

Dear Hal:

August 17, 1967

Here are my suggestions on how we can put our collective house in practical order - and get on with our common cause:

1. Private publishing of your remaining works is a logistical/tactical must; 2nd printings will just have to evolve out of mercenary motives ala Dell, but the negotiating conditions and terms will be tougher.
2. A Foundation per se has too many political overtones in our society to pick up your gauntlet, let alone subsidize its mechanism; we will just have to form our own, attach a profitability factor, and build you the kind of fiscal buffer you require to maintain both mobility and sanity.
3. The vehicle which will undertake the above task will be incorporated into the overall administrative structure, inclusive of the motion picture, TV et al aspects; I will, with your approval, revamp our current business posture to accomplish these ends. Yours will be an option to contract with our group or join in directly as the principal equityholder (majority).
4. The administrative functions will include:
 - a) financing of all future (and current) publishing costs.
 - b) negotiate national distribution arrangements.
 - c) promote sales of the private editions; arrange radio/TV/press, etc. interviews nationally.
 - d) schedule (and finance) personal appearances by the Author at the conclusion of writing of series and during the interim.
5. Financing the above program can be handled as follows:
 - a) The current group can be expanded to generate larger capital needs; The expanded corpus will advance all required funds, which will be returned from all first net monies equal to capital advances; after this the corpus will retain one-third of all net profits derived from all aforementioned areas of projected income under its direction.
 - b) The Author can join the corpus, assigning all relevant rights as his contribution, and keep Fifty One percent (51%) of the equity; his salary and applicable expenses will be borne by the corpus as part of its administrative obligation.

I am personally convinced that you need the aegis and strength of some kind of formal business apparatus to accomplish your ends; the above might suffice.

I think I shall call our group "PROBITY PER SE UNLIMITED, LTD.". Edgar-baby's lexiconists will be sent scurrying to the Bureau Semanticists on that one.

Now, whatever your decision, assuming a positive response on one of the alternatives, you must provide me with the cashflow figures expected to be incurred in the completion of your entire Anthology, inclusive of your current obligations; we can work out some kind of pre-emptive arrangement to retire previous debts, but your fiscal slate should be cleared off as soon as possible; we might even get new rags for Lil's feet this Winter.

Part of our immediate activities will include retention of high horsepower Counsel to let the creeps know we intend to force legitimate issues; this will include a steely-eyed showdown with Dell if you can't draw blood in the interim. I must have the latest sales/circulation figures on WW & WWII from Dell NOW!!! Surely Starr can extract a written statement or estimate from his contact within Dell; if he can't, we got trouble dere in drivel city.

On the Hearst thing: I just spoke with Jack Cooke at length; there are two possible hangups in our path. There is an inherent fear afoot within Avon that your lack (?) of academic/literary/socio-political credentials makes you less a credible "critic" than say Popkin or Epstein. That you have been their unofficial Tutor and they your sticky-fingered Pupils is a fact known to Cooke, but not to Hearst's lead heads. Let me, at Jack Cooke's request, suggest that you open up with Deems by backgrounding your U. S. Senate and Congressional experiences, as well as other ego-tootings that thrill the image-muckers. While I'm sure your rhetorical capacity will dazzle the clot, there's nothing like a chest full of dangling dandies to distract the kind of idolators nurtured by the archaic Hearst Syndrome.

Should Hearst be intimidated by Mr. Humble's long-eared presence in this matter, let me point out that our group could still work out a distribution arrangement with their circulation division; the private editions can be produced in sufficient quantity to meet both price and profit needs all round, I'm sure. So, don't get discouraged if the appetite for publishing dries up.

Your letters to that myriad of should-be-interested parties were marvelous reading.

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I have made copies for Harv and Jack Cooke; incidently, I don't think that Morgan is getting any particular pressure to ignore your need for airtime, albeit I have no pipeline into Jules Durdes official quarters at KCBS. I have gone over to his home in Tiburon to chat with him about my plans as they might compliment his own, and he seems to have an avid, continuing interest in your welfare. Maybe I'd better lay a few of these 205 lbs. on his chest in a couple of days.

