

3/3/67

Dear Penn,

Shirley writes: "Please contact Penn and ask Maggie to do same about putting names on list in a suit against Schiller and Lewis. Penn says will cost us nothing. He is awaiting your answer."

I am puzzled about this, because I know that Maggie spoke to you yesterday, but said nothing to me about any suit against Schlewis. Can you tell me more about this? My feeling had been that all of us should sue in a body, but two lawyers told me that it was extremely doubtful that we had grounds for a libel suit, and strongly discouraged me from proceeding. Then Mark Lane consulted a New York lawyer named Edward Emis; he was not quite as negative as the lawyers I spoke to but he urged Lane to cool down before he made any decision. It was my impression that if Lane instituted proceedings against Schlewis, the rest of us would join in the suit.

So please tell me further details before I make any decision.

The ups and downs of the New Orleans story have me befuddled and sometimes in despair. It is changing so rapidly to warrant comments about it—they will be anachronistic by the time this reaches you. Let's hope for the best. My warm greetings to you and L.A.

Love,