

5/5/69

Dear Mr. Pevsner,

I have just been informed that Knopf has announced a book for publication the 28th of this month with a title identical to one I copyrighted February 26 of this year and wrote last year. Both titles are COUP D'ETAT and, more unfortunately, both are essentially on the same subject. Because I have been seeking commercial printing of my work, I believe this can now be particularly harmful. I first used the title last June.

My book deals with both Kennedy and the King assassinations, with small reference to that of Malcolm X (to be expanded in a planned revision) and says that with the JFK murder we had a coup d'etat for the success of which whatever additional murders that may be required will be committed. In 1965 I researched a related book I have not yet had time to write that expands on this in a different way. I call it TIGER TO RIDE: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS. I fear there may also be hurt to this book.

Knopf's is by one E. Luttk and is described as a handbook for taking over governments. It is in the "Tips" section of "Publishers' Weekly" of April 14, p. 77. Dick probably has this. I am getting a xerox copy.

John Friedman made a number of submissions of my COUP. Although it was written long before the trial and the minitrial, it requires no revision. I am about to write an addition. I think without it, this was an important work and that with the addition it will be even more significant. I also discussed this book on a number of radio and TV shows as far back as last October, to my recollection, perhaps earlier.

Do you want to handle this or shall I write them? I would imagine, blessed as I am with no knowledge of the law, that this is open and shut, since I do have the copyright on the title. This is the sort of thing Dick told me in 1967 he would handle for me.

Knopf, by the way, is owned by Random House, which is owned by RCA.

With a May 28 publication date, the Knopf book is undoubtedly in distributive channels now. Review copies also, without doubt, are out.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg