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7/5/66

Dear Mr. de Antonio,

Your book went out this morning and I hope this, too, can catch today's mail, for I am very interested in the Fisher who wrote the nasty review and where it appeared. I have heard nothing of it, and it is the first, aside from some midweek news stories. I'd very much appreciate a copy, far out in the country we see and hear less of these things, and our finances are such that we can afford and have few subscriptions.

To answer your questions: I have been in touch with Penn Jones, thanks. He phoned me and has ordered copies of Whitewash. He says he's heard it is by far the best yet, which does not make me unhappy.

Actually, since deciding to go ahead with the private printing, for which I prepared initially a year ago, I have sought no offers. Since then, and almost immediately thereafter, I got three hardback offers that I rejected with a counteroffer: take over and push this edition until you can't get it out and then recall this one. None said no, none accepted. I did turn down the Fawcett offer for paperback because it had conditions I could not accept and because it was, I believe, inadequate. I have decided to go for broke on this. I'll take a good offer, nothing less. There are other interests that I cannot really evaluate and do not try to. I'll let time bring what is coming.

It is, however, my opinion that there are not now too many hardback books for all to get good paperback offers if the books have the quality. So, I don't really care if Epstein's is taken first, or Lane's. I gather from the feisty and near hysteria of their ads that Holt is worried. I know from other sources that World is. Frankly, I am not, and I am doing nothing to attract a paperback offer. The book will earn it or I will not have it. This means it has all the difficulties of the others to overcome and more of its own and unique character. I am confident it will do this, as I am, without intending anything uncomplimentary about any other book, that it is the most viable one. I may have made the wrong decision, but I have made it and I am not at all troubled by it. Every day indicates more and more how right I am. Today I got a phoned reorder of 500 from one of the five distributors handling the book and mailed out from here 38 that were ordered by mail. Of course, I have yet to give the printer a cent, and it will take the entire gross of this edition to pay its actual costs alone, aside from the great cost of doing the book itself. But this one distributor got 500 only three weeks ago!

Thanks for the mention of Peter Martin and Eli Wilentz. They both said they would handle the book and I referred each to a distributor, I hope they have it and that you can see your way clear, when you know the book, to encourage them to do something with it. People assume a private printing is available from only the author. We have lost many sales from this, as have the bookstores. Those who display it do very well with it. It sells much more slowly where they do not. Someone else has spoken to Ferlinghetti, who I know only by reputation. He is worried about the price (as usual), but there is nothing I can do about that. He should have heard of the book from a 2-hour phone broadcast I made in San Francisco last week. There are 800 copies in California, but the distributor had none in that city! I presume you know I was on Long John and several other talk programs and more are pending. Thanks and good luck in your project.

Emile de Antonio

box 1567, N. Y. 10017

7/3/66

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Did you ever see my film Point of Order based on the 1954 Army-McCarthy Hearings?

I'm now making a film on the assassination with Mark Lane. Could you send me a copy of your book? As soon as it arrives I'll send you a check.

Do you know Penn Jones, Jr. of Midlothian, Texas? He publishes the Midlothian Mirror and also has done a book on our subject. If you don't know him you might send him a copy for review. His weekly paper is subscribed to by people all over the country.

I assume you've offered your book (Jerry Agel is a friend of mine and he tells me you've turned down Fawcett. Is this true?) to various independent bookshops such as Eli Wilents' Eighth Street Bookshop in New York; also the New Yorker Bookshop operated by a friend of mine, Peter Martin. You can use my name with both if you're interested. Also City Lights in San Francisco which launched the Beat movement, owned by poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti.

Good work on your part and Fisher's review is a shameful and bootlicking betrayal of fact, in addition to lacking any serious purpose. I assume that you must be doing something for RAMParts.

Good luck and I hope you sell 100,000 copies.

Emile de Antonio