respect to the bond requirement as to whether or not the champion is booked by the Alliance. A bond will be required in either instance.

Mr. Muchnick advises us that there is considerable disinterest and apathy on the part of members of the N.W.A. at the present time and that many of them feel that the only worthwhile function of the N.W.A. is the recognition of champions. It is also his opinion that without recognition and the appearance bond requirement, the N.W.A. would be dissolved by its members and within a period of a year there would probably be a dozen wrestlers claiming the world heavyweight title.

We have had the pages of the By-Laws on which your suggested changes have been made re-typed and enclose copies of them herewith.

As we mentioned above, there has been a considerable amount of apathy and disinterest on the part of members following the entry of the Consent Decree last October. We and the officers of the N.W.A. feel that this is due in large part to the fact that many activities have been held up pending approval by you and adoption of the new By-Laws. We, therefore, urge that you let us hear from you at your earliest convenience so that these By-Laws can be adopted and put into effect.

Very truly yours,

BAKER, KAGY & WAGNER

JOHN M. FERGUSON

JMF:lt

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Sam Muchnick ✓  
Harry N. Soffer, Esq.

You can appreciate, we are sure, that the National Wrestling Alliance, if it is to continue its existence, must have for its purpose and as its standards, something else besides the enforcement of the Consent Decree.

The question raised in the fourth paragraph of your letter dealing with Article III, Section 1, presents no problem. We are willing to change the provision to read as follows:

"Who eligible. Any person engaged in the business of promoting wrestling exhibitions or the holding of professional exhibitions for professional wrestling exhibitions."

00686





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

VRH:WDM  
60-406-3

May 20, 1957



John M. Ferguson, Esquire  
Baker, Kagy & Wagner  
234 Collinsville Avenue  
East St. Louis, Illinois

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Based upon the representation in your letter of May 9, 1957, this Department has no further objections at this time to the proposed By-Laws of the National Wrestling Alliance.

As you can appreciate, it is impossible to foretell how the By-Laws will work in practice. We, therefore, reserve our right to seek further changes in the By-Laws, should operations thereunder raise problems under the Final Judgment entered in the above-entitled case or under the antitrust laws generally.

Sincerely yours,

*Victor R. Hansen*

VICTOR R. HANSEN  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

00667



BAKER, KAGY & WAGNER  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

HAROLD G. BAKER 1899 - 1954  
LEIGH M. KAGY  
PAUL WAGNER  
FRANCIS D. CONNER  
JOHN M. FERGUSON  
RALPH E. GREEN  
BERNARD H. BERTRAND  
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8 EAST WASHINGTON ST.  
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS  
ADAMS 3-4846

East St. Louis, Illinois  
May 24, 1957

Mr. Sam Muchnick  
National Wrestling Alliance  
Claridge Hotel  
1800 Locust  
St. Louis, Missouri

Re: United States vs. National Wrestling  
Alliance

Dear Sam:

We enclose herewith and with copy of this letter to Harry Soffer a photostatic copy of a letter dated May 20, 1957 from Victor R. Hansen, Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, advising us that with the revisions of the By-Laws set forth in our letter of May 9, 1957, the Department has no further objections to the proposed By-Laws.

I am not certain whether you have a complete copy of the By-Laws with the latest revisions. If there is any doubt in your mind, you should sent what you have back to me and I will check it against my master copy before the By-Laws are put in mimeographed form.

Cordially yours,

BAKER, KAGY & WAGNER

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JMF:lt  
Enc.

cc: Harry N. Soffer, Esq.

00668

**BAKER, KAGY & WAGNER**  
**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**  
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS — EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS

October 22, 1957

Hon. Victor R. Hansen  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Antitrust Division  
Washington 25, D.C.

Re: United States vs. National Wrestling  
Alliance. Your File: VRH:WDK 60-  
406-3

Dear Judge:

We return herewith the copy of the  
Final Judgment (which you recently sent to us for  
the purpose of securing the approval of Member  
Joe Malcewicz to the change made on page four  
thereof. Mr. Malcewicz has initialed the change.

Very truly yours,

BAKER, KAGY & WAGNER

.....

JMF:cs  
Enc.

cc: Mr. Sam Muchnick  
Mr. Harry N. Soffer

. 00669



May 20, 1958

Hon. Victor R. Hansen  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington 25, D. C.

Re: United States vs. National  
Wrestling Alliance.  
Your File: VRH:WDK 6-406-3

Dear Judge Hansen:

With the National Wrestling Alliance Annual Meeting scheduled for August, I was wondering if your Department is as interested now as it was in 1956, in the National Wrestling Alliance continuing instead of dissolving, as was suggested by us. When the officers of the National Wrestling Alliance, and our attorney, first met with Judge Barnes on January 3, 1956, in Washington, it was I who suggested that it would probably be better to break up the National Wrestling Alliance, than to continue. At that time, Judge Barnes told us that, he, personally, thought it would be better, both for wrestling and the Government, for the National Wrestling Alliance to continue as an organization. This conversation followed after we had agreed to try to work out a Consent Decree.

As you probably are aware, when the Alliance first heard rumors, during 1955, that there were some complaints against it, that I voluntarily went to the Department of Justice and asked for an appointment. I met with Mr. George L. Derr and told him we were not aware of any wrong doing, and if there was anything wrong we wanted to know about it immediately. We also agreed to make all our files available, which we did.

The reason I am writing you is because since the signing of the Consent Judgment, interest in the NWA has waned considerably. From a membership of 38, and a number of promoters desiring to come in, we are now down to 28 members, with no applicants, and prospects of more decreases after the Annual Meeting. Some of the members

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Hon. Victor R. Hansen  
May 20, 1958 - page 2

seem to feel that there is no more reason to have a National Wrestling Alliance, and I would not be surprised that if enough interest is not generated during the next few months, that the NWA will go out of existence. I know that this is no concern of the Government, but as President of the National Wrestling Alliance, I am asking for your advice.

Prior to the Consent Judgment, various promoters who spent considerable money in building and developing so-called "territories" felt that their work was not in vain. They felt that baseball, football, basketball and hockey organizations had their franchise and are immune from opposition. They now feel that it is not good business to develop certain areas for promotion and still have no protection. It is also their belief that boxing and wrestling promoters are mostly under State Athletic Commissions jurisdiction, and their licenses can be terminated if the Commissions find anything wrong.

It is my personal belief that the National Wrestling Alliance is a good thing for wrestling. While all promoters are independent, and the NWA is strictly a non-profit organization, nevertheless, by being organized everyone gets to know each other and the meetings are more fraternal than business meetings.

If I could receive a letter from you stating that the Government would prefer the continuation of the National Wrestling Alliance, I believe it would spark whatever interest is left in the Alliance, and perhaps help pep up our business, which, for the past year or so, has been in the doldrums.

As you know, the National Wrestling Alliance derives its revenue for expenses from \$100.00 yearly dues, and from the 4% booking fee on the Champion's appearances. Due to business conditions, the revenue is not keeping up with the expenses



Hon. Victor R. Hansen  
May 20, 1958 - page 3

required, and that is the reason I am drafting this letter. I know it is not in legal language, but our funds are very low at present and not sufficient to take care of attorney fees.

If I have not made myself clear, I will be happy, at any time, within the next few months, to come up and meet with you and your staff in Washington to explain more fully.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick, President  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:mn

06678



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

May 29, 1958

VRH:WDK  
60-406-3

Mr. Sam Muchnick  
President  
National Wrestling Alliance  
Claridge Hotel  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

Dear Mr. Muchnick:

I have your letter of May 20, 1958 requesting the Department of Justice to express itself on whether the National Wrestling Alliance should continue in existence. You indicate that the interest of the membership in the Alliance is lagging.

Ultimately, the decision on whether to continue as a member of the National Wrestling Alliance must be made by each member according to his own good business judgment. This Department is traditionally reluctant to interfere in such matters. Further, I do not believe that it would be appropriate to express any official views as to whether the Alliance should be continued in existence.

Members of my staff are always available to discuss with you any problems you may have arising under the Final Judgment entered in the case of United States v. National Wrestling Alliance or the antitrust laws generally.

Sincerely yours,

*Victor R. Hansen*

VICTOR R. HANSEN  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

00671



March 16, 1959

File No. 60-406-3

Mr. Victor R. Hansen  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hansen:

It has been sometime since I have communicated with your Department regarding the National Wrestling Alliance. Nothing in particular has happened in the National Wrestling Alliance except the membership has decreased from a total of 38 members to a total of 26 members. Instead of promoters trying to become members of the NWA, we have had only one application to join the National Wrestling Alliance since we signed the Consent Decree.

However, I believe several matters of interest have developed. One former member - he recently resigned - Mr. P. L. "Pinkie" George, is rather angry because as he states, some people are going into "his territory." Pinkie George is the man who was sued recently by wrestler, Sonny Myers, in Des Moines, Iowa, under the antitrust laws. Sonny Myers claimed he had nothing against the National Wrestling Alliance, but tied the Alliance into the suit because he said George once said the Alliance had given him the State of Iowa for booking and promotion purposes. George and the NWA won the case in Des Moines, and the evidence all through the trial certainly was not against the NWA. Whatever evidence existed was against George.

I don't know how interested your Department now is in what's going on, but I thought now would be a good time to review what has been happening, as I have done all in my power for members to abide by the Consent Judgment.

Frankly, the National Wrestling Alliance has very little money in its Treasury and it would work a hardship on us if I had to make a trip to Washington. I will, if it is absolutely necessary. I thought perhaps if you deemed it worthwhile, that one of your

00672

March 18, 1959

File No. 60-406-3

Mr. Victor R. Hansen  
March 16, 1959 - page 2  
File No. 60-406-3

Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hansen:

representatives could discuss various matters with me, if this is possible, in St. Louis.

At any rate, I want you to know that the majority of members, insofar as I know, have abided by the Decree.

Will appreciate hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick

SM:mn

However, I believe some matters of interest have developed. One former member - he recently resigned - Mr. L. "Pinkie" George, is now in St. Louis because as he states, some people are going into "the business". Pinkie George is the man who was sued recently by wrestler, Sonny Myers, in Des Moines, Iowa, under the antitrust laws. Sonny Myers claims he had nothing against the National Wrestling Alliance, but tied the Alliance into the suit because he said George once said the Alliance had given him the State of Iowa for backing and promotion purposes. George and the NWA won the case in Des Moines, and the evidence all through the trial certainly was not against the NWA. Whatever evidence existed was against George.

I don't know how interested your Department now is in what's going on, but I thought now would be a good time to review what has been happening, as I have done all in my power for members to abide by the Consent Judgment.

