

10/2/71

Dear friend,

This is not an appeal for money. It is a request that you think and let me know if you have any ideas about how, should the situation I will describe become a reality, I may be able to get the money to be repaid as set forth.

I have finally gotten a copy of the contract for the publication of FRAME-UP. It has taken me from August, early August, 1970, which ought in retrospect be a clear reading on the intentions of the publishers from the first.

It does incorporate provisions for me to have first access to what is called the "remainders", that is, the unsold books as of a certain time. In effect, it is at the actual cost of manufacture, or a percentage of that.

It is my belief that this is my worst-selling book. It is also my belief that it has much remaining potential. Such things as a federal-court hearing, or the trial in which that might result, of what would be no surprise to me, the killing of Ray, could give the book a new life.

There is residual sale of all my books. We have two orders in today's mail. It is not large, but it persists. I have no doubt that in time I could sell whatever books O&D have left over. I rather imagine it will be a fairly considerable supply, for they arranged no single promotion and seem to have gone out of their way not to distribute. I have a number of reports of inordinate delays in filling orders and failure to fill orders. A Memphis reporter told me he couldn't find a copy in that city two days after it went on sale, that he never found a bookstore with a new supply, that his own orders was never filled, and that when he got the book he had a friend obtain it for him by some special channel.

Until I know the cost and the volume of remaining books (the contract also gives me the not great cost the negatives and plates if I can get to pay for them) I have no idea what kind of money I am talking about, but I think it would not be great. So, what I am asking is that you have in mind who you might know who has the means to advance whatever this would be, to be repaid as I sell the books. There may be some things I could do to arrange this that the publishers have not.

Because O&D are engaged in cheating me—have done it—and what they have done borders on if it is not in fact fraud — I may be exercising my right to examine their books soon. If so, I'll have a better idea of what costs I am talking about.

The reason for desiring the plates is because there is no error in the book. But I have, since writing it, continued my investigations and have some real dynamite that could well be added to it that would give it a new life, should the subject get hot again after the "remainders" are gone. This includes such things as taped interviews and pictures and is really definitive, positively and negatively, about how the crime was committed and how it could not have been. Were this to eventuate, I could then deal with a publisher with the major problems of a new book eliminated and rapid production possible. And, were it appropriate—as surely it would be were he killed—I could also include what I have gotten from him and have kept secret.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg