

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701  
5/10/77

Dear John,

I gether you are away. Or we call you only at the wrong times.

Maybe Jim Lesar will have reached you before this does.

Zebra wants an idea of what editing will cost and we know of a place near here than can be rented.

I am not inclined to believe Zebra is serious. However, publishers are strange people. Honesty comes to them when there is no alternative.

They began by offering me an advance and 50%<sup>a</sup> above that. When they kept on shifting backward I wrote and told them to offer me a stright publishing contract. I think they'll not like it or me.

Right now I think they may be deep into a publishing disaster with Bud Fenster-~~wald~~ wald's book. This can be a complication.

If there is not something solid from them soon I'll go ahead and do it myself. I'llk still be interested in editing if I can swing it.

(Their initial deal ~~was~~ included an editor and an assistant.) wish I knew a bright young person who could be an assistant.)

The house that is available is owned by a friend of ours, a nice ultra-conservative lady who used to own the largest local radio station. She has eight acres at Yellow Springs, maybe 10 minutes from the expressway. Aside from the house in which she lives there are two others, as I unders tand it. I've never been there. She wants \$200 a month for one and \$100 a month for the other, with the tenant at \$100 to work for her ~~and~~ around the place at \$1.50 an hour.

I'll be in town again <sup>fr</sup>riday for the regular post-phlebitic checkup. Aside from this, which should not take long, it may be a full day. If~~x~~ not I'll try to phone in the afternoon.

Best to you all,