Frankly, the National Wrestling Alliance has very little money in its Treasury and it would work a hardship on us if I had to make a trip to Washington. I will, if it is absolutely necessary. I thought perhaps if you deemed it worthwhile, that one of your

00672





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

VRH:WDK  
60-406-3

March 25, 1959

Mr. Sam Muchnick, President  
The National Wrestling Alliance  
Claridge Hotel  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Muchnick:

This is to acknowledge your letter of March 16, 1959 requesting a member of my staff to meet with you in St. Louis to discuss matters arising under the Final Judgment entered in the above-entitled case.

I have requested Mr. Earl Jinkinson, head of our Chicago Office, to have a member of his staff call upon you when he next has business in St. Louis. If you have any urgent problems which are not susceptible of being reduced to writing, you may wish to discuss them with Mr. Jinkinson when you are next in Chicago.

Sincerely yours,

*Victor R. Hansen*

VICTOR R. HANSEN  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

00673

June 9, 1959

Antitrust Division  
U. S. Department of Justice  
404 U. S. Court House  
Chicago 4, Illinois

Attention: Mr. Roy D. Hunter

Gentlemen:

Following your visit and conversation with me, I mailed the enclosed bulletin, dated May 20, 1959, to all members of the National Wrestling Alliance. Unfortunately, I have received only two replies, and these were vague. This illustrates the disinterest the members have shown in their organization since the signing of the Consent Decree. Before that, whenever difficulties arose in the ranks we would discuss them and try to work out the problems of our business. Now, because our hands are tied, we can do very little.

I think the only reason many members stay in the organization, and pay their \$100.00 yearly dues, is because while realizing that the National Wrestling Alliance cannot do them any good, they hate to resign feeling something may be done in the future where the NWA can revitalize the wrestling business.

I am going to wait a few more days and then send you another letter, giving you some definite facts on what has transpired recently which, under the old methods could have been corrected, but now, cannot.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

SM:mn  
Enc.

Sam Muchnick, President & Secretary,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

00675



June 10, 1959

Antitrust Division  
U. S. Department of Justice  
404 U. S. Court House  
Chicago 4, Illinois

Attention: Mr. Roy D. Hunter

Gentlemen:

If you recall, upon your visit here, I mentioned to you that a new studio wrestling show was going to start in Chicago, and that the Chicago Stadium was going to produce this show with the idea of promoting some big events in their building. I had been asked about working with those people, but the fact that I am very busy in St. Louis with my promotion, and with the job of being President of the National Wrestling Alliance, I did not show any interest. They then contacted Eddie Quinn, who is a promoter in Montreal, and who happens to have about a 10% interest in the promotion in St. Louis.

I am enclosing copies of letters I received from Fred Kohler, of Chicago, dated May 25, 1959 and June 5, 1959, also copies of letters I received from Pat O'Connor, dated February 7, 1959 and June 4, 1959, who is now recognized as champion by the National Wrestling Alliance. I am also enclosing copy of letter I am sending Mr. Fred Kohler, in answer to his letters.

We, in the wrestling business, have prided ourselves through the years that we have kept our game clean from outside influences and, unlike other sports, we do not have thugs or gangsters connected with it. You can imagine my surprise when I received Mr. Kohler's letter, of May 25, in which he makes veiled threats.

Before the Consent Decree was signed, when such situations arose, as is now developing in Chicago, we could have had a meeting and tried to arbitrate any disputes. In fact, Leonard Schwartz, of Chicago, asked to become a member of the National Wrestling Alliance, although Fred Kohler was a member previously, and Mr. Schwartz was admitted. For a long time both men were promoting in Chicago, but due to illness Mr. Schwartz had to retire.

Mr. Kohler is apparently peeved because Mr. Quinn is going to furnish wrestlers to the Chicago Stadium, and in order to keep me

Sincerely,

Don MacDuck, President & Secretary,  
National Wrestling Alliance

00676

June 10, 1959

Antitrust Division  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Chicago, Illinois  
Attention: Mr. Roy D. Hunter  
June 10, 1959 - page 2

Attention: Mr. Roy D. Hunter

Gentlemen:

out of the situation and not help with talent, he is threatening me with reprisals.

Mr. Kohler forgets that he, or his associates, have gone into many cities and started promotions in them, sometimes without even mentioning their intentions to the established promoters in those particular cities. To my knowledge, he is now interested in the promotions, not only in Chicago, but also in Milwaukee, Fort Wayne, Indiana; Indianapolis, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; Detroit, Michigan; Cleveland, Ohio; Atlanta, Georgia; Omaha, Nebraska, and probably some other cities.

Under the terms of our Consent Decree there is really nothing I can do about these things, but if the Decree was modified so as to protect promoters in various cities, or at least to leave these matters up to the various State Athletic Commissions, then I am sure the National Wrestling Alliance would mean something again. After all, the National Football League protects its members, as does the National Basketball Association and Professional baseball.

I am dictating this letter without benefit of legal counsel because our funds are so low that we just cannot afford the fees. I believe if the Antitrust Division of the U. S. Department of Justice, would give us some relief and in some way modify, or set the Decree aside, that our Annual Meeting, at the end of August, could be a fruitful one and that the organization could continue. Because of the Chicago controversy and arguments now developing among eastern promoters, the National Wrestling Alliance is in jeopardy and really doesn't mean anything as it is now constituted.

If you desire, I will be glad to come into Chicago at any time and discuss this matter with you.

Thanking you for your interest, I remain,

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick, President & Secretary,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:mn  
Encs.



July 27, 1959

Antitrust Division  
U. S. Department of Justice  
404 U. S. Court House  
Chicago 4, Illinois

Attention: Mr. Roy D. Hunter

Gentlemen:

As I haven't heard from you, following my letter of June 10, 1959, thought I would write you again as the National Wrestling Alliance convention is scheduled for St. Louis on August 28 and 29, and I would like to be able to make a report at that time.

As I told you in person, and as I have written you, interest in the Alliance has faded considerably ever since the signing of the Consent Decree. From a peak of 38 members, we now have 26, and if the National Wrestling Alliance continues after this meeting, I doubt if we will have as many as 20 members.

I sincerely believe the Decree should be modified, or possibly set aside.

If necessary, I will be happy to go to Washington any time between now and the date of the meeting, or to Chicago, as you deem best.

Will appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick, President,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:mn

00677

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Room 404, United States Courthouse  
Chicago 4, Illinois

60-406-3

August 28, 1959

Sam Muchnick, President  
National Wrestling Alliance  
Hotel Claridge - Suite 230-32  
1800 Locust Street  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

Dear Mr. Muchnick:

I have your letter of recent date in which you express an interest in conferring either with me or with the Antitrust Division in Washington with respect to your desire to modify the consent decree against the National Wrestling Alliance.

I have transmitted all of your letters to William D. Kilgore, Jr., Chief, Judgments and Judgment Enforcement Section in Washington, who has charge of the enforcement of decrees such as this one. I believe it would be more advantageous for you to confer with him than with us. Accordingly, I suggest that you communicate with Mr. Kilgore and arrange a mutually convenient time at which you may present this matter to him.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT A. BICKS  
Acting Assistant Attorney General

By

*Earl A. Jinkinson*

Earl A. Jinkinson  
Chief, Midwest Office  
Antitrust Division

00678



January 11, 1960

Mr. William Kilgore, Jr.  
Head of Enforcement  
Anti-Trust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kilgore:

As you know, the past six months or so, I have been in communication with the Anti-Trust Division, United States Department of Justice, regarding National Wrestling Alliance matters. Sometime ago, Mr. Roy D. Hunter, of your Chicago office, came in to see me and I discussed various matters with him.

Recently there has been a case in Richmond, Virginia, where a member of the National Wrestling Alliance, Mr. Bill Lewis, has been charged with a violation of the Consent Decree. The only thing I know about the matter is from newspaper clippings I have been receiving, also heresay stories. I also have a copy of letter sent to you by Mr. Fred Kohler, on January 9, 1960. Despite many obstacles put in my way, and threats of suits, I booked Pat O'Connor for Mr. Kohler on January 8, 1960.

Under these circumstances, I believe it would be worthwhile for me to make a trip to Washington and discuss these matters with you at a time most convenient to you. I couldn't possibly get away until sometime in February, so if you think it advisable for me to come to Washington, I will be happy to do so. Either from February 1, through February 4, or at a later date.

Enclosing, herewith, copies of letters and a telegram in my possession.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I am,

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick, President, Secretary,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:mn  
Encs.

Sent copy of Louis DeZwirek's letter, dated December 17, 1959, and Mr. Muchnick's answer to him, dated December 30, 1959, and copy of Frank Gilmer's letter (Illinois State Athletic Commission) dated January 6, 1960, to Mr. Muchnick, also copy of Frank Gilmer's letter to Mr. DeZwirek, dated January 6, 1960. Also copy of Eddie Quinn's telegram, dated December 15, 1959.

Also photostat of Pat O'Connor's letter, to the President of National Wrestling Alliance, dated January 12, 1959.

00679



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 18, 1960

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

RAB:WDK  
60-406-3

Mr. Sam Muchnick  
President, Secretary  
National Wrestling Alliance  
Claridge Hotel  
St. Louis, Missouri

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Muchnick:

In reply to your letter of January 11, 1960, Mr. Kilgore and Mr. Karsted of my staff will be available to see you at your convenience.

You have mentioned February 1st and if that date is still satisfactory to you, will you kindly confirm and specify an exact time.

If another date is preferable, it will be appreciated if you will let us know as far beforehand as possible in order that a specific date and time might be arranged.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT A. BICKS  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

00680



January 29, 1960

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE  
MEMBERSHIP

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September 1, 1952 . . . . .	38
September 1, 1953 . . . . .	38
September 1, 1954 . . . . .	38
September 1, 1955 . . . . .	38
September 1, 1956 . . . . .	31
September 1, 1957 . . . . .	28
September 1, 1958 . . . . .	26
September 1, 1959 . . . . .	23
<i>Sept. 1, 1960</i> <u>                    </u>	<i>12 - 2 2</i>

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C8161

January 22, 1960

RAB:WDK  
60-406-3

Mr. Robert A. Bicks  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Re: United States v. National Wrestling  
Alliance

Dear Mr. Bicks:

Received your letter of January 18. I can be in Washington, D. C., for a meeting with Mr. Kilgore and Mr. Karsted, on Monday, February 1, 1960, preferably about 10:00 A.M.

Unless I hear from you otherwise, I shall assume the date and time is satisfactory.

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick, President, Secretary,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:ma

00681



February 29, 1960

Re: RAB:WDE  
60-406-3

Mr. Robert A. Bicks  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Kilgore and Mr. Karsted

Dear Mr. Bicks:

It has been a month since I had the pleasure of visiting with you, and was wondering if you had any ideas regarding our conversation, and whether I could pass along any further information to members of the depleted Alliance.

