



August 29, 2010

Letters/Editor
% The Albuquerque Journal
7777 Jefferson Street
N.E. Albuquerque, New Mexico
~~870~~ 87109

Roger Smith
8701 Woodman Way, #130
Sacramento, CA. 95826
Phone: 916-600-6143

Dear Editor:

Not unlike the letter I sent to the Phoenix paper, the people of Albuquerque need to know that the person who composed the song, By the time I Get to Phoenix, My Lament, is the same person composing the lines in this letter. And its not the Jimmy Webb, the alleged composer/writer of that song.

In June of 1962, I met a middle-aged gentleman in San Francisco, who professed to be a songwriter. Composing and, at the same time, singing, I sang to him a ballad, of sorts, of an ongoing experience that I was having. It was a blow-by-blow account of my leaving my mother and of looking for opportunity, if not adventure, in the highly touted sunbelt region of the U.S., specifically, Phoenix.

The song was released in 1967 and was sung verbatim and note-for-note by Mr. Glen Campbell.

While still wet behind the ears, a Mr. Jimmy Webb acquired my song, and its not entirely good what he did after that. Although he did promote it, he claimed authorship, and has lived an egregious lie for near-



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ly 50 years, indeed, having stolen my intellectual property.

I warned him in a letter, in mid-July, that if he didn't come forward soon, I might begin writing to newspapers, exposing him.

I apologize for not "making" it to Albuquerque; I didn't have enough bus fare ^{to} get out of California, let alone make it as far as your fair city.

Roger Smith
(The Idaho Kid)

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cc. Mr. Jimmy Webb
cc. Mr. Glen Campbell
cc. Mr. Carl Watanaby
cc. Mrs. Linda Ronstadt
cc. The Oakland Tribune
cc. The San Francisco Chronicle
cc. The L.A. Times
cc. The Salinas Californian
cc. The Arizona Republic
cc. The Sacramento Bee
cc. The New York Times
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