

From: Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]>
To: "jeffrey E." <jeevacation@gmail.com>
Cc: Valeria Chomsky <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fwd: Marital Trusts
Date: Sat, 07 Jul 2018 23:34:19 +0000

How about if I change it to ask him for an accounting of the income from the trust that is supposed to come to me annually, since 2009, when I appointed Harry to replace me.

Before 2009 I suppose he'd say it was my responsibility.

Valeria tells me that we have never received any accounting about this income or anything else from Max about the Marital Trust

About the 2014 payment for taxes, according to Valeria's recollection, it was 2016, paying 2015 taxes.

Also, coincidentally or not, 2015 is the year of the missing \$117k that we've been repeatedly asking Deborah to inquire about from Bainco. Have been sending copies to you. No response from them so far.

It's a strange story. On Jan 22 2015, a distribution of \$187,000 was made from the IRA to the NC Revocable Trust, but we have been unable to determine where these funds went. Bainco informed Deborah that it was wired to my checking account, but the only deposit was \$70,000, not the full amount. They have not yet provided any information about what happened to the other \$117k.

Noam

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From: jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Jul 7, 2018 at 3:46 PM
Subject: Re: Marital Trusts
To: Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]>

He has provided some basic accounting and in 2014 paid your tax directly to treasury. He says at Debra's insistence

On Sat, Jul 7, 2018 at 5:43 PM Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Proposed letter to Max, as just explained. What do you think?

Before responding to your letter in full, I would like to clarify a few matters. Interspersed below.

Noam

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Max Kohlenberg <[REDACTED]>
Date: Sat, Jul 7, 2018 at 4:43 AM
Subject: Marital Trusts
To: Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Richard Kahn <[REDACTED]>

Noam –

Thank you for your reply. As you indicate that you are not being represented by counsel I will reply directly to you, with a copy to Rich (as you suggest). Please consider:

1. As a starting point, let me note that I think you and Rich may have misunderstood (at least initially) the terms of the settlement that Harry proposed through his attorney. Rich and I discussed this in a call about 10 days ago and I'm hoping that misunderstanding has been cleared up, but as I'm not a party to your exchanges (and Rich's exchanges) with Harry's attorney I can't be sure. I'm also not certain whether the terms of the proposed settlement have changed. All I can say for sure is that characterizing the offer as one in which distributions to you cannot exceed \$100K per year is not consistent with my understanding of what has been offered.

The reason why the proposal is too outrageous to discuss has nothing to do with the technicalities of the handout that Harry is graciously offering. I'll review the background, once again.

As I've discussed before, the Marital Trust was established in Carol's name for tax purposes. The obvious intention, clearly understood by Carol and me, and of course Eric Menouya, was that it would be available to the survivor -- Carol we assumed -- and then what remains would go to the beneficiaries. The idea that we intended that Carol would control "her" funds and I would control "mine" is too ludicrous to discuss, though I understand the legalistic conjuring that can be adduced to reach this conclusion.

When I appointed Harry to replace me as trustee, I took for granted that he would handle the trust as I had. His behavior since, and this latest proposal, make it very clear how wrong that assumption was. This proposal calls for him to be in complete charge, which means, as he has shown, that I can only plead for some funds by accepting conditions that he knows I will not accept. You recall, I presume, that this was true even when I faced an enormous tax bill because my IRA was being depleted for the benefit of the family.

To refresh your memory, let me repeat again what was happening with my IRA until I learned about it. There is a mandatory withdrawal. Half was being distributed to family. The other half was being used for taxes and management fees for the entire estate. In order to pay Alex's medical expenses, and to pay \$50,000 a year for rent and upkeep on the house in Wellfleet that we had given to the children and that I was barely using, I had to withdraw extra funds from the IRA, with the onerous tax burden. The same when I withdrew something to live on. Under these circumstances, Harry refused to release funds from the Trust for tax relief without onerous and humiliating conditions that he knew I would not accept. Easy to predict what might happen under less extreme conditions.

For such reasons, Harry's proposal is, as I said, too outrageous to discuss.

2. As you know, Harry's attorney has commenced a legal action that is intended to facilitate my resignation and the appointment of a successor trustee to take my place. Since you've wanted me removed for some time and since I've said (from the first time you and I met) that I only wanted to serve as trustee if all the family members wanted me to serve, I'm looking forward to resigning as soon as the court determines how I am to do so and how my successor is to be selected.

3. Given that my replacement is impending, it might be worth waiting until my successor is in place before responding to my requests for financial disclosure, as it's possible that my successor won't share my views as to what the trustee of the trusts needs to know before making decisions about distributions. Likewise, if my successor will be identified soon it might make sense for me to hold off on any distributions and leave it to the new trustee to work with you on figuring all of this out. In this regard I'm kind of a "lame duck" trustee, wouldn't you say?

