

8/8/67

Dear John,

Several things have combined to make me do some rethinking. I do some of it our loud with you.

Right now I think the effort to suppress on this subject is greater, more organized and more determined than it has ever been. I base this on a number of things. It may change, and a number of events can bring this about. It can happen overnight. But I'd better not bank on it. Of course, with the application of intellectual judo, as I did it a year ago, the whole thing can change. The opportunity is not as great now, unless I can make it, and I have less energy.

Several CBS radio stations asked me, in advance, to respond to the fake special they were going to air. Not one has gone through with it and one, not in Calif., has not since taken a call from me. I have to find meaning in this and I do. There are other similar things.

One of my "buffs" has been talking of coming here and giving my wife a lift. How she has held up as well and as long I cannot guess, but she is worn out and often unwell. We cannot let her push as much. Once I accepted this offer I've had no response. I think it just wore my wife down, realizing she'd not have a lift. She was very uncomfortable today, spending the entire p.m. abed.

The New Orleans book seems to be late, and, of course, the one on whom most of the promotion will fall is the one who is not informed about it, especially because that is where the index will come from. This is the last straw on publishers on initial printings on this subject. The next time I talk to one, if ever, is while I'm showering in greenbacks at the same time. Until then, I'll have to do my own initial printings, the last thing I really want.

Now there is just so much of this two people can do, just so many books we can stack up without a warehouse, and just so many editions for which we can go into debt so the wholesalers and bookstores can wait a year to pay.

Today I learned that the NY AP ordered the Baltimore office to do a story on PW when they got an advance of the NYTimes of 7/9 with its big story without intending to use it except in defense against a charge of suppression. It is still on the hook in Baltimore, after a month. No member demanded it so it wasn't filed, not news, not used.

All of this must mean a belt tightening or it means I can be thrown into bankruptcy by those who might get the idea, for I'll be too deeply in debt in fall delays on the royalties and I have to keep on printing book after book. I have to face the reality that Dell hasn't made the April accounting and consider the additional reality that they'll delay the September paying. That will force me to scratch around for the money I'll then owe the bank. Now I do not want to spend my time scratching around and worrying about the flank attacks. That, too, means batten- ing. From what you told me, the new book is being set upon, which I can understand. It is a real tough and very specific book. I am real anxious to do a couple of quiet, jumping shows on suppression and freedom to loosen things up a bit. The only mention we've had is in the Times. I have no way of knowing the effect on sales there. The story appeared the week before the books were in NYC, which is not good.

I lay abed last night and early this morning pondering this. I think it means that I'll have to forgo the complete edition of the New Orleans book. That will cost

me twice as much as any I've done and I'll not be able to charge twice as much for it. I'll have it ready to go, but like that AP story. I do not know how much Parallax will do with the book, have no way of knowing if or how they promote and advertise, what distribution they can get with S&S denied them. If all of this is good, I then do not know how much the sale will be dulled by the much cheaper pocket-size book. At this stage, I just cannot risk the kind of investment involved. If a foundation would underwrite the extra cost, I'd risk it. They are deathly afraid, those I've approached. It is a waste of time.

If lightning strikes, I can have that edition out in less than two weeks from the flash. I can await the sign. I cannot assume the total burden alone. I'll have to make some compromises.

The next book, I fear, will have to include everything up to "Ancheater Machiavelli. I've already got more than 300 pages of appendix for it, some of it pretty sharp, and I'll have the autopsy stuff, and lots more, all mixed up. Just the time we save in mailing out a second volume pays for the extra cost I'll have to absorb or the reduced sales from a higher price if I increase the price.

Another thing, we do not have forever. I must get the basic work done and be clear if you pull your end off, and before then I'll certainly have to find time to rest and then learn how to. I'm so exhausted I can't pull a flight of steps without puffing. Three blocks of walking poop me. I've really been too tired for constructive work for several days, so I've spent them writing letters, as you should have observed. With a little help, I'm getting ready to do some fighting. I can and probably will do it alone if there is no choice.

So, the immediate probable changes are the rest of what would have been III will probably be a single book and unless there is a real requirement for it, I'll not do the complete New Orleans book now, letting it rest on the text version by Parallax. This will pull me down to 200 lbs again, and that's enough weight for now.

Also, there are some real live possibilities with the next book. The faster I can get to where they can be exploited, the better. We'll talk about that in person, I hope sometime soon. And I'll have to have time to handle it, which means no other book immediately needed.

As of now, this is my plan and it will be my concentration.

Now I'll see if my wife would like to go for a ride and cool off.

Sincerely,