It seems to me that every would-be promoter, every would-be wrestler, and every one that is disgruntled, tries to use the Consent Decree as an axe. Instead of the Decree doing good, as was the intent of the Department of Justice, it is merely working hardships on people who have worked for years to build up the wrestling business. For instance, here is an example. The first president of the National Wrestling Alliance was P. L. "Pinkie" George. Several years ago he was sued by a wrestler, namely, Harold "Sonny" Myers. Under the anti-trust laws he tried to allege conspiracy and brought the National Wrestling Alliance into the suit. He told many members of the NWA, both privately and publicly, that he had nothing against the Alliance but he did against Pinkie George. One of the things he alleged during the trial, a little over a year ago, was that George told him he "owned" the State of Iowa, and that no one else should promote in there. During the trial there was no evidence against the NWA at all. George and the National Wrestling Alliance won the trial, but the Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the case because of some remarks made by the Judge during the course of the trial in Des Moines.

To my knowledge, there has been no wrestling in Des Moines for several years, due to poor business conditions. However, recently it came to my attention that Robert Bruns, who books for St. Louis, St. Joseph, and Kansas City, Missouri, and surrounding towns, booked a show for some promoter in Des Moines. Pinkie George has been promoting in San Antonio, Texas.

Following the trial in Des Moines, P. L. "Pinkie" George resigned from the Alliance, giving a lot of excuses for doing so, which are too numerous to mention.

00682



Mr. Robert A. Bicks  
February 29, 1960 - page 2

I received the following note from Mr. George today, from San Antonio, to which was attached a clipping of a show Bob Bruns had booked in Des Moines. Here is what Mr. George said: "Sam, it looks like when one resigns from the Alliance the organization goes in and takes over from the local promoter. My son promotes in Des Moines, and your man Bruns puts in a show in opposition Tuesday night. Do you fellows want to monopolize the whole industry.....signed Pinkie". It seems to me like the Pot calling the Kettle black. I can truthfully say I had no knowledge of Bruns booking a show in Des Moines, but if he did, what is wrong with that. That was the purpose of the Consent Decree. Apparently, George still thinks he "owns" Iowa.

I still think if the Government would drop the entire matter and let the wrestling people try to run the wrestling business, just like football runs its business, also basketball and hockey and baseball, then we could get somewhere.

I, personally, feel that the National Wrestling Alliance, as it exists now, is strictly a fraternal organization. Our By-Laws have no teeth in them at all.

I don't know if this letter is understandable, but I am merely trying to convey to you that instead of the Decree helping promoters in wrestling, it has just been in reverse.

Wish you would give me your ideas and if you think there is any possibility of modifying the Decree, or setting it aside.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick

SM:mn

P. S. The irony of above regarding George is that he has been running in San Antonio, Texas in opposition to an established promoter there, yet as president of the NWA, booked the champion O'Connor for George at least 3 times. George had no qualms of being opposition to Brown, did he? And you must remember that the very original by-laws of the NWA were drawn up by Mr. George and the only time the NWA has been sued is because of Mr. George.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

RAB:WDK  
60-406-3

March 10, 1960

Mr. Sam Muchnick  
President and Secretary, National  
Wrestling Alliance  
Claridge Hotel  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Muchnick:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 20, 1960 regarding your recent request for a vacation or modification of the Final Judgment entered in the above-entitled case.

While the facts that you have reported, viz. that Mr. Bruns has booked a show in Des Moines, Iowa, formerly the "territory" of Mr. George while Mr. George is now booking shows in San Antonio, Texas, formerly the "territory" of Mr. Brown, may well indicate a weakening of the territorial divisions provided for in the Association's By-Laws, the destruction of such territorial divisions is, as you have observed, one of the prime aims of the Judgment. That the accomplishment of this purpose may hurt some of the so-called established promoters by permitting others to come into their so-called territories and compete with them is a debatable question. Most monopolists feel hurt when they first encounter competition, but many discover to their surprise that competition only spurs them on to greater achievements and in any event the public receives the benefits of competition to which it is entitled.

While there is some indication that competition among bookers and promoters is beginning in a small way to enter the industry, there is no assurance whatsoever that anything like free and open competition as yet exists and under those circumstances it is futile to entertain any idea of modifying the Judgment.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT A. BICKS  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

00683

June 11, 1960

Re:RAB:WDK  
60-406-3

Hon. Robert A. Bicks,  
Assistant Attorney General,  
Antitrust Division,  
United States Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bicks:-

Early in the investigation of the National Wrestling Alliance, an investigation which we asked for and voluntarily handed over our files and records to your department, I told Judge Stanley N. Barnes, during a meeting in Washington and before a "Consent Judgment" was agreed upon that perhaps it would be better to dissolve the NWA as actually such an organization was not necessary in promotion. Judge Barnes told us that it would be better for the Government if the NWA continued to exist because then officials of your department would know where to go if there were any antitrust violations, that there would be a central office.

We have continued to exist despite many obstacles, namely the reduction of the membership; the "consent decree" which gives every penny ante wrestler a chance to "holler" if he isn't used; every would be promoter to "cry" "Trust", if he doesn't get the best wrestlers and despite the fact, as was predicted in the letter to Judge Barnes of May 9, 1957 that there would be all kinds of champions, once the "teeth" of the Alliance were extracted with the new by-laws.

Although the NWA recognizes Pat O'Connor as World Champion, there now are about a half dozen others being advertised as "Champions", some by former members of the NWA and they have no one to answer to. For instance, Eddie Quinn, who did pay his dues to the NWA for 1959-60, has Edouard Carpentier as World Champion in California; Kowalewski as champion in Chicago and New England and numerous others in Montreal.

Now your files will reveal that the original investigation of the NWA originated in California. When the "decree" was signed, Cal Eaton, California promoter, was one of the signers. He has never resigned from the NWA but has not paid his dues since then. So technically he remains a member but not in good standing.

Enclosed you will note a page from a pamphlet which claims a new Alliance THE NORTH AMERICAN WRESTLING ALLIANCE. What is the NAWA? Are you people interested in finding out?

00684



I, personally, believe that the NAWA is the personal invention of one Jules Strongbow, the booker in southern California. He can laugh at our organization, he can laugh at the "Consent Decree", he can manufacture his own champions, and he is not bound by any antitrust laws.

The NWA has existed because each member, there are 22 now, pays \$100 yearly dues. When the champion wrestles he received 11% and 4% is sent to the NWA. The yearly dues and the 4% help pay me for my work; pay "Strangler" Lewis for public relations and \$2500 for secretarily help in my office. Naturally with more champions in the field there are less place for O'Connor to work, lowering his income and the NWA income.

We have an NWA meeting scheduled on Aug. 26 and 27 and I would like to recommend the dissolution of our organization as it doesn't mean a thing if the Government will permit other groups to form and still not have any jurisdiction over them. I have been deriving some income as president but feel confident that I could more than make this up by devoting more time to my promotion here and not be worrying what goes on nationally.

If you people are interested in helping us, perhaps you could write me a letter stating "that the National Wrestling Alliance is the only recognized body of promoters and bookers officially recognized by The United States Government".

Will appreciate any advise or information you can give us so that we can know how to act when we meet in August, also what you propose to do about this "NAWA".

Yours very Truly,

Sam Muchnick,  
Pres. NWA.

Now your files will reveal that I'm original inventor of the NWA originated in California. When the "Decree" was signed, Cal Eaton, California promoter, was one of the signers. He has never resigned from the NWA but has not paid his dues since then. So technically he remains a member but not in good standing.

Enclosed you will note a note from a pamphlet which claims a new Alliance THE NORTH AMERICAN WRESTLING ALLIANCE. What is the NAWA are you people interested in finding out?

00684



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

RAB:WDK  
60-406-3

June 23, 1960

Mr. Sam Muchnik, President  
National Wrestling Alliance  
Claridge Hotel  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Muchnik:

This acknowledges receipt of your letter of June 11, 1960, in regard to the above-entitled case.

You state that the National Wrestling Alliance has a meeting scheduled for August 26th and 27th at which time you would like to recommend the dissolution of the organization. There is nothing in the antitrust laws nor in the judgment entered against the association on October 15, 1956, which prevents the association from dissolving. Of course, such dissolution would not affect the liability of the individual members who have consented to be bound by the judgment.

We have no information concerning The North American Wrestling Alliance. Unless the organization engages in activities violative of the antitrust laws, there is no basis for this Division to take any action against that Alliance.

We cannot and do not recognize the National Wrestling Alliance as "the only recognized body of promoters and bookers officially recognized by the United States Government" because the United States Government does not officially recognize any association of bookers or promoters as falling within that description.

If any action is taken at the N.W.A. meeting of August 26-27 to dissolve the association, we would appreciate being advised as to that fact.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT A. BICKS

Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

00686



June 27, 1960

Ref: RAB:WDK  
60-406-3

Mr. Robert A. Bicks  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Bicks:

Received your letter of June 23, in answer to my letter of June 11. I will be happy to keep you informed as to what transpires at the next National Wrestling Alliance meeting, just as I have done in the past.

In the second paragraph of your letter you state "Of course, such dissolution would not affect the liability of the individual members who have consented to be bound by the judgment." We certainly understand that. In fact, when the Decree was signed, half of the members had no interest in signing it, but by considerable persuasion we got most of them to sign. I can readily see why most of them did not want to sign, because, with the exception of one or two members, none of them had violated any antitrust laws.

Also, isn't it a fact that whether you sign such a judgment or not, everyone in our business is bound by the antitrust laws? Or, is it just a few being picked out because they have a fraternal organization and are willing to meet about once a year to discuss problems of their business?

Now, regarding the North American Alliance, isn't your office even interested in learning the make-up of this so-called NAWA - who its officers are, if it has any bylaws, just how it operates, and the reason for its organization? Perhaps the NAWA is a fine organization and some promoters would like to cooperate with them. However, I seem to be in no position to find out what it is all about, so I can pass the information along to our members. So, I thought perhaps the antitrust division could ascertain the facts of this organization, and let us know.

I don't like to take up so much of your valuable time, because you have other things to do besides worrying about the wrestling business. But, it is important to all of us, because most of us derive a living from wrestling promotion.

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick

SM:ma

00687



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

RAB:WDK  
60-406-3

July 21, 1960

Mr. Sam Muchnick  
President and Secretary  
Claridge Hotel  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Muchnick:

Thank you for your letter of June 27, 1960.

As I intimated in my letter of June 23, 1960, the Department has no information indicating that the North American Alliance is in any way violating the antitrust laws. Until we have reason to believe that the antitrust laws are being violated by this organization, we have no reason whatsoever to investigate this organization.

Your continued cooperation in regard to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT A. BICKS  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

00685



September 15, 1960

Ref: RAB:WDK  
60-406-3

Mr. Robert A. Bicks  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Re: United States v. National Wrestling  
Alliance

Dear Mr. Bicks:

The National Wrestling Alliance had its  
12th Annual Convention in Acapulco, Mexico, on August  
26 and 27 . The following officers were elected:

Mr. Frank Tunney - President.  
Mr. Fred Kohler - 1st Vice-President.  
Mr. Karl Sarpolis- 2nd Vice-President.  
Mr. Sam Muchnick - Executive Secretary, Treasurer.

I had been President for 10 years and was not  
a candidate for re-election.

It was decided, at the meeting, to make re-  
visions in the By-Laws. I have asked our attorney, Mr. Harry  
N. Soffer, International Office Building, St. Louis 1, Missouri,  
to make the changes and submit to your department for approval.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick, Executive Secretary, Treas.  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:mn

CC: Mr. Harry N. Soffer

00689



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

RAB:WDK  
60-406-3

September 26, 1960

Mr. Sam Muchnick  
Executive Secretary & Treasurer  
National Wrestling Alliance  
Hotel Claridge  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

Re: United States v. National  
Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Muchnick:

Thank you for your letter of September 15, 1960, concerning the recent meeting of the National Wrestling Alliance held in Acapulco, Mexico, on August 26 and 27.

I presume that we will be contacted in the near future by Mr. H. N. Soffer concerning the proposed revisions in the Association's By-Laws.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT A. BICKS  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

00690



*Delivered to Mr. Kaestel  
8/7/61 2:30 P.M.*

July 27, 1961

RAB: WDK  
60-406-3

Assistant Attorney General,  
Antitrust Division,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

On Aug. 25, 26 and 27, the National Wrestling Alliance will hold its annual meeting in Toronto, Canada. Since the signing of the "Consent Decree", the ranks of the NWA have been depleted from a total of 38 members to 12 members, this despite the fact that more men are eligible to join now etc.

There is a controversy regarding the admitting of members and was wondering if you could send us your version or if you desire I can be in Washington on Aug. 7 or 8 and discuss this with one of your staff personally, preferably one of the men who was in on the original negotiations who would be familiar with the situation.

Recently two men, Johnny Doyle and Jim Barnett, applied for membership. Inasmuch as they had all of the qualifications, the president as well as myself decided that no vote on their admittance was necessary--as our new by-laws-, confirmed by your office, state that it is mandatory to accept new members if they meet all of the qualifications. Now some of the members claim that a vote should have been taken before admitting them. Why a vote, when it is mandatory that they be admitted. Doyle, is a former member, who allegedly is the man who originally told the antitrust division in Los Angeles that the Alliance was a monopoly. Now he is promoting in Detroit.

Will appreciate hearing from you on this and as stated above can come to Washington if you think it is necessary.

Sincerely yours,

Sam Muchnick,  
Executive Secretary and Treasurer  
NWA

00692



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

LL:WDK  
60-406-3

August 9, 1961

Sam Muchnick, Esquire  
National Wrestling Alliance  
Suite 230 -32  
Hotel Claridge  
1800 Locust Street  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Muchnick:

This is in response to your letter of July 27 inquiring whether it is necessary for the National Wrestling Alliance to vote on the admission of applicants when those applicants are qualified for membership and must be admitted to comply with provisions of the judgment in the above-captioned action. As far as we are concerned, it is immaterial how the Alliance admits members, by voting or automatic admission, so long as qualified applicants are admitted, as required by the judgment.

Sincerely yours,

LEE LOEVINGER  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

00693



September 19, 1961

XXXXXXX

LL: WDK  
60-406-3

XXXX

1stxxx

Mr. Lee Loevinger  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Loevinger:

Roy Welch,  
Nashville, Tenn.  
2nd Vice-President.

The National Wrestling Alliance had its  
15th Annual Convention, in Toronto, Canada, on  
August 25, 26 and the following officers were  
elected:

Fred Kohler, Chicago, Illinois,  
President.

Karl Sarpolis, Amarillo, Texas,  
1st Vice-President.

Roy Welch, Nashville, Tennessee,  
2nd Vice-President.

Sam Muchnick, St. Louis, Missouri,  
Executive Secretary and Treasurer (Re-elected).

If there is any other information you  
desire, please do not hesitate to write me.

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick, Executive Secretary, Treasurer,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:mn

00694



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

LL:WDK  
60-406-3

September 25, 1961

Sam Muchnick, Esquire  
National Wrestling Alliance  
Suite 230 - 32  
Hotel Claridge  
1800 Locust Street  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Muchnick:

Thank you for your letter of September 19 giving the list of the new officers of the National Wrestling Alliance.

In your letter of July 27 you indicated that several qualified persons had applied for membership in the Alliance. Have these persons now been admitted? Can you supply a list of the present members of the National Wrestling Alliance?

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

LEE LOEVINGER  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

00695



September 28, 1961

LL:WDK  
60-406-3

Mr. Lee Loevinger  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Loevinger:

This is in reply to your letter of September 25, 1961.

Up to this time, James E. Barnett and John J. Doyle, have not been admitted to membership in the National Wrestling Alliance. At the recent National Wrestling Alliance meeting, in Toronto, Canada, I told the members in attendance (Doyle and Barnett were not there) that, in my opinion, both of these men were eligible for membership and that it was mandatory that they be taken in. However, I did admit that I did not go through the regular channels of a Membership Committee, because up to that time the President, Frank Tunney, had not named a Membership Committee.

It was then decided that the President should name a Membership Committee and that that Committee should bring in their findings the next day, which was August 26. This Committee brought in a report that stated that inasmuch as the Executive Secretary had not followed the By-Laws in admitting Barnett and Doyle to membership, these men should make new applications and apply again.

Immediately upon my return to St. Louis, I called Barnett and Doyle and told them the results and arranged to meet them in St. Louis and tell them what happened. I then sent them new application forms to fill out. They filled out these forms, photostats of which are enclosed, herewith. I had eight photostats made of each application and sent them to the new President, Fred Kohler, and urged immediate action. Mr. Kohler appointed a new Membership Committee and told me he would send each one of these men a copy of the application. He then wrote me that as soon as he receives a report from this Committee, he would send it on to me and have me poll the entire membership.

Barnett and Doyle have called me a number of times and asked me if there had been any results, and I have called Kohler several times, and he tells me he has not heard from the entire Committee. So, until I hear from him there is really nothing I can do under our revised By-Laws.

Actually, when it was recommended at the Acapulco meeting, in 1960, that the Presidency should rotate and that the new job of Executive Secretary should manage

00696



September 28, 1961  
Mr. Lee Loevinger  
LL:WDK -- 60-406-3  
United States v. National Wrestling Alliance  
September 28, 1961 - page 2

the affairs of the Alliance, there was no mention of the President appointing Committees. However, in going over the revision of the By-Laws with our attorney, I, personally, thought it would be only fair for a President to appoint Committees.

I sent out a Bulletin to National Wrestling Alliance members after the meeting, urging that Barnett and Doyle, although they have had personal differences in business relationships with some members, should be admitted to membership. This is the story up to now and if you think there is anything I can do on this matter, please let me know.

The present members of the National Wrestling Alliance are: Salvador Lutteroth, Jr., Mexico City, Mexico; Karl Sarpolis, Amarillo, Texas; Mike London, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Morris Sigel, Houston, Texas; Sam Muchnick, St. Louis, Missouri; Roy Welch, Nashville, Tennessee; Joe Mondt, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; LeRoy McGuirk, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Fred Kohler, Chicago, Illinois; Vince McMahon, Washington, D. C.; Frank Tunney, Toronto, Canada; Jim Crockett, Charlotte, North Carolina; Don Owen, Eugene, Oregon; Al Haft, Columbus, Ohio; C. P. Luttrall, Tampa, Florida; Eddie Quinn, Montreal, Canada and Harry Light, Detroit, Michigan. Messrs. Haft, Luttrall, Quinn and Light paid their dues just before the meeting.

We consider men members who pay their dues and assessment for the current fiscal year. There are others who have dropped out by not paying their dues and assessments, but have not resigned. So, whenever they pay up they are put back in good standing.

Hope this is the information you desire. If there is anything else you would like to know, please write me.

Sincerely,

SM:mn  
Barnett and Doyle have called me. Sam Muchnick, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE.

P.S. We also had an application from a Mr. Danny McShain, from Albuquerque, New Mexico, but this was denied because he had not promoted the required amount of shows. However, a new application has been sent to him, but have not heard from him up to this date.

SM

00696





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

LL:WDK  
60-406-3

October 6, 1961

Sam Muchnick, Esquire  
National Wrestling Alliance  
Suite 230 - 32 Hotel Claridge  
1800 Locust Street  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Muchnick:

This is in response to your letter of September 28, 1961 informing me that although Mr. James E. Barnett and Mr. John J. Doyle are qualified for membership in the National Wrestling Alliance, they have not been admitted.

As you know, subsection (D) of Section IV of the judgment clearly requires admission of qualified bookers or promoters. As the judgment is binding upon the Alliance and its officers and members, failure to comply with subsection (D) by inaction can subject both the Alliance and the officers and members to being cited for criminal contempt of court. I can only stress the seriousness of the failure of the Alliance to admit the two applicants.

I would like to also point out to you that under subsection (C) of Section IV the Alliance must expel any member who violates any rule, regulation or by-law of the defendant designed to comply with the Final Judgment.

I would appreciate hearing from you as to the action which has been taken to comply with the judgment at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely yours, .

LEE LOEVINGER  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

00697

C  
O  
P  
Y

October 9, 1961

Mr. Fred Kohler  
817 Grace Street  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Fred:

I am dictating this letter to my secretary from Cincinnati, where I am attending the World Series, as she read the letter from the United States Department of Justice, which I am reproducing here, to me on the telephone. This letter speaks for itself.

Mr. Sam Muchnick, Esquire  
National Wrestling Alliance  
Suite 230-32 Claridge Hotel  
1800 Locust Street  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

October 6, 1961

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Muchnick:

This is in response to your letter of September 28, 1961, informing me that although Mr. James E. Barnett and Mr. John J. Doyle are qualified for membership in the National Wrestling Alliance, they have not been admitted.

As you know, subsection (D) of Section IV of the judgment clearly requires admission of qualified bookers or promoters. As the judgment is binding upon the Alliance and its officers and members, failure to comply with subsection (D) by inaction can subject both the Alliance and the officers and members to being cited for criminal contempt of court. I can only stress the seriousness of the failure of the Alliance to admit the two applicants.

I would like to also point out to you that under subsection (C) of Section IV the Alliance must expel any member who violates any rule, regulation or by-law of the defendant designed to comply with the Final Judgment.

I would appreciate hearing from you as to the action which has been taken to comply with the judgment at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely yours,

Lee Loevinger  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

00698



October 9, 1961

Mr. Fred Kohler  
October 9, 1961 - page 2

I am not going to jeopardize the standings of the Alliance and its members and officers, just because you have not submitted a report to me from the Membership Committee.

