

10/26/66

Dear John,

Several things have happened since our phone conversation following your return from New York and I have also learned some things that make imperative the immediate return of the manuscript of WHITEWASH II by Dell and the immediate tender of their offer, if any.

It may be that Dell will interpret the provision of the contract as one giving them the right to delay for the rest of time. I do not and I shall not. They finished reading it some time ago. You yourself told me this.

As I have told you, to honor this contract I have refused an offer arranged by my British agent. I cannot and will not do this again. I declined to see the publisher making the offer, too. We had no discussion.

I have told you earlier that this Dell offer must include both financial and time provisions, that the time must be the fastest possible and the financial what I regard as considerable.

Today I received another offer, of which I will tell you when I see you. This cannot go on indefinitely, whether or not Dell is aware of it. They have no right to just delay this decision. It is up to you to see to it that this does not happen, that they are aware of it and that my rights are protected. I insist that you delay not one bit in doing this. When we meet again you will better understand this. Until then please accept my assurances that this is most urgent and important.

I do not want to be communicating with Dell around you.

It is likewise imperative that I get the manuscript back immediately for there are important things I must do with it.

In any event, please let Dell know that the situation is one in which I must have their final offer not later than November 12, 1966. I also expect from you some evidence of your having done this that leaves my position clear.

No thanks to them, I was on the Jerry Williams show on WBBM for two hours by phone last night. I arranged this myself.

There is no need for them to retain those materials they did not need ^{but} I loaned them. I need them back and I need them immediately. One the book is set in type and the illustrations made they have no legitimate need for them. If they do, they can buy them for \$76.00. My need for them is pressing, as you know and as I have told you. Believe me this is so and also important. I want you to be aware of the fact that my not having them may be hurtful to me *and them.*

We should get together as soon as we can. I have to impress upon you in some detail that you are my agent and not Dell's in this matter. What has already happened is bad enough. I do not want it to get worse. Also, Dell is in some way not keeping it secret that they are doing WHITEWASH for I have already gotten phone calls from New York about this. I do not have to tell you what this means.

Sincerely,