

Mr. Howard Bray
Fund for Investigative Journalism
1346 Connecticut Ave., NW 10th floor
Washington, D.C. 20036

2/7/77

Dear Howard,

Trente did not show. He also did not phone to say he was not coming.

If I seemed disconnected Thursday it was a bad day for other reasons. I'm wearing self-fitting supports with the added worry that my weight has changed too much for them and I had just been told they can't be replaced for 10 days.

Enclosed is the letter I received from Curtis Saturday.

The one legitimate point in it relates to my style. There is wide objection to it, especially among intellectuals, as there is wide liking of it among ordinary people. But as you'll see in his first sentence, he agreed that publishers have editors to edit and I did, in advance, offer carte blanche on editing.

I have no doubt that one or two publishers bullshitted him about weariness with the subject. But the fact is more books are appearing than ever before with almost all the worthless ones of the past being reprinted. Harpers is coming out with a reprint of what was a bad Playboy series. Prentice-Hall is rushing one by Lane and Dick Gregory, inevitably a very bad book, reportedly a six-figure deal.

It boils down to fear of a tough book with other factors secondary.

I have continued working and find that the new materials I've finally been able to go over make all I told you understatements.

There came a time yesterday when I just had to stop. That much too much. I then did resume it until bed time and will again today.

The opportunities are really without precedent, even with my experiences and with what I've published without precedent. That so many people can be involved ought take you back to the 1930s and keep you awake nights.

Maybe your thinking of Trente goes the right way. There is much here for a publication if some kind of contact or approach can be made. I'll speak to a friend at Newsday.

This is going to go to court and is going to make the most sensational kind of case.

It is disappointing that the reaction to Roots has not prompted publisher interest in these black issues.

Best,