Lee Rashall called yesterday (from KGO Radio here) to ask about your plans of travel, whether you were set to come to San Francisco & Los Angeles in the near future. I told him there were tentative plans along these lines. Whatever, he can definitely schedule you on two of their radio shows here and one big TV splash; his connections in Los Angeles are excellent, so we can conclude their sister-stations down there will accomodate a coming tour.

The Garrison conviction of Andrews certainly elevated my stock in the eyes of some former colleagues in the news game around here - even though I'm not so bloody sure of what that trial really connotes - but the level of ignorance of newsmen is such that it makes no difference no how. You know it's strange how fickle broadcast newsmen are when it comes to newspapers; their gullibility in accepting by rote anything that appears in print as Gospel never fails to amuse and amaze me, even though it only shows what shallow self-respect these clowns have for their own profession. Enough of that; I get hives at the mere thought of what most of them are doing to this society.

I have just purchased Sylvan Fox' book, as well as Ford's, Ramparts Digest, and the Popkin book with Avon, which I scanned immediately. Popkin's remarks on pages 22-23 must border on the slanderous, at least as to your professional competence; he, like so many others of our experience, offers blanket indictment of your style, but avoids debating the crux of your theses. Perhaps we shall treat the good doctor to a little literary litigation in the near future; we'll see just how unsoiled his sheepskin comes out in the wash.

I trust Fox' works meet with your approval, since you mention him frequently.

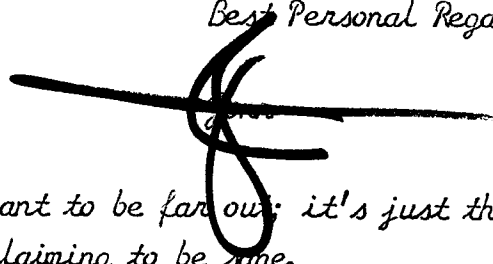
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No word from Unruh as yet; Cooke thinks he is mulling over the tersity of my approach; he might well think I've snapped my twig, but I'll not let the matter slide on forever, or he'll come to that very conclusion.

As with the other letter for purposes of acknowledgement, with or without your modifications, you can make a copy and autograph it over the top. Let me say that the arrangement I've proposed is one I think I can sell to my current associates and others to be approached. It is fairly standard procedure in this type of business venture, the controversiality aside. The sooner the Weisberg position begins to gain breadth in organization and inherent influence within its ranks, the sooner the barriers will fall. We, individually and collectively, don't have much time to ready our affairs.

Tell Lil to cheer up; things could be worse; Lyndon could always cite your husband for integrity, credibility, and honesty -- and wipe him out forever.

Best Personal Regards,



P. S. The other document wasn't meant to be far out; it's just that the people mentioned sorta got thataways by claiming to be sane.

Would you believe another post script?

Just as I was headed for the barn last night, I accidentally tuned in on Harv's show at about 9:30 -- and there was Andrews spewing forth, followed by yourself. I have since called Harv to querie him on the limited allotment of time for followthrough discourse; no particular reason other than the idea was a spur of the moment action on his part; between you and the hornet's pond, I detect a vagueness in Harv's responsiveness in a lot of matters, not just the one we're pursuing. I get the impression he is troubled in his personal affairs, perhaps due to his previous marriage obligations. Not my bailewicke, however.

The motion picture people are obviously delaying resumption of our dialogue pending Garrison's shot at Shaw; cannot really blame them; however, if and when he convicts, the price of cheese will rise accordingly; we can afford to wait; it's their money they'll have to part with in larger chunks the longer they tarry.

Will send Bowen the Andrews tape as soon as Morgan dubs one off; then I'll lean on him to re-varnish your platform in the coming weeks.

Get back to me with a red/green/amber light on this proposition as soon as coherently possible and I'll get hot on a draft corpus and/or agreement to suit all our purposes.

BPR,
JSC