

William H. Rehnquist

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
THE CHIEF JUSTICE

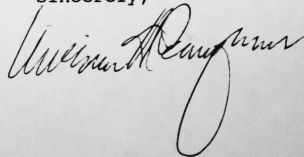
May 10, 1991

Mary Y. Steinbauer
Assistant Managing Editor
Life Magazine
Time & Life Building
Rockefeller Center
New York, New York 10020

Dear Ms. Steinbauer,

I have received your letter of May 3rd, describing the planned special issue of Life Magazine to be issued next October on the 200th Anniversary of the Bill of Rights. In that letter you propose that each member of the Court write a historical profile of one of the amendments comprising the Bill of Rights, and say that you would be willing to assist in the writing process and to pay an honorarium for the material. I have taken up your proposal with my colleagues, and we are all of the view that it would not be appropriate for us to undertake the sort of writing which you propose. We are constantly engaged in deciding what the various provisions of the Bill of Rights mean in cases which come before us, and we think that our interpretations of these amendments should be confined to that sort of effort. We are naturally pleased that Life Magazine is planning to do a special issue on the Bill of Rights, and commend you for this undertaking.

Sincerely,



*William H. Rehnquist to Mary Y. Steinbauer, May 10, 1991,
Papers of Harry A. Blackmun, Box 1407,
Library of Congress, Manuscript Division*

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