

9/23/67

Dear John,

I had hope to hear from John by now but haven't. I wrote him again this morning. I did speak to Dick Gellen Tuesday and he said then that he and John had a date for the next day to discuss filing suit against Dell. I was promised I'd be informed of their opinions and I have heard nothing. But that is not surprising for I found out Tuesday that O in NO is still in galley, that the pages had been struck off and books were still possible by then of next week (you can make that one out). Then Thursday I got a phone from some one going over the galleys, and I just decided that when I have copies of the book I'll know it is out. Meanwhile, we prepared an index from the galley, to convert to page when the pages were struck off, so no one told us and the index is done and useless and the book, needlessly and hurtfully, will not have it. I haven't yet seen Jim's foreword.

Perhaps this will help you understand why I know so little about my own affairs and daily am more reluctant to give up any control over them? I'll not again submit an original ms to any publisher on this subject, regardless of cost. I made but a single carbon of the MS of Post Mortem and have not submitted it. Anywhere. I haven't even sent it to John. This is too important to me and, I think, to the country, to trust it to those kinds of finks.

dit was
~~We~~ were here when you phoned. The phone just didn't ring. I phoned my wife twice from Philadelphia before she answered. I then told her I thought it a good idea she'd taken advantage of the beautiful weather to go out to enjoy it and the fresh air. She hadn't left the house. Early this morning, about 12:30, I got a call from a friend in New York, who was still in her office working. Suddenly her voice fell silent but the phone was live. After a while I hung up, went and got my address book, looked her number up to phone her and see if she was okay, and picked the phone up to hear her say "hello". She hadn't hung up, no operator had come onto the line. The line had not been disconnected when I hung up. St. Jigar paid overtime. If his boys were witty they'd have enjoyed themselves, for she was quite witty.

I suppose you are right in your evaluation of the Playboy interview. I hope so. I do not enjoy reading feedback, there or under the name of second-hand Popkin, who must be a guy who washed out and uses the condoms discarded by others!

Dolan has been silent. On the other hand, several times when I should have after the letter you saw, I wrote him polite ones. Jim Eason did phone me Thursday for a five-10 minute bit, I guess on KCBS.

As soon as I hear from Starr I'll write again. The more time goes on the more I wonder if, save for movie, this is a good idea for your people, with three books in other hands. I can do nothing about Dell, and Parallax has O in NO. I need and want help, but I'm so close to the end of the work, save for TIGER, that I doubt if any can be available until after the writing is completed, again save for TIGER, and there, I have a notion, I'll find a publisher. Without really looking.

It is now about mail time. If there is anything in it, I'll add comment.

Sincerely,

September 15, 1967

Dear Hal:

I've been trying to reach you by phone for the past two days; no answer; must be the plumbing; or hornets; or Eddy-baby?

After many hours of coaching, urging, flag-waving, finger-pointing, and un-Christian threats, O'Gara, McGuire and Nestel have agreed to take on your cause, under the aegis of ALFJE ENG, LIMITED, of which their firm is now an equity member. This is a most important development, for no slander can be aimed at their prestigious position in the legal community.

ALFJE ENG, LIMITED automatically assumes all legal costs to be incurred in the course of their representation; concurrently, ALFJE ENG, LIMITED will receive one-third of all monies recovered from projected suits. This is standard procedure on such "contingency" litigation, as I'm sure you know.

I still have heard no word from John Starr; will call him within the next two days if there is still no answer.

I realize the schedule you keep is tearing your can apart, but we must come to some business managerial conclusion momentarily or my developmental efforts will fall to pieces out here. And time is something we cannot recapture.

Have completed Garrison's Playboy interview; what a beauty; but what effect will it have on your continuing book sales? My opinion: Great, IF we're in a logistical position to take advantage of the rapidly approaching events. (Re: My last paragraph) The radio response to the Garrison bit has been phenomenal around here. Joe Dolan has (this AM) stated flatly that he now must apologize for being naive about Garrison's probe and its backers (you), that he was taken by various writers (Phelan). Nice to have him call you, if his id will let him.

Talked to Harv yesterday; told him what my people had in mind with ALFJE; he, like Starr, thought it the only logical approach at this stage; he will have you on the air within three weeks; wants to bone-up on WWII & POW first.

Oh, Nestel says he knows the kind of mechanism necessary, with the aid of fast moving Counsel, to keep accounting current and precise. He explained it, but it was over my head; but this guy knows his beans.

Gotta flee. Will call again tonite to see what wrench is stuck in what sprocket. Best to the house cook-secretary-spelling authority.

Best Personal Regards,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John' or similar, written over the closing text.