

6/5/70

Dear Ron,

If it imposes too great a burden upon you to regard you as something more than man who happens to be a literary agent, to believe that you find your friends of the past and present dear, that you hold principles tightly and sincerely, then I do owe you an apology, for it is thus I think of you and as a consequence may abuse you.

The purposes of my yesterday's call were not all literary. You were busy and may not have detected this. Because you were busy, I cut it short.

Right now a book breaking the Featherstone/Brown case is not publishable, at least not by most publishers. I tried it out of a former friend of his who had been close to King for years and is today a publishing executive.

But I have my own ways of doing things. I generally do them, whether or not they result in publishable material. And there is a way of doing this that would - not just could - cause the sensation necessary to create demand for the book and willingness to publish. The book could be written in short order, if editing were available.

However, the essential thing is not the book but the doing, for much benefit can flow from it and much hurt might be prevented - at least postponed. In the most comprehensible terms, this relates to forfeitures. In less obvious ones, to survivals. It seems to be not at all apparent that, as with much of my work, one of the by-products can be to save people from jails.

The focus of my work is on the points of the fasces. This is one of the reasons that, while I am anxious for edited, commercially-acceptable contractions to appear, I also want the complete works available, for it is in them that there is what others can use for their own protection.

I can do the Featherstone/Brown thing alone, but I will not, for an assortment of reasons. One is that I will not take this time from other work of at least equal importance if I must do it without help. Another is that I am too weary. Another that there must be involvement of those who can safely be involved (yours, were it overt, could hurt many people, as I understand without explanation) or it is largely pointless. What is required is a little help during several days to be spent going around in the Baltimore area. What is also desirable is a young, dedicated, disciplined lawyer, preferably black and who need not figure in this publicly, unless he so desired.

Now, I had several purposes in asking you to make inquiry about the official King/Ray evidence I now have. One that may not have been apparent to you is to have a record of having offered it, for if they then take it from a different source, having refused it from the creative one, something might be done about it. I made the offer to Life's Sidey before getting it and to his secretary after getting it. I also made a general offer to Look, earlier. Experience tells me that the Department of Justice press office will now be seeing ways of planting this to see to it that it is at least angled their way, to take the edge and, if possible, to kill with the treatment that can be arranged. It has worked in the past. So, aside from the long-shot chance of seeing a piece or the materials, I hope you can make such an offer so that I can, perhaps, not be robbed for a change.

Should you accept my offer of a brief vacation here, there are other things to discuss besides my work.

Sincerely,