

Pearson Acknowledges 'Ghost' Helped on Novel

By Jack Eisen

Washington Post Staff Writer

The room in which Drew Pearson's new fiction book, "The Senator," was produced is apparently inhabited by a ghost—named Gerald Green.

Pearson, who has written millions of his own words in four decades as a Washington correspondent and columnist, acknowledged yesterday that he had "help" from Green, author of the best-selling "The Last Angry Man." The new book is Pearson's first novel.

But a report on the extent of Green's ghost-writing activity published in this week's issue of the Saturday Review magazine is "exaggerated," Pearson insisted.

The magazine said Pearson's employment of a ghost writer had been disclosed by a publishing trade paper, Books, and was confirmed by Green and by spokesmen for the book's hardbound and paperback editions.

The report said Green had

been paid \$150,000 for his efforts.

From Kansas, where he is on a speaking tour, Pearson issued a statement noting that Green received credit in the frontispiece of "The SENATOR" FOR "assistance in preparation of this book."

"However, its conception, development and plot, as he (Green) will doubtless tell you, were mine," Pearson said.

Green, reached at his home in Stamford, Conn., agreed that the report—and especially the fee—had been exaggerated.

"I only wish that \$150,000 were true," he said. "It actually was less than half that figure."

Green said both he and Pearson wrote parts of the book in "a collaborative effort."

"He had an awful lot of material put together when I first met him," Green said.

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"Everything in it is his. There isn't an idea or a concept or a Washington scene that he didn't give me."

Pearson, undaunted and

presumably unhaunted, will speak Oct. 22 at The Washington Post's Book and Author Luncheon in the Sheraton-Park Hotel.

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