

*John Christian*

9/3/67

Dear Hal:

Today was the bitterest pill I've had to swallow in quite some years. Yesterday my family left for - moved to - Carmel. This house is like one mouldy pit now; not a stick of furniture worth kindling, just a crumbling coffee table on which sits this typewriter.

The decision to send them back to Carmel was easy at the time; the better schools, the more casual, non-urban(e) atmosphere, the good-as-can-be-expected life; all these seemed more important than proximity on a daily basis. Horse pucky!!!

I'll commute on weekends when I can. I'm so damned used to immediate married life, though, it is going to be painful without them. There is no other way that I can pursue my current commitments and still feel that I am not inflicting an obtrusive cityfied existence on my loved ones. Thank God I wasn't borne last month. What a miserable future to have to face.

I'm going to hole up in a small apartment when the house clears. It doesn't have to be much for me to hang my hat and underwear around.

I am drafting a memorandum to Counsel out here; it'll be a statement on your current and future legal circumstance, both applicable to the role to be played by our group out here.

The firm - O'Gara, McGuire and Nestel - has been given a gradual spoon-feeding on the matter, books and conversation. Nestel - he's the CPA-Lawyer in the firm - and I were discussing the accounting problems you have come up against yesterday; he's quite familiar with both the procedures used to con authors, etc. and those needed to preclude same. He cited some experiences along these lines, which were most revealing. The man is about as tough as they come in tax laws, too, which will be even more useful, if and when.

My depressed condition is full of some gnawing concerns. Hypothesis: If Garrison blows his case, what happens to your own credibility? Would his Forward carry the stigma with it? I ask these questions out of both ignorance and insecurity, naturally, since (1) I have yet to read the NO piece, and (2) you tell me you haven't seen his clinical stuff as yet.

I have no doubts whatever about your theses about the WHITEWASH that took place. But Garrison is the one who has the broadbased platform, a vehicle, through jurisprudence, which could well be the last chance for revelation in our time should he fail to prove his case. Unlike yourself, he has pointed fingers and named names. He'd better not be wrong; no one can afford his failure.