

7/27/76

Mrs. Chris Groden  
385 Florida Grove Road  
Hopelawn, N.J. 08861

Dear Chris,

No matter how sorry I am for your plight, no matter how much I might wish you lived with milk and honey, I find it difficult to justify both what is not happening after all this time and silence about it.

It makes an unnecessarily difficult position for me and it has already require more waste of time for me than performance by Robert could possibly require.

It has been weeks since Robert wrote me that the negatives had been shot. ~~It has~~ It has been ~~weeks~~ since I wrote him and told him if there are any further costs just to let me know and I'd send a check immediately.

And it has been a whole year since this started. It really takes that long? Other problems account for or explain this?

Since the last exchange of letters I've had four of apology to write, ~~each~~ two each to the man who can be of help because of a personal interest and having the means and to the friend who has made the arrangements for the work to be done.

And this has no reference to what is a real problem for me and has been, getting ready to ~~send~~ reprint.

With all the other work I have to do and all I want to and can't find time for I have to keep up this endless letter-writing and be told, when I am told, what turns out not to be true? To plan my own time and work and have it all thrown out of kilter?

If there is some real reason for these simple things having been impossible, please let me know. Please also let me know if it is not going to be done.

Jim will have to be away for a while beginning in about two weeks. <sup>His</sup> This means that the great amounts of time I've been spending on legal matters, of which there are many, will be reduced considerably. I hope to prepare for reprinting FW in that time and get it started.

I will have new copy to write. If all of this is not cleaned up by then and with a totality of perfection I have never seen in my life Robert will find what I will do to be something he'll want to forget but won't be able to.

I have a book two-thirds done and in two months or probably more have not been able to touch it. I've been getting by with as little as four hours sleep when at my age and in my conditions I should not put such hours in. There is virtually no social or pleasure time in all of this. And then to have had to write all these unnecessary letters, to you and to others?

If there have been any emergencies or special problems, then what I cannot understand is not just dropping me a postcard, as I've asked. So it does not make sense to me and has become abusive.

Every time <sup>a</sup> I have to ship out a damaged book I get sick over this. I still do all the packaging. <sup>Of</sup> two books we have only damaged copies. We have so few copies I have avoided all promotions except sending flyers when people ask for them. <sup>It</sup> It really is this bad.

I know you have problems. You know I foresaw them and tried to persuade avoidance. But I know of no reason why this should have made all this disagreeableness for me and all this extra work and aggravation. Nonetheless, <sup>I</sup> I hope things are looking up for you. Our best to you all,