

Mr. Henry Durkin
Box 74
Westfield, N.J. 07090

1/27/76

Dear Henry,

Afraid I have to respond to your 1/23. But I won't mail it until there is need to respond to something else. No haste.

I was unclear or you misunderstood me. Lane is not lobbying against a new inquiry. That is my interpretation of the result of his lobbying. And if he were to succeed (meaning all those associated with him, too) the net effect would be another whitewash. His probably unrecognized motivation is to make a hero of himself regardless of how. He is loud in demanding a new investigation.

When Author's Guild solicited me for membership their literature is specific in saying they will not engage in litigation for authors. This is why I didn't join. I don't think they can or should as a general rule, especially not for those of independent means. But I also believe that there are some cases in which the interests of all authors are involved. One of these is fraud. Another is fraudulent accountings. Another is refusal to account. Where major publishers commit criminal offenses not only is the interest of all authors involved but the greater power of the publisher is then exerted otherwise he can be jailed. All authors can suffer from the precedent that can be set against a writer of no or limited means. However, Jim Lesar has initiated steps against Dell. They promised him an accounting and in what he received yesterday there was none but there was a counterfeit of one. He'll respond mildly and build a record.

If I could collect some of the money due me, despite my age and condition I would not put it away for older-age security, although I have no retirement. I'd use it to hire help so I can do more.

Peter Model wrote the Groden book. Thanks for these welcome offers. Among other ambitions I want to leave as full an archive for younger people, especially students, as I can.

McDonald may spill more on talk shows and interviews, cunning as he is. The best liar can't remember them all, if you happen to tape any.

Thanks,

January 23, 1976

TO: Harold Weisberg

FROM: Henry Durkin

Thanks much for your very informative two-page letter of January 19th.

Enclosed is a clipping from the Village Voice of 1/19 on the Ray case which might interest you.

As I weed through the clipping piles, I'll watch out for interesting Mark Lane stuff to send you copies of. Your daring him to sue is great news---I'd love to see a copy of your letter to him. No, I had not known he was lobbying against a new inquiry in the JFK case. Very curious.

Regarding Dell's not having paid you royalties on Whitewash I & II, why not contact the Author's Guild for help? They're at 234 West 44 Street, New York 10036.

Groden, I understand, is doing a paperback for some outfit called Manor Books in New York; supposed to have color pix from the Z film and others. The book is supposed to come out late in February; as soon as I see it, I'll buy a copy for you.

I also hadn't known that Buckley's Kohlberg foundation was going to do an investigation.

I understand about your not being able to answer every inquiry. Don't worry, it's not necessary for you to reply to everything I write you. OK, I'll only expect a reply if there's really something urgent. Otherwise, no need to spend time on letters when you can be working on more important things --- or better, getting some rest. Harold, you just can't continue at the feverish pace. I'm 35 and I can't manage 21 hour days!

OK, too, on McDonald manuscripts. I didn't mean to pry and certainly you should respect confidences. I'll send you copies of any interesting clippings on him, too, as I see them.

Assassination Information Bureau people are supposed to be bringing out a paperback made up of speeches from ~~their~~ their conference. Don't know the publisher, but it will probably be on the stands sometime this spring and I'll get you a copy, unless you already know about it and have contacts with AIB to get one.

Stay well.

