

5/5/69

Dear John,

Enclosed are self-explanatory letters from Bair and to Pevsner.

Quite a mess with Knopf. Did you submit the book to any RH subsidiary or to RH, or did you discuss it with them?

Bair shows signs of being reasonable again on the Bringuer suit matter. I have not gotten the letter from "Saga's" lawyers. Plunkett did tell me they offered to share with Bair and that Bair said no. Here I am inclined to accept Bair's denial, although this would be inconsistent with the intent of sticking me with all of it. I do not know whether my statement that nowhere in Bringuer's suit does he allege error or misrepresentation of distortion hit a tender legal nerve or not, but we are now back where we were in March. Plus the fact that my own not inconsiderable expenses are now recognized. I do not know why I cannot assume to begin with that everyone is going to try and screw me and not be so damned fair to them to begin with, for in so doing I give away my bargaining points. I did a hell of a lot of work on Bringuer and it cost much in money and time that I cannot account for. As I think back more and more returns to mind. I spent one two-week period working on that almost exclusively in New Orleans. And I have the notes and tapes of the interviews to prove it. And large hunks of other trips down there, plus time in the Archives here, etc., trips to the Archives, etc.

I have this note from Lewis Bergman, editor of the Times mag: "Thanks for your note of April 27. We are looking into the matter you raise and will be in touch with you presently." I am not replying, but I'd sure love him to ask Epstein his sources!

Predictably, Starr has been mute. So, I do not know whether he has the copy of COJP Harrison Salisbury had or not. If he does not, Salisbury in in South Korea! If you can find time, would you ask John, please? He never writes letters.

Dottie phoned to tell me of the Knopf book.

I will send Pevsner the entire Dell thing at once. I am not sending him copies piecemeal. I do hope this Bringuer matter gets cleaned up quickly, for having that sum to give the bank will help. As time passes I become more concerned about this debt.

Best,

Art just won some kind of Guild prize for reporting, I think crime or courts.