

7/14/71

Dear Ed,

I've read with interest "Publishing Conglomerates". It is a very considerable and important and gives us the strong impression, that a really material difference was made when these houses became part of large corporations. Not so, at least with non-fiction, and I doubt there ever has been an author with as extensive, personal experience. I was my own agent.

The difference is superficial and in degree only. The worst part of this stretched business is the self-imposition, not the dictation. Although I have no doubt it would have been justified, I never got a single serious literary criticism of GORENSTEIN. Internationally, the rejections were about 100. Dell turned it down three times then came for it. This story mentions but one house with which I had no dealings, and almost no person. My biggest single mistake was not going to Holt when Cohen was there. But with their publishing power and with the refusal of a friend of JH's who they published, I sold it anyway. PH read the book then told me they do not publish new authors.

This sort of thing needs mixing, I repeat it still so far short of the terrible truth.

And then what they can do to a book or an author when there is pressure.

Best,