

M.F., H.V., C.R. Q. 125

10/1/71

Mr. Prescott Nichols
1787 Neale St.,
San Diego, Calif 92103

Dear Nick,

Checking my files shows it has been 15 months since last I wrote you. In that time I have nothing from you or any member of the committee. During this time I have been continuing my work and going deeper into the hole because of it. Our situation is worsened because of the inevitable effect on our health. Not until last night did my wife, who keeps the books, let me know how bad it is. Within two weeks we won't have a cent and we will have pressing obligations to be met, side from the enormous debt we carry, to which, whether or not innocently, you people have contributed. The purity of the intentions of your committee does not relieve its members of the obligations they undertook. And although the agreement was that I'd have all my expenses in advance and two honoraria, probable small ones, it didn't happen and I have been paying 7½% interest on it since.

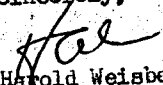
You people have no monopoly on having asked me to do things for which I'd be paid and not doing it, which makes this unhappier for me.

However, all of you, despite the problems all people have, do have and through all the time I've been without income have had regular incomes and have had some slight taste of the niceties of life.

What I am now asking is that as soon as you can you get in touch with the rest of your committee, compute the balance of what you owe me (including only the books you sold) and let me have that, I hope with the interest you have cost me, immediately. I think it is an honest obligation morally and, although I will not press it that way, unless you were incorporated, legally, too.

I hate to have to lay aside work on the newest and I think most definitive book to write this kind of letter, and not to you alone. But I also hope that after all this time, even if temporarily it means minor hardship for some of you, something I do not really believe it will, you will do this immediately, for our need is immediate.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg

beccs confidential to the couple who will get them, for historical record only. They have yet to finish paying my transportation costs going back to 10/68 or the books they bought for resale and they did sell some before I got there, others when I was there-I didn't get the honoraria- and I didn't get the money they promised had been sent after I was there. These kinds of things, alas, paved only new roads to hell.