

4/28/68

Dear Hal,

Your letter of 4/22 is valuable. I've been too busy to answer. I've been tied up with work I consider more important than any in a while and am not yet finished. When I have an even more enormous backlog awaits me.

Your Varney-Walker recollection is correct. It was the day before the assassination, before the NO. Ch. Commerce, as I recollect.

By now you have seen Paul and know my latest inquiry. Most of all I'm interested in the most exotic of the names. I hope I asked Paul if he came across it at the Archives, where I am confident I did and where I am now told it does not appear. If I enclose a copy of my letter to the new head, I'd like you and Paul to regard it as confidential, for what need not be for security reasons I want to be for literary ones. He can copy or I can mail him one if he want. Instead, one enclosed for him.

While I appreciate your willingness to ask your class to help with the long overdue repayment of my 12/66 expenses, I believe this is wrong. I was sponsored by a different group which did render the advance assurances. They did charge an admission and the responsibility is theirs. I could not advance the money then and haven't been able to afford it since. As you know, I was recently stuck the same way again. With my mounting indebtedness and continuing lack of income it is a burden that should not now and should not then have been imposed upon me, particularly by those who should from their own experiences, be aware of the nature and consequences of such burdens. The only other thing I asked of them was promised, a tape. I have written for this countless times, wasting much time, and now you refer me to New York and further correspondence I just cannot engage in. If you had the slightest idea of the tremendous backlog of work that is here you'd not have suggested it. I haven't been able to touch the completed book for more than 7 months and cannot afford to bring it out. There is another largely done that I do not dream of touching and the ^{one} I so very much want to return to, Tiger To Ride, that is now even more distant because I must spend every moment helping Jim, while that awful whore Lane is down there luxuriating and doing nothing but burglarizing the files and other filthy tricks, not the worst of which is his constant literary thievery. I have just about decided that I cannot make speeches any more without being paid. Mark gets \$1,500 each and uses other peoples materials and I regret that he is being helped when he needs no help and has absolutely refused to do any work. Yet I have to beg for the fulfillment of old obligations. I resent this very much. Need I add that the slight income I had from an independently-arranged speech at the same time I spent in California to help and at a time when my own book was not on sale?

I expect you to communicate to those who incurred the obligation exactly how I feel about it. I am bitter that they would do such a thing, put me in this position- and you with it. It is grossly unfair to you-and your class.

If you drive east, you can stay here and visit the archies with but 100 miles of round-trip driving, an hour and a quarter once you learn the way. It costs \$1.50 a day to park two blocks away. You can use my portable and my account. There is a worthwhile field to be explored there. I have had to almost entirely stop working there. Possible I can arrange Washington quarters for you. I'll start inquiring on the chance you want to work there. Alas, I have no connections with the students there. Hurriedly,