

2/3/72

Dear Jerry,

Enclosed is my response to the letter to David or Margaret of which I sent you a copy. While I may not clearly understand exactly what, as a matter of definition or/and law, the term "Author's Alterations" encompasses, and I do regret having had no response from Walter on this (I suppose he is that busy), I am without doubt that such (frequent) things as the non-existent, the correction of typographical errors and the addition of commas at the ends of sentences certainly are not. So, if there may be some doubt of the extent, there is none of the fact and of fraud and I think with their persistence in pretending all are authentic, especially after preparation of a list, the list from which I am working, no remaining doubt of the intent to defraud.

I really do think they have left me no practical alternative to making criminal charges. This is not covered by the contract requirements on the settlement of "disputes", for it is not a "dispute" if they make fraudulent charges. It is a crime. I'll probably take time to consult with a lawyer before doing anything, but it is my intent to seek this remedy. There seems to be no possibility that David is capable of honesty, none that he is capable of learning from his endless stupidities and mistakes, and even less that he is even considering trying to. At the present rate, this will continue indefinitely and will accomplish nothing but the waste of time for me and avoidance of payment by them.

When you can, please send me the name of the lawyer Pearl gave you. If she told you she spoke to him, I'd appreciate knowing that, too. If she has not, perhaps you might, when you have time, ask him for me whether he can undertake to represent me in a matter of collecting what I believe is due me from a publisher - speak only in generalities, as though you know nothing about it - and if he says it is possible, then prior to going to New York I will write for an appointment and if he makes it I will bring the entire files, most of which I have already copied for this purpose. David may have thought I was kidding, but I wasn't. I did this before leaving on the trip. I was prepared to initiate something then but got a letter promising to provide what I'd ask for and therefore held off. I will, however, have to avoid making any copies for the immediate because my habit in using the copying machine would have me doing automatically what is proscribed for that thumb. It is that ~~thumb~~ joint of that thumb with which I customarily lift the lid, and I just can't afford to take a needless chance of inflicting further damage.

Enjoyed Ed's visit. You did not exaggerate the speed with which he reads. If I hadn't seen it I'd never believe it. He is refreshingly sharp perceptive and understanding, a rare mind. I am sorry he feels it necessary to leave, if I understand it.

est,