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March 14, 1966

Dear Mr. Sauvage,

In the mail with your letter today was one from the representative of a large publishing house. One of his good customers who had read my book had described it to him in glowing (also commercial) terms, and he had asked to read it. He was quite impressed with the book and its profitable potential until he began talking to the owners, following which he wrote me that my book is "truly fascinating and certainly worthwhile...valid and in my opinion high potentially saleable book (15,000 copies anyway) but it is nonetheless not something we wish to publish. ...not compatible with our present editorial direction." He concludes: "What can I say. I think you are a damned good writer who has written a damned good book and I sincerely wish you the best of luck with it elsewhere."

If half of those good elsewhere wishes had come to pass my book would have been printed 15 times and I'd be rich! Have you ever seen businessmen so anxious not to make money. He predicts a minimum sale in the best-seller class and won't do it.

Are you abandoning your efforts for the present? When we spoke by phone, courtesy of M. Chatelain, I offered to let you read mine if you were interested. You feared a conflict because of your continuing efforts with your own book. Then this does not exist, should you want to read mine, let me know. I shall not abandon my efforts. I cannot; this is my country, and while I will, as long as I can, criticize everything in need of exposure and oppose what I consider wrong and evil, it is because my dedication to the fundamental beliefs in our Constitution allow me no alternative. I wrote this book without help and without income, beginning it broke and in debt and finishing it deeper in debt.

When I complete the "sequel" on which I am working, I will face the same difficulties, yet I am spending most of my time on it rather than what I know to be saleable, for, especially after this experience, I tell myself "somebody must", and I can control or influence only myself. Perhaps this sounds romantic, but it is not a romantic version of my concept of the responsibilities of a citizen in a democratic society.

Of course, I agree with you that eventually the case will be opened with a "big bang". Because powerful people do not believe this is that time you and I have faced what we did. My files and to a large degree my book are organized with that in mind. It is the one explicit demand of my book. And I have had experience as a government investigator and in presenting just such investigations for the Senate.

To answer your question about "Parallax", it is an affiliate of Grove, with no corporate connection, organized by people connected with Grove to print what Rosset will not, having found sex is profitable, not just enjoyable. My book got editorial and legal approval there, and their compulsion to explain their ultimate rejection leaves me even more confused about the reason. Despite their contrary declaration, they are just plain afraid of the subject. My interest is in learning who intimidated them.

When I am again in New York I will call you. If I know in advance, I'll write.

Sincerely,

LE FIGARO

14, Rond-Point des Champs-Elysées, Paris-8

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NEW YORK 20, N. Y.

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LEO SAUVAGE

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT

March 10, 1966

Mr Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown,Maryland 20734

Dear Mr Weisberg,

Thank you very much for your letter of March 5th.My experiences are indeed exactly as yours though quantitatively less. I have been in touch with only about a dozen publishers, and then gave up, waiting for better times.There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that the case will reopen again with a big bang,even if it needs a new generation to read the Warren Report with different eyes and discover what lousy and insulting trash it is.

No, I have not the slightest idea who the "knowledgeable" person might be.And what is Parallax? I never heard about them.

Let me know whether you are sometime in New York. Maybe we could get together at such an occasion.

Cordially yours,

Leo Sauvage.