I am giving the members 48 hours after receipt of this letter to let me know whether they want Barnett and Doyle admitted to the National Wrestling Alliance, or not. I will then notify the Department of Justice as to just what has been done in the case.

ALL MEMBERS, PLEASE SEND ME TELEGRAMS AS TO YOUR DECISION.

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick, Executive Secretary,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:mn

CC: Mr. Jim Crockett  
Mr. Al Haft  
Mr. Harry Light  
Mr. Mike London  
Senor Salvador Lutteroth, Jr.  
Mr. C. P. "Cowboy" Luttrall  
Mr. Leroy McGuirk  
Mr. Vince McMahon  
Mr. Joe "Toots" Mondt  
Mr. Don Owen  
Mr. Eddie Quinn  
Mr. Karl Sarpolis  
Mr. Morris Sigel  
Mr. Frank Tunney  
Mr. Roy Welch

Sincerely yours,

Lee Harvey  
Assistant Attorney General  
Assistant Director  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

006878

October 10, 1961

Mr. Lee Loevinger  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Loevinger:

Received your letter of October 6. We have not taken any action on the Applications of Messrs. Doyle and Barnett, because Mr. Fred Kohler, our President, informed me he has not received all of the votes of the members of his Membership Committee, as yet.

However, upon receipt of your letter, I notified all the members and told them I wanted their vote as to whether they wanted Barnett and Doyle admitted into the National Wrestling Alliance. I told them to send me telegrams of their action.

This letter went to all men who had been paid up in full for the fiscal year of 1960-61. Up to this date, I have received dues for 1961-62 from 9 of the 17 members. However, I surmise that the others will send in their yearly dues. As soon as I get the final results on this vote, I will notify you immediately.

On October 2, 1961, I received an Application for Membership from Mr. Jules Strongbow, of Los Angeles, Cal. As in the cases of Barnett and Doyle, I had photostats made of this Application and sent 8 copies to Mr. Fred Kohler so he could submit them to the Membership Committee.

Hope this is the information you desire. If there is anything else I can do, please let me know.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

SM:mn  
CC:Mr. Fred Kohler

Sam Muchnick, Executive Secretary,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

00699



LL:WDX  
60-406-3

October 11, 1961

XXXXXX

Mr. Lee Loevinger  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

XXXXXX

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Loevinger:

1st XX

Following my letter of October 10, in which I informed you that I am, personally, polling the members of the National Wrestling Alliance as to their wishes, regarding the admission to membership of Messrs Barnett and Doyle, I talked to Mr. Fred Kohler on the telephone and he told me I had no authority to poll the members, without first consulting him.

Roy Welch  
2nd Vice-President  
Nashville, Tennessee

I, personally, thought I had waited long enough, from August 31, when Barnett and Doyle filed new applications, until October 9, when I received your letter, dated October 6.

For your information, the Executive Secretary and Treasurer is supposed to run the management and business of the National Wrestling Alliance, according to the wishes of all members, and the President is merely to be rotated every year and to appoint Committees. That is what I meant when I told this to Mr. Kohler on the 'phone and what he intimidates in the Bulletin he sent out to members on October 10, 1961, copy of which is enclosed.

In appointing a new Membership Committee of seven members, Mr. Kohler appointed the following men: Joe "Toots" Mondt, Vince McMahon, Mike London, Harry Light, Jim Crockett, Morris Sigel and Don Owen. I have copies of letters from Crockett, Owen and Sigel, which they sent to Kohler and in which they stated they are voting for the admission of Barnett and Doyle. Of the other men, McMahon and Mondt are partners with Mr. Kohler in promotions in Chicago and Pittsburgh. Mr. London has been partners with Mr. Kohler in Denver, and possibly other places. Mr. Light, who has not been in attendance at National Wrestling Alliance meetings in several years, and who did not attend the last meeting in Toronto, but who sent in his back dues and assessments after the meeting, is now reportedly a partner with Kohler, McMahon and Mondt in a Detroit promotion, which is run in opposition to a Barnett-Doyle promotion.

I, personally, have no axes to grind with any faction. I am merely trying to follow the Consent Decree that we all agreed to, and, in my personal opinion, Jim Barnett, who is one of the outstanding bookers in the United States, and Johnny Doyle, who has been a member of the National Wrestling Alliance before, and wants to be admitted now, are eligible.

(Also enclosed list of 17 members - names and addresses, as of 10/11/61)

00700



LL:WDR  
60-406-3

Office of the President

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

October 11, 1961

Mr. Lee Loevinger  
October 11, 1961 - page 2

XXXXX

XXXXX

1st xx

Now, if Mr. Kohler is able to assure the members that they will not be in jeopardy of violating the Consent Decree, as he states in the last paragraph of his Bulletin, then I will be the first one to resign as an officer of the National Wrestling Alliance and resign from the Alliance.

It is also true that I am being paid by the National Wrestling Alliance at a stipulated fee (whenever it is available), for operating the National Wrestling Alliance, and not for the booking of any champions' -- that comes with the job.

Roy Welch  
2nd Vice-President  
Nashville, Tennessee

This looks like there will be a clash between Fred Kohler and myself, because I want the members to abide thoroughly by the Consent Judgment that they all signed.

If I have been doing the wrong thing in the handling of this matter, please let me know, so I can act accordingly.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick, Executive Secretary,  
Treasurer,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:mn  
Enc.

P. S. I am enclosing a portion of a Bulletin I sent out to the members, dated Sept. 8, 1961, and in which I reproduced a letter from member Luttrall. Mr. Kohler called me and told me I should not have reproduced Luttrall's letter and that I was prejudicing the members in doing so. I did not agree with Mr. Kohler, S. M.

(Also enclosed list of 17 members - names and addressed, as of 10/11/61 mn)



Office of the President

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

C  
O  
P  
Y

October 11, 1961

October 10, 1961

BULLETIN

XXXX

1st xx

Roy Welch  
2nd Vice-President  
Nashville, Tennessee

CC: Sam Muchnick  
Jim Crockett  
Al Haft  
Harry Light  
Mike London  
Salvador Lutteroth  
Cowboy Luttrall  
Leroy McGuirk  
Vince McMahon  
Joe Mondt  
Don Owen  
Eddie Quinn  
Karl Sarpolis  
Morris Sigel  
Frank Tunney  
Roy Welch

Obviously, through pressure by Barnett and Doyle, Mr. Muchnick is taking it upon himself to poll all the members and circumvent our By-Laws in an effort to have Barnett and Doyle admitted to membership of the Alliance. Sam Muchnick wrote to the Justice Department and told them Barnett and Doyle were qualified for membership. According to our By-Laws they have not as yet qualified and do not have letters from all of the members of the membership committee. Some of those letters I do have definitely point out that Barnett and Doyle are not qualified. In the past, applicants for membership in practically every case were not taken into the Alliance until our next convention. Mr. Muchnick on a previous occasion circumvented the By-Laws of our Alliance and admitted Leonard Schwartz as a member of the Alliance contrary to our By-Laws and prior to a convention meeting. Mr. Muchnick told me on the phone that he is running the Alliance. I thought the members were running the Alliance. I understood that the \$15,000.00 a year being paid to Sam Muchnick was for booking Buddy Rogers as world's heavyweight champion and Pat O'Connor as the United States heavyweight champion. I now find out that the booking of Pat O'Connor is being done by Bobby Bruns who is not a member of the Alliance.

I am contacting the Justice Department and will give them the facts not slanted as Mr. Muchnick has been doing, and I assure you and all members that I and you will not be in jeopardy of violating the Consent Decree.

Very truly yours,

Fred Kohler (Signed)  
Fred Kohler, President,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

I, personally, have no desire to wind up the Consent Decree that we all agree to follow. The Barnett, who is one of the outstanding bookers in the business, and Doyle, who has been a member of the National Wrestling Alliance before, and wants to be admitted now, are eligible.

00700

Memphis, Tenn.--Just received your letter regarding the membership of James S. Barnett and John A. Doyle. Upon receipt of applications I immediately voted my share as a member and will further confirm that decision. MORRIS P. STOLL.

Charlotte, N. C.--In reply to your letter October 10 it is my wish that John A. Doyle and James Barnett be admitted as members to the National Wrestling Alliance. JIM CRONKITT

LL: WDK  
60-406-3

St. Paul, Minn.--Dear Sam: Here is my vote. I am voting members to admit James S. Barnett and John A. Doyle to the National Wrestling Alliance. Although I am not a member, unless these two are admitted as members, I cannot vote. I heartily endorse James S. Barnett, trustworthy and Washington, D. C.

re: United States Vs. National Wrestling Alliance.

Dear Mr. Loevinger:

Regarding the voting on the Messrs. Barnett and Doyle for membership in the National Wrestling Alliance, I have 10 yes votes in favor of their admittance; 1 vote in favor of their applications being held until the next annual meeting; The president, as well as 4 members of his committee, and one other member did not vote.

Those voting for admittance of Barnett and Doyle are: Sigel, Haft, Luttrall, Welch, Crockett\*, Owen\*, McGuirk, Sarpolis, Tunney and Muchnick.

Luttrall voted to hold up until the meeting.  
\* means that they are on membership committee.

Not voting, Kohler, Mondt\*, London\*, Light\* and McMahon\*. Quinn did not send in a vote.

In view of the fact that Kohler stated in his Bulletin dated Oct. 10, 1961, copy which was mailed to you on Oct. 11, "I am contacting the Justice Department and will give them the facts not slanted as Mr. Muchnick has been doing, and I assure you and all members that I and you will not be in jeopardy of violating the Consent Decree"...Fred Kohler., ...I will hold up announcement regarding their admittance until I hear from your department. It has also come to my attention that Mr. Kohler has said that he has an appointment with your department. It may be that the four committee members, who have not voted, know some facts that the rest of us do not know. Please advise me so that I can notify the members. I am attaching copies of the telegrams received by me.

Sincerely yours,

Sam Muchnick, Executive Secretary-Treasurer,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

00701



Copies of Telegrams from members voting on applications of Barnett and Doyle:-

Houston, Texas;---Just received your letter regarding NWA membership for James E. Barnett and John J. Doyle. Upon Receipt of applications I immediately voted for these men to become members and this further confirms that decision. MORRIS P. SIGEL.

Charlotte, N. C.-----In reply to your letter October 9th it is my wishes that John J. Doyle and James Barnett be admitted as members to the National Wrestling Alliance. JIM CROCKETT

Tampa, Fla-----Dear Sam: Here is my reply to your letter asking members to send telegrams on admittance of two applicants, James E. Barnett and John J. Doyle into the National Wrestling Alliance. Although I am not a member at present due to my resignation unless these two applicants are admitted if my vote is valid, I heartily endorse their admission as they would make honorable, trustworthy and dependable members and would be an asset to the National Wrestling Alliance. I urge you and all other NWA members to cast your votes in their favor. If these two applicants are refused membership, then Sam, I think steps should be taken to dissolve the National Wrestling Alliance as an organisation. C. P. COWBOY LUTTRALL.

