

24 June 1968

Mr. William O'Connell  
c/o Paramount Pictures  
1680 Main Street  
Baker, Oregon

Dear Bill,

Shortly after you phoned yesterday, Ed Epstein called to say that the NEW YORKER is now going full steam ahead with his article and that it should be on the newsstands within about ten days. So...keep a sharp eye!

Second item: The tapes did arrive this morning...BUT...I am beginning to understand the peculiar anguish of the starving man who has accchateaubriand with sauce Bernaise set in front of him and just as he is about to sink his teeth...he wakes up, etc. The wrong speed, dear friend. As I wrote you on 17 February, I have the following equipment:

Norelco 3-3/4 ips, which takes up to 7" reel, single speed

Craig battery-powered two-speed (1-7/8 and 3-3/4 ips), which takes nothing larger than a 3" reel

However, the two reels of tape which arrived today are marked "7 $\frac{1}{2}$  ips" (a new one, to me). I tried it on the Norelco, but got only vastly distorted sound with each word seemingly stretched out to a full five minutes, eerie enough to raise hackles on any believer in ghosts (I am not one such). Nothing daunted, I wound some of it on to a 3" reel and tried to play that on the Craig, at both speeds, with the same (or worse) vastly elongated sound distortion.

I won't pretend that I am not disappointed---I was looking forward so much to hearing your magnum opus at last. But it was not to be, at least not yet. What next? Maybe we should abandon the project, it seems to be jinxed.

All the best, Bill, and let me know what you think of the Epstein article when you've read it.

As ever,