August
30th
1927

Rev Thompson W McKinney
3046 No 5th Street
Philadelphia Pa

Dear Rev McKinney:

With reference to your letter of August 20th I am having some pictures copied and some manuscript gotten together, which undoubtedly will be of some service to you in your debate with Clarence True Wilson.

As I remember the offer made by Bates was made in this fashion - he claimed that his house was mortgaged and that he would deliver the body to us for $1000.00. He expected us, however, to assist him in getting out a new edition of his book. Since that time the body has been offered for sale in various ways. I am checking to see whether it was offered by Bates again before his death or merely since his death by the widow. The body, as a matter of fact, does not belong to Mrs Bates but to W B Penniman, the undertaker, who was executor of the David George Estate, and whose bill for embalming services has never been paid. He sent the body to Bates when the undertaking business was sold. The last I heard of the body it was in Mrs Bates' garage at the rear of her home in Memphis, Tennessee.

Bates exhibited the body through the west and southwest. I am sending you copies of pictures showing the advertising used with the exhibit. You will note that he did not tell the same story in the posters that he tells in his book. Bates claimed he never profited much from the sale of the 75,000 copies of his book, that the publisher in some way or other did him out of most of the royalty. He spent very little in checking up the statements in the book; as a matter of fact, he acknowledged that he had never visited Washington, D.C. or gone over any of the ground in the East where the occurrences surrounding the assassination happened. I went over his entire file and the total amount he had collected wouldn't occupy one-half of an ordinary filing cabinet. I will write you more when the material is sent.

Very truly yours

THE DEARBORN PUBLISHING CO

F L Black

FLB/L