Amarillo, Texas-----My vote is cast in favor of Doyle and Barnett. Regards. DOC SARPOLIS

Columbus, Ohio-----Register my vote in favor of admitting Barnett and Doyle. AL HAPT

Nashville, Tenn.-----We vote yes for Johnny Doyle and Jim Barnett to be admitted to the National Wrestling Alliance. Regards. Nick Gulas and Roy Welch.

Tulsa, Okla-----My vote is yes for both Barnett and Doyle. LEROY MCGUIRK.

Eugene, Ore-----In view of letter from Government there is no alternative but to admit Barnett Doyle and Strongbow into Alliance. I urge that this action be taken right away. Best regards. DOWN OWENS.

Toronto, Can-----I vote the admission of Barnett and Doyle. Regards. FRANK TUNNEY

St. Louis, Mo-----YES, FOR BARNETT AND DOYLE. SAM MUCHNICK.

Mexico City, Mexico--According to decision taken in convention Doyle and Barnett must re-submit applications for membership which will be discussed in next convention according to by-laws. SALVADOR LUTTEROTH, JR.

Not voting up to this date:--London, McMahon, Mondt and Light of membership committee. Also Eddie Quinn.

Sincerely yours,

Sam Muchnick, Executive Secretary-Treasurer,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

00761



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

LL:WDK  
60-406-3

October 19, 1961

Sam Muchnick, Esquire  
Executive Secretary and Treasurer  
National Wrestling Alliance  
Claridge Hotel  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Muchnick:

This is in response to your recent letters concerning the admission of James Barnett and John Doyle to membership in the National Wrestling Alliance.

Mr. Fred Kohler, president of National Wrestling Alliance, met with representatives of this Department to argue that these men did not qualify for membership. He did not present documentary evidence to show that their applications were false. He indicates that he will very shortly receive the votes of all the members of the membership committee. Should this membership committee reject the applications of Messrs. Barnett and Doyle your bylaws permit an appeal to the membership as a whole. In view of the vote which you report it would appear that the applicants will be admitted without the necessity of our taking any legal action.

Should these applicants not be admitted within a reasonable time, will you please inform me of such fact.

Sincerely yours,

LEE LOEVINGER  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

00702



October 23, 1961

XXXXXX

LL:WDK  
60-406-3

XXXXXX

Mr. Lee Loevinger  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

1st XXX

Dear Mr. Loevinger:

Thank you for your letter of October 19, 1961,  
regarding the Membership Applications of Messrs. James  
Barnett and John Doyle.

Roy Welch  
2nd Vice-President  
Nashville, Tennessee

Enclosed is copy of letter I mailed to Mr. Fred  
Kohler, President of the National Wrestling Alliance,  
today.

As soon as I hear further, will get in touch  
with you.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick, Executive-Secretary,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:mn  
Enc.

00703

DOMESTIC SERVICE			
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent as a full rate telegram.			
FULL RATE TELEGRAM	SERIAL		
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER		

# WESTERN UNION

1300

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE			
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent at the full rate.			
FULL RATE	LETTER TELEGRAM		
VICTORY LETTER	SHIP RADIOGRAM		

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

NO. MSG.-CL. OF SVCS.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	TIME FILED
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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

C O P Y

October 24, 1961  
Washington, D. C.

Sam Muchnick, Executive Secretary  
National Wrestling Alliance  
Claridge Hotel  
St. Louis, Missouri

DEAR SAM THIS WIRE WILL ACT AS MY RESIGNATION FROM THE  
NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.  
SINCERELY.

VINCENT J. McMAHON

00704



October 27, 1961

LL:WDK  
60-406-3

Mr. Lee Loevinger  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Loevinger:

As has been the custom of my office to keep you informed on important National Wrestling Alliance developments, enclosed is copy of a telegram I received from Mr. Vince McMahon last Tuesday, and copy of letter mailed to him by my office today.

Roy Welch  
2nd Vice-President  
Nashville, Tennessee

In my opinion, there is more to this resignation than meets the eye, which is the reason for my hesitancy in accepting same until I hear further from your office.

If you think it important enough, I could come to Washington the latter part of next week to discuss in person with members of your staff, as to what has been transpiring. However, I cannot definitely state at this time whether I can make the trip, because I have been ill at home for the past four days with an infection.

I have not heard further from Mr. Fred Kohler, regarding the Membership Committee.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick, Executive Secretary  
and Treasurer,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:mn  
Encs.

00705

C  
O  
P  
Y

October 27, 1961

Mr. Vince McMahon  
Franklin Park Hotel  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Vince:

I am sorry I did not reply to your telegram of resignation received Tuesday, but I have been ill at home - in fact, am still home and dictating this by telephone.

I am also sorry you are taking this step, for a number of reasons. One reason is that we made it so easy for you to come into the organization. We had a handful of members - about 11, at the meeting in Acapulco, in 1960, and when Toots Mondt proposed you for membership, everyone was in good spirits and accepted you, without the formality of you filing an Application, going through a Membership Committee, etc. In fact, I believe it was about a month or so later before you finally sent in your Application and Initiation Fee and Dues, after I had written you several letters asking for same.

I believe everyone has a right to resign from an organization they belong to, if they so desire, however, your case may be a little different. You are on the Membership Committee studying the Applications of James Barnett and John Doyle, and I have a letter from the Justice Department advising me that this Committee should act within a reasonable time.

As a result of this, I don't believe I am in a position to formally accept your resignation until I look into the matter.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick, Executive Secretary  
and Treasurer,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:mn

00706





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

LL:WDK  
60-406-3

October 30, 1961

Sam Muchnick, Esquire  
Executive Secretary and Treasurer  
National Wrestling Alliance  
Claridge Hotel  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Muchnick:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 23, 1961 providing additional information concerning the applications of Messrs. James Barnett and John Doyle for membership in the National Wrestling Alliance.

Sincerely yours,

LEE LOEVINGER  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

by *W. D. Kilgore, Jr.*  
William D. Kilgore, Jr., Chief,  
Judgments and Judgment Enforcement Section

00707

November 29, 1961

Mr. Lee Loevinger  
Mr. Lee Loevinger  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

LL:WDK  
60-406-3

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Loevinger:

You will have to pardon my delay in following up my letter to you, dated October 23, 1961 - the next day I became ill and just recently returned to my desk.

Together with my letter to you of October 23, I enclosed copy of letter that I sent to Mr. Fred Kohler, President of the National Wrestling Alliance, also dated October 23, 1961. In this letter I stated "I don't know what Mr. Loevinger means by reasonable time, as he states in the last paragraph of his letter, so am assuming it to be about one to two weeks."

While I was in the hospital I told my secretary, Mrs. Margaret Nehoul, to write Mr. Kohler to find out just what disposition had been made regarding the applications of Messrs. Doyle and Barnett. Copy of her letter to Mr. Kohler is enclosed, also copy of Mr. Kohler's answer to her.

While I have a vote of 11 to 1 in favor of Messrs. Doyle and Barnett applications, I do not want to embarrass Mr. Kohler by announcing the results until he had sufficient time to get reports from his Committee. You would think that Messrs. Doyle and Barnett are making applications to join the United Nations the way he is making a big deal out of this. This all reverts back to our National Wrestling Alliance meeting in Acapulco, Mexico, in 1960. At that time I wanted to step out as President because I thought the Presidency should rotate. The Alliance members attending the meeting wanted me to stay on and manage the affairs of the Alliance with the title of Executive Secretary, with the understanding that the Presidency would be nothing but an Honorary job. It was my fault, because when going over the revision of the By-Laws with our attorney I thought the President should have some powers. Mr. Frank Tunney, the first President who succeeded me, realized this, but Mr. Kohler, whom I nominated myself, is beginning to take the position that the members want him to be the head man. You can take a poll yourself and find out just what the wishes of the members are.

Also, while I was in the hospital, Mr. Kohler called a meeting of the Board of Directors, in Chicago (there are 6 Directors). Four of them came to the meeting, namely: Fred Kohler, Joe Mondt, Jim Crockett and Frank Tunney. The purpose in calling

00708



LL:WDK  
60-406-3

Mr. Lee Loewinger  
November 29, 1961 - page 2  
Re: United States v. National Wrestling  
Alliance  
November 29, 1961, page 2 Alliance  
Re: United States v. National Wrestling  
Alliance

the meeting was to propose a Resolution dissolving the Alliance. He had been notified by our attorney that the National Wrestling Alliance could not be dissolved under the Iowa law, unless 75% of the members voted for dissolution. While I have not been notified officially by Mr. Kohler as to what transpired at the meeting, it is my understanding that he and Mondt voted for the Resolution to dissolve, and Tunney and Crockett voted against it.

I have worked hard to keep this Alliance in existence, at the recommendation of former United States Assistant Attorney General, Honorable Stanley N. Barnes, when we met in his offices before the signing of the Consent Decree. I told him then, that the Alliance could easily dissolve if it was the Government's wishes. He told me it would be better for the Government if we would stay in existence, provided we would all abide by the Consent Decree, which was yet to be drawn up. By having an organization, we have been able to keep a better eye on conditions than if we did not have an organization.

Mr. Kohler has never sent me a report of his Membership Committee on the application of Mr. Jules Strongbow, of Los Angeles. Mr. Strongbow, in my opinion, also meets all requirements to be a member. I happen to know you can get a yes and no answer by a mere phone call to Committee members, as many men in the organization now, through the years, have been admitted without any fan-fare.

Also, I happen to know that Messrs. Doyle and Barnett need to be members of the National Wrestling Alliance like they need "holes in their heads." They are successful operators and don't need to be members of the National Wrestling Alliance, except as a matter of principle.

I will hold up announcing the final vote regardless of what Mr. Kohler's Committee reports, until I hear from your office, as the majority of members, like myself, want to abide fully with the Antitrust laws and with the Consent Judgment we signed.

So, please advise me, if you possibly can, just what procedure to follow.

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick, Executive Secretary, Treasurer,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:mn  
Encs.

November 30, 1961

LL:WDK  
60-408-3

Mr. Lee Loevinger  
November 29, 1961, page 2  
Re: United States v. National Wrestling  
Alliance  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

P.S. I have a letter, dated November 25, 1961, from Mr. C. P. Luttrall, a member of the National Wrestling Alliance from Tampa, Florida. Following are two paragraphs from his letter:

"Sam, there still is a lot of confusion in the Alliance. Kohler told me it is breaking up and that Jim and Johnny were not elected to membership. Then I receive your letter stating that they have been admitted as members.

