

12/22/71

Dear Gary,

Glad to hear from you, as was <sup>Bill</sup>, who sends thanks. I'm responding to your 12/23, which just came, right away because you will be having to make plans.

Let's get the unpleasant over with first. Your general comments on the desirability of editing, etc., are irrelevant to the problem that we faced. In general, I am in accord with this, as you know, and you should recall my efforts, at Matt's suggestion, to get some help from Vince on it. If we disagree on how I can best spend my time - and I feel that with nobody else spending full time on this I must not spend it in the fruitless quest for literary acceptability - there is no dispute that editing is good. I want it, solicit it, and agree that any other mind can come up with something. With regard to what I had already done of PH, others had gone over it and, as you know, I had asked you to. Howard, Barnabai and Hoch, I am confident, did this with some care. So it is not that I had not subjected this to testing. I did incorporate most of the suggestions.

What Ned proposed was acceptable, and I did accept it. He then started making unilateral changes in his concept, including of himself, his judgement and knowledge, and finally of his role. In every case that comes to mind his judgement was wrong, his understanding of fact too limited, leading to wrong judgement, and he blindly insisted in not only imposing his over mine but that I acceded to his because his was superior, for various immature reasons. In the end he had gotten onto what he may not realize is a got-Kennedy kick, and that I cannot be part of. My chief concern with the editing was that it be faithful to the work. I think that is a minimum. Other than that, with so much that had to be left out anyway, I wasn't really concerned. Now when he got far past that and then actually believed that all the whores would fall down and beg for mercy as soon as he appeared (only because he has wealth and "connections"), this whole thing got past being just too great an assault on my integrity, something for which Ned has had no concern that he has reflected. It got rabidly insane, presented new and unnecessary hazards, and became an overt breach of the original agreement, that no use be made of my work or the evidence I had gotten. You are one of my authorities for saying I'm not paranoid. But some of this new stuff hurts powerful people. I have to be crazy not to be aware of that, their capabilities and recent history. So I made this stipulation, to which Ned agreed. There was but one exception, if he could reach Cowles through Harder, and to that that one use, if it could lead to a publishing contract, I did agree. I gave him copies under this restriction. To date I have not gotten them back and have not gotten any answer, and whether he is working on his dissertation (as his wife always wanted anyway) or otherwise busy, there is no reason consistent with integrity of purpose or decency that I can think of that can explain his refusal to return these things, without keeping ANY copies. Again I ask you, busy as you are, to try and see to it that this is done now.

On your trip here: I am supposed to go to NYC to do a TV show 1/15. While it will not surprise me if this is cancelled, as of now it is on. I am planning to do another necessary thing at that time. I may, in fact, go there 1/14. I'll return 1/16. With your DC conference scheduled to end of the 17 and your return due 1/21, I think the best plan would be for you to come here from there. I can get you and I can deliver you to the airport 1/21. You can then both visit and rest. I'll be taking 141 to work a.s.a.s., and you can sleep at least until I return, which will be about 9:30. Thus, should we bat the guns until late, it need not come out of your sack time, and I think you'll want a bit of recuperation before returning to Hpls. On a cheap hotel: I'm out of contact with that these days. I think Bud would provide quarters for you, as he did for PH. He generally goes into DC to get there about 9:30 a.m., but when he is busy can get to his office by 7:00. I have a friend in Takoma Park, George Abbott's father, who would probably have a room for you, too. The bus trip from there would take close to an hour, though it is close to Walter Reed, not really far out of downtown. Currently Jim Lesar has a house guest. Let me know if you want me to try and arrange something like this. Other-

also, what may ultimately be cheapest is getting or sharing a room in the hotel in which the conference will be held, for if the room rate is higher, the saving in cabs and time may more than offset it. When I speak to Bud and/or Jim, I'll ask about a cheaper hotel. But until you hear otherwise, don't expect any constructive suggestion.

Jaffe: I'll send you redrafted copy. Time has dimmed your recall. What you here says really gets back to the Red problem. Vince's paranoia took a different form, the suspicion that this was a contrivance to foist off fake film on Carrison. It was not the weakness and stupidity of their case, for we anticipated that as a matter of law they could have no case. Otherwise, there'd have been no participation by me and probably not by Bud in that case. The very simple fact that no amount of savvy could circumvent that Vince just persisted in ignoring is that once we had the reading by the panel it was not possible to produce any film at all different. How could they? They were hoist on their panel petard. For what Vince did in this he ought never be forgiven.

With all the things that can be done and should be, I think pursuing the young Jaffe angle any farther is not worth what can reasonably be expected from him, if, indeed, anything can be. Posner's reasons for doing what he did may be complex or they may be simple, but I see no reason for conjecturing when at some point he may have to face his record, what he did and didn't do.

So, I suggest that you come here by way of NYC and Phila, going back to Hpls from here. That will give you less travelling, lower costs, and a chance to rest. Unless I hear otherwise from you, that is what I'll expect. Jerry will be here day after tomorrow and I'll discuss all of this with him.

One request: you can't begin to imagine how painful to both Lili and me both Vince and Ned have been. Inou's is an academic concept. We had the realities. So, while I am willing to discuss with you anything you may want to (and I have no particular interest in discussing either), it would be better if we avoided both when Lili is present. She can't forgive Vince for what he did to WHITWASH, so what he did thereafter was really disagreeable to her.

Best regards,