

October 13th

Dear Hal:

Received your Caen & Howell letters today; some notes on each follow.

Caen is actually no more than a gossip columnist, albeit his words carry more weight in this area than any byline reporter; the Garrison piece said what it said, which was sufficient. Beyond this, his level of interest or depth of knowledge is most limited. I know, because I picked up the phone and called his chief aide (Jerry Bundsen) to check this out. Your letter had not yet arrived at his desk, so I paraphrased its contents. That you are pro-Garrison is all that office wanted to know, really. If they want the books for close-up examination, they'll call me and I'll shoot them over.

Which reminds me: I'll need another eight sets. (After your having to eat that Raymar shipment, I feel ashamed to ask.)

Now, to Raymar: His #1 & #2 rationalizations were inverted; that SOB is moneymonger, pure and simple, he cares not one iota about what you (or anyone else) is trying to do to or for our society; he's a goddam taker, not a giver, of time or dime. NOW, that you did not or could not assume this at the outset is your problem, not his; he, like "agents" cannot concentrate on any one entity UNLESS that entity does it all.

You can rest assured that Raymar is going to kissoff one Harold Weisberg as a "client", or at least become mum about your calling. Howell is the kind of Freako that reacts that way, I'm positive.

So, we're back to finding another outlet or procedure to get your works into the hands of the public. (ALFIE???)

I've leaned on Bowen to arrange another interview; you should be hearing from him momentarily; Harv and I have communicated in recent days; will lean on him too, tonight; you'll be staying at the Golden Gateway as the guest of my partner, MacConaugha, its big cheese, when you get out here; unless otherwise arranged, you'll be staying with some of my close friends in LA; I'm strongly alluding to Bowen that KSL should also Red Carpet you as its special guest (they did me once), especially if they have the inside track on your time.

I am reasonably sure Dolan will come to the fore when he finishes the manuscript; as stated, our conversation was with near-immediate rapport, even though I am your most forceful advocate and make no bones about it. He's a hardheaded Mick, but he's not stupid.

Garrison was here Sunday and Monday, with Belli, Bailey (and boozers). He did, in fact, stay at Mel's apartment. Mel held a press conference in his pad (Garrison attended beside him) and Mel backed off his previous positions considerably; I'm trying to get a tape of the session for you now; haven't

heard the actual bit myself yet.

I must tell you that I'm cussedly salty about Starr's tardiness in answering both of us, even more briney about his abysmal ignorance of what and how a business is conceived and run. That double-take/talk letter of his is a monument to "obfuscation" and runaway rhetoric; it bore exactly no relationship to any kind of interpretation of this or any other Prospectus. As an "agent" he may be first water; as a business manager he'll make a great masseur.

Thank you and the marvelous Mrs. for your concern about my wife; it is still eating a hole in my psyche; but to lay down and cry (any more) is not going to change matters; we're all hoping its just a "zero" case of the thing, so that relatively minor surgery can knock it out quickly, once and for all.

Finally; I have said in the past that yours is a task that no other man has had the guts to undertake; like it or not, you are a martyr; and martyrs don't got it easy; I've chosen to be one with you as best I can, but mine must be a role that protects you from not only others, but yourself as well. Please use caution in the way you give-to-those-what-it-is-they-honestly-have-coming. Remember, even the CIA had to use crumbbuns and crud to get on with its unholy deeds. And, don't flog me about means and ends, because I have a consciousness that never sleeps and a conscience that won't let it.

My best to youins, all.

Best Personal Regards,



John