"You know that you have my resignation as an Alliance member in your files if they are not admitted and that I want my money back in this case. On the other hand, if the Alliance is still solid, then I will gladly send my \$100.00 dues."

Best regards,

C. P. Luttrall

While I have a vote of 11 to 1 in favor of Messrs. Doyle and Barnett applications, I do not want to embarrass Mr. Kohler by announcing the results until he had sufficient time to get reports from his Captain. I think that Messrs. Doyle and Barnett are making applications to join the United Nations the way he is making a big deal out of this. This all reports back to our National Wrestling Alliance meeting in Acapulco, Mexico, in 1960. At that time I wanted to step out as President because I thought the Presidency should rotate. The Alliance members attending the meeting wanted me to stay on and manage the affairs of the Alliance with the title of Executive Secretary, with the understanding that the Presidency would be nothing but an honorary job. It was my fault, because when going over the revision of the By-Laws with our attorney I thought the President should have some powers. Mr. Frank Tunney, the first President who succeeded me, realized this, but Mr. Kohler, whom I nominated myself, is beginning to take the position that the members want him to be the head man. You can take a poll yourself and find out just what the wishes of the members are.

Also, while I was in the hospital, Mr. Kohler called a meeting of the Board of Directors, in Chicago (there are 8 Directors). Four of them came to the meeting, namely: Fred Kohler, Joe Smith, Ed Crockett and Frank Tunney. The purpose is calling

00708



Dec. 2, 1961

Hon. Lee Loevinger, LL:WDBK  
60-406-3  
Assistant Attorney General,  
Antitrust Division,  
United States Dept. of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Re: United States Vs. National Wrestling Alliance.

Dear Mr. Loevinger: not paid his dues for 1961-62 and  
technically he is not a member until he does. Also Mr. McMahon  
of Washington, D. C. sent me two telegrams of resignation--

This morning I received copies of letters,  
Mr. Fred Kohler, president of the NWA, sent to the  
Messrs James E. Barnett and John J. Doyle:--They read  
as follows:-

"I regret to inform you that the majority  
of the members of my membership committee have voted  
against your admission to membership in the National  
Wrestling Alliance.

Under the bylaws of the National Wrestling  
Alliance, you will be permitted to appeal the decision  
at the next membership meeting and at that time the  
entire membership will have the opportunity to vote on  
your application.

Should you appeal the decision, you will be  
notified relative to the date of the next meeting of  
the National Wrestling Alliance members."

Very truly yours,  
Fred Kohler, President."

Now technically Kohler could be right but  
I believe he is wrong, basing this opinion on the last  
paragraph in Section 3 of our by-laws which states:-

"All applicants who are eligible for membership under  
Section 1 of this article shall be admitted to member-  
ship."

Also I did poll the membership before the  
report of this committee, which had the applications  
for about three months. The membership voted 11 to 1  
for the admission of Messrs Doyle and Barnett.

00709

2--

The men on the membership committee who voted for admission were Morris Sigel, Jim Crockett and Don Owen.

The men who voted against admission were Mike London, Vince McMahon, Joe Mondt and Harry Light. Why did these men vote against admission?

Also Mr. London has not paid his dues for 1961-62 and technically is not a member until he does. Also Mr. McMahon of Washington, D. C. sent me two telegrams of resignation--one dated Oct. 28 and the other dated Nov. 1.

Also why did Mr. Kohler write me some time ago that Three members of his committee have voted for admission of Doyle and Barnett and three members feel that they are not qualified to vote on this matter?

Why was Mr. Light put on this membership committee when Mr. Kohler knew that Light and Doyle were bitter promotional opponents in Detroit, Mich?

The reason I am writing this is because I feel that the majority of the members want to religiously abide by the consent decree they all signed and that they are depending on me--not Fred Kohler to look out for their interests.

Am awaiting your reply on above before passing the information along to the membership.

Sincerely yours,

Sam Muchnick,  
Exec-Sec., NWA.

Now technically Kohler could be right but I believe he is wrong, basing his opinion on the last paragraph in Section 3 of our by-laws which states: "All applicants who are eligible for membership under Section 1 of this article shall be admitted to membership."

Also I did poll the membership before the report of this committee, which had the applications for about three months. The membership voted 11 to 1 for the admission of Messrs Doyle and Barnett.

00708



December 4, 1961

LL:WDK  
60-406-3

Mr. Lee Loevinger  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Re: United States v. National Wrestling  
Alliance

Attention: Mr. William D. Kilgore, Jr.,

Dear Mr. Loevinger:

With my recent correspondence to your office, I believe I forgot to send you a copy of a letter received by me from Mr. Fred Kohler, dated November 8, 1961, which is enclosed herewith.

I cannot understand why, in his letter of November 8, he states "that three say they are not qualified in their opinion." Then, in the letter to Barnett and Doyle, dated December 1, 1961, he informs them the Membership Committee has voted against them.

Thought you may want this information.

Sincerely,

SM:an  
Enc.

Sam Muchnick,  
Executive Secretary, Treasurer,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

00710

December 11, 1961

LL:WDK  
60-406-3

Mr. Lee Loevinger  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Re: United States v. National Wrestling  
Alliance

Attention: Mr. William D. Kilgore, Jr.,

Dear Mr. Loevinger:

Enclosed is copy of letter I received from Mr. Jules Strongbow today, and copy of my answer to him.

I sent Mr. Fred Kohler, President of the National Wrestling Alliance, 8 photostatic copies of Mr. Strongbow's Application on October 3, 1961, via registered mail, and I have not heard from him since regarding the Application.

I have my own personal views as to why the Application was not acted upon, but as it is strictly my opinion, I am not going to pass it on at this time.

If there is anything you want me to do to follow up on this matter please let me know, as I think Mr. Strongbow, like Messrs. Barnett and Doyle, are qualified for membership.

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick, Executive Secretary,  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:mn  
Encs.

00711



Jan. 27, 1962

LL: WDK  
60-406-3

Hon. Lee Loevinger,  
Assistant Attorney General,  
Antitrust Division,  
United States Dept. of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Re: United States Vs. National Wrestling Alliance.

Attention: Mr. William D. Kilgore, Jr.

Dear Mr. Loevinger:

In line with my keeping you informed on the Messrs. Barnett and Doyle applications for membership in the NWA, following is the latest development. I had informed the members that inasmuch as 11 men had voted for their admittance, one voted that we should wait until the annual meeting--that both men had been voted in as members. However, I did state that I had circumvented the by-laws by having this vote before the action of the membership committee. In my letter to you of Dec. 2, 1961, you have the information regarding the action of the membership committee. According to the president, 4 men voted against admittance and 3 voted for admittance. Of the 4 men who voted against Barnett and Doyle, one man, Mr. Mike London, is not even eligible to vote as he did not pay the current dues. The others who voted against were Harry Light, Vince McMahon and Joe Mondt.

Barnett and Doyle told me in phone conversations that while they appreciated my efforts in their behalf and while they also appreciate the feelings of most of the members they did not care to be members because of the feelings of the presidents and Messrs. McMahon, ~~Kohler~~, Mondt, Light and London.

If you desire I can explain more fully in person to you or anyone on your staff and I will be available from Feb. 7 through Feb. 12 to come to Washington, if necessary. I can assure you this--The majority of members have and want to abide fully with the "Consent Decree".

Kindest Regards....Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick,  
Exec-Secretary, NWA 00712

September 10, 1962

LL:WDK  
60-406-3

Mr. Lee Loevinger  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Attention: Mr. William D. Kilgore, Jr.,

Dear Mr. Loevinger:

Not having received replies from my letters of months ago to you, I was under the impression that you were no longer interested in the operation of the National Wrestling Alliance. Naturally, I felt very much put out that I did not receive replies, because I was very conscientious in keeping you informed on developments.

However, I would like to let you know that we had a meeting in St. Louis on August 24 and 25, at which only 12 of the 17 members attended. The elected President was Karl Sarpolis, of Amarillo, Texas and I was re-elected Executive Secretary, Treasurer.

The ranks of the National Wrestling Alliance have certainly been depleted because most of the promoters around the country feel that wrestling has been hurt considerably by this Consent Decree.

At any rate, thought I would inform you about the meeting and I am at your service any time you feel interested in the National Wrestling Alliance.

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick, Executive Secretary  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:mn

P.S. At the meeting, former President, Mr. Fred Kohler, presented a resolution to dissolve the Alliance but his Motion was defeated.

SM

00713





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

LL:WDK  
60-406-3

September 24, 1962

Mr. Sam Muchnick  
Executive Secretary  
National Wrestling Alliance  
Suite 230, Hotel Claridge  
1800 Locust Street  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

Re: United States v. National  
Wrestling Alliance

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of September 10, 1962, pertaining to the above-entitled case.

We appreciate very much being kept informed of the activities of the National Wrestling Alliance.

Sincerely yours,

LEE LOEVINGER  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

*W. D. Kilgore, Jr.*  
By: William D. Kilgore, Jr.  
Chief, Judgments & Judgment  
Enforcement Section

00714

August 28, 1963

Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Wm. D. Kilgore, Jr.

LL:WDK  
60-406-3

Dear Sir:

In line with the National Wrestling Alliance keeping your Department informed on developments in this organization, I am writing this to tell you about our annual meeting held in St. Louis on August 23 and 24.

The following officers were elected:

Sam Muchnick, President and Treasurer.  
Roy Welch and Nick Gulas, 1st Vice-Presidents.  
Jim Crockett, 2nd Vice-President.  
Robert H. Bruns, Secretary (Appointed by the President).

Only seven of the sixteen eligible members attended, although two other members sent representatives.

The National Wrestling Alliance has been in a sort of a state of confusion for the past three years, or ever since I stepped out as President, and became Executive Secretary. There was divided authority, as was in the case of Fred Kohler, of Chicago, who, when he became President came to your office to object the admissions of the Messrs. Jim Barnett and Johnny Doyle into the National Wrestling Alliance. It was a personal vendetta between he and those men, and although we have offered them membership they now are rather cool to the idea because of Kohler.

We have also placed several members on probation for 60 days with the understanding they would be suspended for one year unless they abide by our By-Laws. One of these members is from Washington, D. C.

After Lou Thesz had beaten Buddy Rogers for the NWA title on January 24, 1963 and again on February 7, 1963, McMahon made no mention of this on his television program emanating from Washington, D. C., and led the public to believe that Rogers was undefeated.

At the present time, several other groups have sprung up - one calling itself the World Wrestling Federation and the other the American Wrestling Alliance. They are controlled by promoters and partners, who are also wrestlers, and try to give the impression they are immune from the antitrust laws, judging by some of their actions.

