

Your letter of the 12th got here several days ago but I've not had time to answer. I have been deep in what with most people would be the depressing, out damage suit vs the government. We have finally got some records from the ~~xxxx~~ crook, and their crookedness makes all my representations ultra-conservative. We now have some of the behind-the-scenes stuff. They were serving their VietNam apprenticeship on us, that evil. Great stuff for a book but hell to cope with and worse to live with. The lie, prove they ate liars, tell the truth (which proves me right), admit they damaged us, admit this was a continuing damage, caught some of the pilots who violated the regulations but pretended they never could ridicule the judge and figure how they can manipulate us to undo him. Really. Only I can't walk in and say judge old boy, look at this. Even the legal chicanery is fairly openly disclosed because they ~~xxx~~ never expected me to see it.

One can keep a nose in this stink just so long and then has to come up for air.

My breath of the freshis because I have just been interrupted by a phone call from a friend who has sent me an announcement of the Spril publication of the Turner et al Kaplan book. Indications some steam, book club, etc. I'll send it to you when I get it. Takes 5-8 days from where he is, not in U.S.

Have you thought of getting hold of a lawyer to get some of that alimony from that millionaire's son?

I must have been unclear about Mil's tax work. I think I probably meant that during the season she is away all day. She works for Bloch, at their office. She also does some work here. Nights, weekends, etc. No conflict. But now academic.

If you want to find out about the delays in the book, wait until after it appears and then ask why it took so long. One possible reason is working on collaterals.

I suspect all libel readings were at latest in galley. I don't think that accounts for the delay. There seems to be no reason for rush anyway. I think it likely, once the ms was done, that all the delays are probably normal. Like trying to seal magazine use, which is pre-pub.

I've been robbed so often and by so many without being able to do anything I may be a poor one to give advice, but I think that at this point all you can do is wait and be alert. Save every ad, review, etc that you see. There is one thing I can do for you with one of the thieves: establish that this is his professional record. From me he even stole one of my few errors, he is that indiscriminate and so-uninformed. I wrote Hinkle one of my few short letters (meaning also no innocence there!), "If you must rescue my condoms, when will you get the good sense to check them for holes?" But you should also understand that the kinds of people who are literary thieves don't embarrass easily. Turner once told somebody when he stole much of my stuff that he considered that when I published anything it became public domain. If this is his attitude toward the copyrighted, what can it be to the unpublished?

Hope you line something up soon.

It will be great if your kids can visit you for Easter. Hope the boy is putting it all together at last.

Our best,

~~RM~~ c/o Press Club of
San Francisco
555 Post St.
San Francisco, Cal.
March 12, 1973

Dear Harold,

Well, I did it. Tried L. A. for two weeks, but L. A. no way. So arrived two days ago, checked into a hotel around the corner from the above address and will try to re-establish from here.

Called my kids in Seattle and they're going to try to make it down for Easter. Hope their father comes across for their fare and my alimony. Somehow, no matter what, I feel optimistic about being here. I was working so hard in Mexico for so little money with absolutely no future. I like working hard, but for money and a future. So, we shall see.

How I would love to do that book with you. Can it wait? I can well understand your being too close to it, I feel like that about the things that happen to me. But now that I'm in the States, we might be able to work together from time to time. As for it not coinciding with Lil's tax work, I really don't see why it makes such a difference. Your office would be a perfect spot and Lil seems to know when ~~tax~~ other brains are brewing over, so why is this a problem?

Saw the attorney when I was in L. A. Said I definitely have a case but he has to figure out from which angles. Did you know the book has been postponed until May? The lawyer wants me to find out why. I hope I can. I'd have to ask Hinckle or Turner and I'm such a bad pretender, but look what they did! It would be like saying tell me when so I know when to sue you. Why do you think the book has been postponed? An attorney looked it over and found a ~~few~~ few sue-able statements?

Hope things are well with you. I had to sell some of my last "treasures" to make this trip and hang on for a while.

Best to Lil and you,

Paul