4. To the extent that you want to push forward while I remain the trustee, let me again state the basis for financial disclosure by you. It is that, as trustee, I owe a duty to you and I owe a duty to your children (as the remainder beneficiaries of the trusts). For the present my primary duty is to you and it is to distribute to you all income earned by the trusts, net of expenses,

Until I asked about the matter recently, I am aware of no income distributed to me earned from the trusts. I cannot be sure, because I also do not recall having received any accounting of what is happening to the trusts, including distributions from them to others (or as required, to me). Could you then please send me the records on these matters.

and to distribute to you (or pay on your behalf) additional monies as reasonably needed *to the extent that your income from other sources is not sufficient to support your reasonable expenses.*

Notwithstanding your statement that “As for the claim about concern for my later years, that has been thoroughly refuted” it has not been refuted in the context of my trusteeship and it remains my duty to consider distributions in light of the possibility that you will have a reasonable need for distributions from the trust for many more years, and perhaps in increasing amounts, depending on your circumstances in the future.

I am approaching 90. I'm not going to live forever. You know how much money is in the trust. How could there possibly be a concern about it being depleted? You know my lifestyle very well. Perhaps you recall the meeting in my office when you explained to me that I was going to have to cut back on expenses, specifically to sell my boat, as I did. None of this makes any sense.

5. As for the specifics of disclosure, what I need to consider is (a) what your income was in 2017, since that was the basis for the tax payments you seek to have reimbursed, (b) what your income is likely to be this year and going forward, (c) what your expenses were in 2017 and are likely to be in 2018, and (d) whether any of your income (or other resources) are being used for purposes that the trust cannot support (such as gifts to third parties). So far, Rich has provided me with some rough information about your 2017 expenses. There are some gaps in that information, but nothing that can't be cleared up pretty easily (I think). Rich has also assured me that you have not made any gifts that have diminished your resources and I assume you would confirm that to me. What I don't have at this point is enough information about your income, so that I can consider what the gap is between your expenses and your income, which is the gap the trusts might help to close up. With respect to your income in 2017, all I can see is that your income tax obligations seem to be much higher than they were previously. I'm assuming that reflects a jump in income from (i) the profit made on the sale of the condominium, and (ii) large withdrawals from your IRA. If you want to provide me with more information (bearing in mind what I noted in item #3, above) then information about your 2017 income and what your income is likely to be this year is what I most need.

There is a very simple reason for the income tax obligations. The depletion of the IRA that I reviewed again above imposed a huge tax burden, which we were still attempting to deal with in 2017. After Harry's refusal to release some funds from the trust to pay the exorbitant taxes resulting from what was happening, I of course had to withdraw funds from the IRA to pay taxes on the whole estate, incurring a new exorbitant tax burden. Despite some small relief later from the trust after I had repeatedly pointed this out, it carried over through the 2017 tax bill. So for that reason, taxes were extremely high. That curious episode is at last finally over, leaving many questions unresolved about what was happening while I was paying little attention, relying on advisers to ensure that matters were proceeding appropriately.

I hope this is helpful and will wait to hear more from you and/or Rich.

Max

A. Max Kohlenberg

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From: Noam Chomsky [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2018 8:53 PM
To: Max Kohlenberg
Subject: Re: Marital Trust

I am not represented on this issue, so you can send the information to me directly, copying Richard Kahn.

Noam

On Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 4:24 AM, Max Kohlenberg <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Noam –

Thanks for your message and your inquiry. I would like to reply in some detail, but before I do so please tell me whether you are now represented by legal counsel. If you are then I believe I'm obliged to copy your counsel on our exchanges. I would also plan on copying Rich Kahn, since my last communications about distributions to you from the trusts have been with him.

Please also bear in mind that since (according to Rich) you are preparing to bring a legal action against me, I have been in contact with my firm's malpractice insurance carrier. As my exchanges with you may also need to be reviewed with our carrier that may delay (and/or limit) my responses.

Max

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From: Noam Chomsky [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2018 7:53 PM
To: Max Kohlenberg
Subject: Marital Trust

Max,

I presume it is clear that the recent proposal transmitted by Harry's lawyer that I should be satisfied with a handout of 100k a year from the Marital Trust is too disgraceful for comment. I would like to know what further information you require for reimbursement for tax payment. We have previously transmitted a great deal of financial information in order for you to reimburse our taxes, including proof of payment and more. Exactly what more do you require, and with what justification? We see little reason that you cannot act on the information already provided. As for the claim about concern for my later years, that has been thoroughly refuted.

Noam

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please note

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