00715



August 30, 1963

LL: WDK  
60-406-3

Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Attention: Mr. Wm. D. Kilgore, Jr.  
August 28, 1963 - page 2

LL: WDK  
60-406-3

This, of course, in no way interferes with our promotions, but though you might want this information, as we don't want to be blamed for anything they might do be detrimental to professional wrestling.

If, at any time, you would like further information on above I will be glad to write you, or come to your office in Washington, D. C., whichever you desire.

Trusting the above is the information you want,  
I am,

Robert M. Bruce, Secretary (Appointed by the President).

Only seven of the sixteen eligible members attended, although two other members sent representatives.

Sincerely,

The National Wrestling Alliance has been in a sort of a state of confusion for the past three years, or ever since I stepped out as President. There was divided authority, as was in the case of Fred Goetz, who became President came to your office to object the National Wrestling Alliance. It was a personal vendetta between he and those men, and when we have offered them membership they now are rather cool to the idea because of Louie.

Sam Muchnick, President and Treasurer,  
(Newly Elected)  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:mn

We have also placed several members on probation for 60 days with the understanding they would be suspended for one year unless they abide by our By-Laws. One of these members is from Washington, D. C.

After Lou Thesz had beaten Buddy Rogers for the NWA title on January 24, 1963 and again on February 7, 1963, McMahon made no mention of this on his television program coming from Washington, D. C., and led the public to believe that Rogers was undefeated.

At the present time, several other groups have sprung up - one calling itself the World Wrestling Federation and the other the American Wrestling Alliance. They are controlled by promoters and partners, who are also wrestlers, and try to give the impression they are immune from the antitrust laws, judging by some of their actions.

00715



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

WHO:WDK  
60-406-3

*File*

September 4, 1963

Mr. Sam Muchnick  
President & Treasurer  
National Wrestling Alliance  
Claridge Hotel  
1800 Locust Street  
Suite 230-32-34  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

Dear Mr. Muchnick:

Thank you for your letter of August 28, 1963 providing  
information concerning the National Wrestling Alliance.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM H. ORRICK, JR.  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

*W. D. Kilgore, Jr.*

By: William D. Kilgore, Jr.  
Chief, Judgments & Judgment  
Enforcement Section

00716



October 1, 1964

WHO:WDK  
60-406-3

Anti-Trust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Wm. D. Kilgore, Jr.

Gentlemen:

It has been sometime since I have communicated with your office, because everything seems to be coming along fine in the National Wrestling Alliance and there have not been any special problems.

I was elected President again in 1963-64, and re-elected again for 1964-65.

I am writing this because of something that has developed within the past two weeks. There is a person by the name of Jack Pfeffer who is now headquartering at the Bostonian Hotel, in Boston, Massachusetts. He has been making some moves which I believe are in violation of the Anti-Trust Laws. These are things that he has been doing for more than thirty years, but no one paid much attention to him. Last summer he was involved in promotion with Fred Kohler, in Chicago, and a wrestler by the name of Johnny Valentine, who was booked for him, did not make the date because of illness, and sent him a telegram to that effect. Because Valentine did not make the date, Pfeffer has sworn he would "get him".

His methods of "getting someone" is to try to intimidate promoters who use certain wrestlers by flooding their towns with a lot of literature derogatory to wrestling. This Valentine is an American boy with a wife and three children. And, if Pfeffer is successful enough in scaring some promoters into not using him, they definitely won't. For instance, he has flooded St. Louis with this kind of literature to many barber shops, restaurants and other public places. These tactics are not going to intimidate me in any way whatsoever, as I am going to use Johnny Valentine when I need him no matter what this Mr. Pfeffer does.

However, some promoters have already said they don't want to get involved with this said Pfeffer because of the tactics he uses, and as a result it will deprive Valentine of earning power.

I advised Valentine, when he was here early this week, to write you and inform you of this, because inasmuch as the Anti-Trust Division has taken an interest in the regulation of wrestling and to see that the Anti-Trust Laws are obeyed, I thought you would be interested in above information.

00717

Anti-Trust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.  
Attention: Mr. Wm. D. Kilgore, Jr.  
Enclosure: Mr. Wm. D. Kilgore, Jr.

Gentlemen:

This Mr. Pfeffer has promoted and booked wrestlers all over the country from the time he came from Russia, nearly forty years ago. His methods have always been the same. "If you don't play my way, I will get you".

Thanking you for anything you may do in this matter, I am,

I am writing this because of something that has developed during the past two weeks. Sincerely,  
Sam Pfeffer who is now headquartered at the Bostonish Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts. He has been making some moves which I believe are in violation of the Anti-Trust Laws. These are things that he has been doing for some time now and he has paid much attention to this. I am writing you because I am writing you. Sam Muchnick, President, NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE.  
Fred Kohler, in Chicago, and a wrestler by the name of Johnny Valentine who worked for him, did not make the date because of illness. I sent him a telegram to that effect. Because Valentine did not make the date, Pfeffer was sure he would "get him".

His methods of "getting someone" is to try to intimidate promoters who are certain wrestlers by flooding their towns with a lot of literature derogatory to wrestling. This Valentine is an American boy with a wife and three children. And, if Pfeffer is successful enough in scaring some promoters into not using him, they definitely won't. For instance, he has flooded St. Louis with this kind of literature to many barber shops, restaurants and other public places. These tactics are not going to intimidate me in any way whatsoever, so I am going to use Johnny Valentine when I send him a letter about this Mr. Pfeffer does.

However, some promoters have already said they don't want to get involved with this man Pfeffer because of the tactics he uses, and as a result it will deprive wrestling of working power.

I advised Valentine, when he was here early this week, to write you and inform you of this, because so much in the Anti-Trust Division has taken an interest in the regulation of wrestling and to see that the Anti-Trust Laws are obeyed, I thought you would be interested in above information.



October 13, 1964

WRO:WDK  
60-406-3

Anti-Trust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Wm. D. Kilgore, Jr.

Gentlemen:

Enclosing program printed by the Detroit  
promotion. This gives you an idea what type of  
man Mr. Jack Pfefer is.

Sincerely,

Sam Muchnick, President  
National Wrestling Alliance.

SM:mn  
Enc.

00718



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

October 9, 1964

WHO:WDK  
60-406-3

Mr. Sam Muchnick  
President  
National Wrestling Alliance  
1800 Locust Street  
Suite 230-32-34 Hotel Claridge  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance  
(Civil Action No. 3-729)

Dear Mr. Muchnick:

Thank you for your letter of October 1 concerning an alleged attempt by Jack Pfeffer to organize a boycott against one Johnny Valentine by coercing other wrestling promoters not to employ Valentine.

Is Mr. Pfeffer a member of the National Wrestling Alliance?

I believe it appropriate to point out that it would constitute a violation of Section V (A) (6) of the judgment in the above-captioned action for any member of the alliance to agree with Pfeffer not to employ Johnny Valentine. You may wish to keep us informed of developments in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM H. ORRICK, JR.  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

*W. D. Kilgore, Jr.*  
By: William D. Kilgore, Jr.  
Chief, Judgments & Judgment  
Enforcement Section

00719



October 12, 1964

WHO:WDK  
60-406-3

Anti-Trust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Wm. D. Kilgore, Jr.

Gentlemen:

Mr. Jack Pfeffer is not a member of the National Wrestling Alliance. He is an independent operator whose method of attack, in the event promoters who do not go along with him and use some of the men he has managed through the years, is to send out bad literature like the enclosed. He has been in on promotions in various parts of the country and during the past years has been unusually unsuccessful. He is now affiliated with Promoter Tony Santos, of Boston, Massachusetts.

Mr. John J. Doyle, Promoter in Detroit, Michigan, who also is not a member of the National Wrestling Alliance, has written an article on him in his program, explaining just what methods Pfeffer uses when he does not get his own way.

In your last paragraph you state "that it would constitute a violation of Section V (A) (6) of the judgment in the above-captioned action for any member of the alliance to agree with Pfeffer not to employ Johnny Valentine." Actually, there would be no way to prove they are agreeing with Pfeffer. They would merely not use him. I am not agreeing with Pfeffer, because I am using Johnny Valentine no matter what methods Pfeffer employs. But, some promoters, whether they are NWA members or not, will just not ask Valentine for his services because they know the methods Pfeffer is using to gain his ends.

I was in the office of Messrs. Roy Welch and Nick Gulas, Nashville, Tennessee, sometime ago and they were talking to Mr. Pfeffer on the telephone. They insisted I pick up an extension phone to listen in on the conversation, which I refused to do. However, after a prolonged conversation I did pick up the receiver, after Mr. Gulas motioned to me. He said to Pfeffer, "Why are you trying to hurt Sam? He has always tried to help you." Pfeffer's reply, which I heard, was - "He is using Valentine, isn't he?"

Insofar as the National Wrestling Alliance is concerned, it is weaker than it has ever been, or ever since the signing of the Consent Decree. Promoters are staying out of it because they feel they are immune if they are not members of the NWA. We have done everything within our power to abide by the Anti-Trust Laws. And, insofar as I know, no one can point their finger at any member.

You may be sure if I get any other information, I will send it along to you.

Sincerely,

00720

Sam Muchnick, President,  
National Wrestling Alliance.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

October 19, 1964

RLW:WDK  
60-406-3

*File*

Mr. Sam Muchnick  
President  
National Wrestling Alliance  
1800 Locust Street  
Suite 230-32-34 Hotel Claridge  
St. Louis 3, Missouri

Re: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance  
(Civil Action No. 3-729)

Dear Mr. Muchnick:

Thank you for your letter of October 13 and the material  
enclosed therewith concerning Johnny Valentine.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT L. WRIGHT  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division

*Wm. D. Kilgore, Jr.*

By: William D. Kilgore, Jr.  
Chief, Judgments & Judgment  
Enforcement Section

00721



ADDRESS REPLY TO  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

MLR:RLB:gm

United States Department of Justice

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
600 U. S. COURT HOUSE  
312 No. SPRING STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

January 27, 1966

Mr. Sam Muchnick  
St. Louis Wrestling Club  
Suite 230-32 Hotel Claridge  
1800 Locust Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

Re: United States v. Paul John Carbo,  
et al., No. 27973-CD

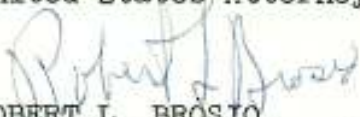
Dear Mr. Muchnick:

Please excuse the delay in answering your  
letter of November 10, 1965.

Inasmuch as certain aspects of this case  
are still pending before the Ninth Circuit Court  
of Appeals as to Paul John Carbo and Joseph Sica,  
we cannot release your records until these matters  
have been resolved.

Very truly yours,

MANUEL L. REAL  
United States Attorney

  
ROBERT L. BROSIO  
Asst. United States Attorney  
Chief, Complaint Unit

00722