

9/23/67

Dear Bill,

We've just returned from a day of cleaning up our new home preparatory to moving there. I wish I thought it could be tomorrow. I hope it can be within the next week and think it will be. Everybody was anxious to get the work done. Once he got it he was anxious to do other work and line up more. The result is that most of what was done was two months late getting done and an appreciable part of it is undone still. We'll be moving in with much of the wiring not connected, the roof leaking, the drapes still awaiting lining (and can you imagine living in a Pharoah's house with no drapes?) We have the drapes for only the bedroom.

Moreover, we'll have space and privacy for friends who are in the neighborhood. I hope it will give us a little of the peace and quiet in environment we both need, especially Lil. It is secluded and it is, normally, very quiet. I'll be able to work without disturbing Lil if she is still asleep or if she wants to nap.

I've completed the draft of the fifth book. Lil has more than 200 of it retyped. My only immediate concern about it is money. I think it is the hottest yet. The documentation is simply incredible. Because of this concern, I am also concerned about Maggie's. I hope by now she has a contract that will be honored. However, with the current climate and the greater than ever effort to suppress, it is important that her publisher be willing to advertise and promote and that he do this effectively. Without it, her book can lay an egg. Although to a large degree the coordinated whitewashes were self-defeating, they did confuse many people. Perhaps most influential was the effect of the AP staff on editors and reporters. They'll see that and they pay more attention to wire services than they do to radio and TV.

It has been some time since I sent you, Maggie and Steve copies of the draft of what I intend to use as CBS. I have heard nothing from any of you. If you are too busy to do so, I'll appreciate its return before I was able to make few copies. A friend has taken it and some of the correspondence to what I understand to be a major law firm and has the opinion there is an action and likely cause for damage.

It has also been some time since I wrote that I plan to make a trip out there beginning a couple of weeks after my New Orleans book is out. This, too, has awaited agreement. If there is anything other than that you are all busy that accounts for this, I'd appreciate knowing it.

Reluctantly, I have taken time from writing to return to the Archives. I believe what I have discovered is quite valuable. I wish there were someone in whom I have confidence who could take this over, as Sprague seems to have so magnificently with the pictures, beginning with DCA. My fear is the misuse to which this material can be put.

Penn, who is beset by a series of troubles, writes he has contracted with Award but does not say for what. I hope it is his new book. His printer has returned part-time. Penn fears not for long.

I have neither seen nor heard from Billings lately so I am in no position to make special interpretations.

Best to you all,