

8/28/67

Dear John,

You probably heard the other phone ringing when we goodbyed yesterday. It was Marguerite Oswald, who thinks she has the answer; there is a Negro around whose neck "Lovely" in the doorway has his arm. Ask "Lovely" who it was and we have a new witness. Of course, her inference is that her son would have had no prejudice but L would and hence this is not L and the Negro would be proof that her son was on the first floor.

We relaxed so much that when we got home from the cocktail party, after a heavy storm that hurt us not but flooded the roads, the fords and the low bridges (my brakes still do not work) that we went to bed early, 10 p.m. Two o'clock I was up and awake. By 11 I'd done more than 6,000 words and it is thus too late for me to go all through that CBS stuff for what I told you on Alvarez. I have a few things here and when I type what I've written you'll have all of it, I think fairly soon. What I do not have here and would have to dig out is the CBS claim that this is new material, their discovery through Alvarez, whereas each of the three things he mentions, Frames 190, 212 and 227, I first (and entirely alone) among the books mentioned and to CBS' knowledge. I think it is plagiarism.

I do not claim the theft was by Alvarez, who I understand took the initiative in seeking out CBS (knows Stanton, thru lawyer, Hutchinson). He may or may not have been told about it by his students (See Magnet enclosed also). But CBS didn't know this was in my book, Midgley read that book, other members of the staff read all of them and were familiar with and asked for and got my unpublished material in return for credit (not used; not given). It cannot be an accident that CBS took credit for what they knew was mine, as it cannot be an accident that they awarded to others what they also knew I first published or I alone published.

This will just about make the outgoing mail. One other thing that may interest you and Jerry: Three weeks ago ~~my~~ John mailed the ribbon copy of O in NO to the Wash office of the Times of London. They never got it. I did, today, in perfect condition, entirely without a wrapper of any kind, with a note from the DC PO saying that there was no wrapper so they were sending it to me. Now that ms, having had the wrapper shredded off it and presumably the cardboard box in which I always send manuscripts, was in better shape when I got it, not a hair out of place, not an edge dog-eared, as neatly stacked, all three inches of it, as though it had been done by machine. Another coincidence! This has been kicking around in the mails for three weeks not only without damage but without attracting any attention or inspiring anyone to do anything about it UNTIL said Times of London made "discreet inquiry" at the PO, when suddenly it appeared and was sent to me!

Now you know damned well this is nothing but coincidence, and if you ever suggest anything else, I'll tell you right out you are paranoid!

Best,
Hal