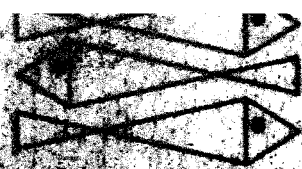


Confidential



FARRAR, STRAUS & GIRoux, INC. Book Publishers

NOONDAY PAPERBACKS
March 11, 1966

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Farm
Hyattstown, Maryland 20884

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Although I had finished your great, fascinating and certainly worthwhile book almost a week ago, an increasingly and unrelentingly busy schedule and crowded calendar has just not permitted me to write before this.

I am afraid, for a myriad of reasons, that I must simply echo what I am sure has been written to you by other publishers--in the main that--you have written a valid and in my opinion highly potentially saleable book (15,000 copies anyway) but it is nonetheless not something that we wish to publish. *WHITMAN* is simply not compatible with our present editorial direction. I have discussed your book in detail with Roger W. Straus, Jr. who in turn has been in discussion with the other members of the editorial department and we have concluded that our editorial budget and attention must be directed almost entirely, not entirely, toward contemporary literature and its criticism.

At this point after seeing the list of publishers with whom you have been in discussion about the book's publication--a list impressive in both its size and scope, I realize that there can be of little practical help in bringing your work to the attention of these publishers. You have obviously contacted all those whom might aid, therefore, I am returning the manuscript to you separately by bookpost with the thought that you will be able to put it to better use than I.

What can I say? I think you are a damned good writer who has written a damned good book and I sincerely wish you the best of luck with it elsewhere.

Very truly yours,

Peter Mark

PC/fs