

Dear Peter,

11/2/75

We haven't moved. The rural routes have been renumbered.

Thanks for your 10/17, which came yesterday, and for the enclosures, which helps even more now.

The doctor says I'm coming along. I can move around more but I am limited. I have to conserve my working time for the immediate needs. This means more than anything else preparing for the coming appearance of Post Mortem. It is 660 pp., of which almost 200 are facsimiles. If it gets into bookstores the price is \$10. By insured mail, \$10.75. Date of appearance not yet set. Copies not yet here from printer. But it has been printed.

If you hear from Ted again, while it will probably do no good remind him of the tapes he promised me. I want them only as part of an historical record. They have no other value. Of course I also want a record of the non-responses.

There is no chance of doing a good documentary film without using the work of others, especially me. I've told Robert this every way I know, beginning when he was first involved with Richter. The Z film by itself just doesn't mean that much and it doesn't last long enough anyway. Robert has a genuine ambition but not what else it takes. He also doesn't realize it but he has been off on an ego kick, one of the unintended by-products of which has been much harm. While this is quite the opposite of what he wants he is and will be lost in this because he lacks knowledge of the basic facts and the essential details. You also lack the detailed knowledge. And doing a bad film or an incomplete one or a wrong one is worse than doing none.

My purpose in this is not to be nasty or merely critical. I intend it constructively and I hope you will take it this way. When I see Robert again I'll try to reason with him again but over many years it has been impossible on this. My belief in his genuineness and the decency of his intentions and my regard for the three of them does not and cannot alter my judgement or his record, which he also does not face. It was great to get people to see the film, but that was only a beginning, everything else with it was terrible, sometimes disastrous, and because of all the ego hangups and ambitions for self-promotion that went along with it there was no factual or evidentiary backstopping for what the film could have done for us.

It is all too bad, but these are the kinds of people they are and were and will be. I stay as detached as I can and to the degree I can continue the work that in the end this motley crew rips off in its infrequent contacts with reality.

A good film is a great idea. But you and Robert alone can't do one. Doing one well will not be inexpensive. Do it one any other way will be harmful. So, please have both eyes open as you move ahead with your project and do remember that mere publication is not a surrender of rights, as so many of the self-promoters pretend. I am not surrendering any of my rights. One of the reasons, you should understand, is to ~~fix~~ deter misuse.

From time to time you may be impressed with the public reputations of those who are regarded as real experts. They are ~~very few~~ few, the real experts. Remember my unrefuted speech. Don't be swept away because these people seem impressive. And recognize the problem you have in making your own independent judgement. I am sure that if you do go ahead you will want to go ahead responsibly and well. Thus what caution I can give you. With thanks and best wishes,