

5/25/70

Dear Allen,

I phoned you week before last, when you were on vacation, and left the message I need the copy of COUP I loaned you some time ago. The man to whom I spoke said he'd tell you a week ago today.

This evening I phoned because a week has elapsed and I haven't received it or word of it.

Unfortunately, as I am without fund for getting to Chicago, I am also without funds for xeroxing another copy of the book. Someone I trust wants a copy very much and has offered me enough to get two copies xeroxed for one. Not having been able to pay for the xeroxing of any of the copies, this is important to me, for it is the only way I can get copies.

When I sent you that one I still had four. Now, having had what I regard as important uses for them, I have none. I cannot recall any of these four copies because of the uses to which they are being put. Two are in the hands of those I'd like to be able to believe are prospective publishers. In due time I think you will understand where the other two are.

If you have not yet returned this, please do as soon as possible. Do not spend money on special delivery, for there is none in the country. Aside from **air** mail, which would cost too much and would save only a day at most, the best way is Book Rate plus special handling, which carries it as first class mail, plus minimum insurance, which will protect me against its loss or damage.

I hope you had a chance to read the second part because I believe there may soon be a time when knowledge of its contents may have some usefulness to you.

On the Skolnick matter, the clerk of the court takes time to tell me what must be done, but in each letter he manages to avoid telling me how it is to be done. One example is I must be bonded in Illinois for \$250, but he did not send me a list of bonding companies in Illinois and acceptable to the court. So, I wrote and asked. And I await an answer. Then there will be another. Meanwhile, I also sent a copy of the suit to Skolnick. That brave man has been completely silent. To me, his silence has its own eloquence.

The government now has only a little more than a week to respond to his "suit". It is so utterly and completely incompetent, can be thrown out of court on the meekest motion, having ~~required~~ none of the prerequisites of the law under which it is brought (the same one he wants declared unconstitutional), I find myself wondering why they haven't done it. With him claiming the Archives are responsible for the suppressions when virtually 100% are by the Department of Justice, and with that same Department of Justice being the agency that responds to his "suit", one possibility is the desire to get the false notion fixed in the public mind. Another, one from which I can take no comfort, is that they may have plans going further than originally anticipated. Letting the contraption go to trial would be an even greater disaster than the publicity that can be expected to follow its dismissal.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg