

1/11/70

Dear John,

While I'm glad you spoke to Bair and it motivated him to do something, what he is doing is costing us both, as my enclosed letter to him shows. You have a copy of his letter of 10/23.

This thing is getting to be a real mess, simply because Bair is letting it slide when Gross is silent. I do not remind him of it, but Bair told me not to get in touch with Gross because the situation is so sticky, Gross apparently having already been paid by Gembel for what I have paid and am asking be returned.

Those rotten bastards. You have no idea what kind of an investigation I did on Bringuier and how successful it was. Had the case come to trial he'd have gone to jail. And, beyond any doubt, he is a fascist and an anti-semitic in addition. Now all of this was very costly to me, in time and in money, requiring much travelling, to New Orleans on a number of occasions and to Washington, to comb the National Archives. Even the xeroxing cost was, to me, considerable.

Bair ought to remember that I insisted on going to trial and Lucas certainly does. I did let Lucas handle it the way he wanted in deference to Dell and Gembel, because the alternative was to run their legal costs up. They'd have had to pay him for a trial. The truth is that this was also Bair's desire, but he honestly told me the decision would not be his.

This amounts to about \$1,700 to me, the difference between having to pay a third and not having to - and my own costs were in excess of this, as Bair will realize if he stops to think about it. Aside from which there is no way they could have gotten an investigation of Bringuier for this sum and nobody who had the knowledge to do the investigation I did. I had no interest in avoiding court. My interest was the opposite, to fix the scam good and to have the publicity sell the books. Even if Bringuier had won, which was impossible, what was he going to collect from me? I could have ignored the whole matter without loss or cost. What Bair is now seeking to charge me with is not a legitimate charge against me. But the big thing is is it contrary to what he himself agreed to. If you proposed the third to him, would you please, if you have occasion to discuss this with him, also remind him of his 10/23 letter? The difference to you is about \$170.

So far, this has cost me an additional \$750.00. In New York, it would have been about \$1,000. That, in itself, is hurt enough.

Best regards,