

14 December 1966

Dear Bob,

Thanks for the special delivery and the enclosed copy of the diagnosis, prognosis, and arteriosclerosis. I think the Reader has been remarkably generous in many ways; and while I am glad not to find on his pages the words "university press" I am not overjoyed by the phrase "reference book."

If I were Bobbs, or even Merrill, I would not rush into this production; so do please continue to be optimistic, but don't be too dismayed if they decide against the ms. I intend to develop absolute stoicism about it, and to remind myself on the hour that if I am half as good as Weisberg, then I am very great indeed—have you SEEN his new book Whitewash II? I regard it mainly as promotional material for WHITEWASH and WHITEWASH III due February. And as a confirmation of creeping paranoia. (Please treat this as confidential—I never disparage other critics in public, except in book reviews.)

You can see that my morale is great, in preparation for the rejection of next mid-week! How was your weekend with our friend Ira? and how are your Sales?

Much affection,