

3/2/66

Dear Sally and Jerry,

The printer just phoned to say that Diamondstein, who just got 500 yesterday early a.m. (they hadn't been bound in time to get off the end of last week when scheduled so, to assure delivery and reduce Diamondstein's cost, the printer had his own truck which was going to NYC deliver them) - as you perhaps realize, this sentence structure is a hearty tease, to build the suspense - phoned this p.m. (it is now 4:45 p.m.) for another 500 and while he was on the phone said, "No, the way these things are selling, better make it 1,000"!!!

All of this printing are now bound and 500 are gone in exactly a week! I mailed out 250 copies from home last week. I've also put ~~500~~ 500 copies aside so with the continuing good sale I will not run entirely out. This is to avoid further hectic days for the binder, who has been very nice. It'll take no time to print, but the stitched binding is slow. Twenty-five hundred have gone to New York in a single week! Can you just imagine what would be happening if I had effective national distribution. Actually, we have but about 2, 250 left of this 5,000, counting the reserve hid en in my artist's office.

Not only do I want to share the good news with you, but it might be advantageous for you to know. I sent PR a press release last week on the reprinting. Also Times, NY and Wash Post, Wash Star, NY Review, etc. Do not know if Wall St. Journal story is out yet.

I hear that Bantam is doing ~~INQUEST~~ ^{REDUCED} INQUEST. Initial printing 125,000. Hope so. While it eliminates the possibilities by that much, it also increases the competition, and that's what I'm banking on to get me top price. And ~~at~~ the way this thing is now going, I'm not at all anxious to make an immediate deal. The wholesalers now have flyers already folded to get into their monthly mailings, and that should let the bookstores, most of whom do not know, know where they can get the book. I had hoped to be out of debt by Labor Day. At this rate it'll be certain. Maybe no real profit, but out of debt!

All of this raises hell with "creative" work, but in the few moments I have put on it, the pieces are falling nicely into place. Got another chapter drafted. The Ted White thing looks firm, but not in writing.

Have you heard yet who those lawyers represented. Or is it past tense.

Sincerely,