

Dear Jim,

8/24/75

The ~~xxx~~ attached letter is from the ~~xxx~~ man to whom the carbon is addressed. He wrote the crappy piece in the July Argosy. Baxter is the editor of Argosy. When I was in New York on the McDonald work the night of the meeting with McDonald they came to the room Baxter arranged for me and charged to the tennis publication the same outfit owns. The first one there was the woman who is the magazine's managing editor. When they all got there we went down to the Crawdaddy room (new to me) at the Roosevelt whose records will show all of this. I signed the tab for the dinner and they all ate and drank on the corporation. I did not know this was going to happen until it was all over. (Model and I had steak Tartar and it was good. The black maitre was a legitimate wit.)

The sole purpose was to determine whether Argosy was interested in the ancillary rights to Post Mortem. Baxter would have had Model as his writer, thus his presence. It was necessary for me to explain some of the contents. That was all confidential pending management-ownership ^{decision} on proceeding. Baxter then told me it would be three weekends before he could come down but with an okay would.

He is paranoid. He took the phone in my room apart to see if it had a bug in it. When they left about 3 a.m. and I tried to call the operator to leave a wake-up so I could make the first Metroliner the damned phone didn't work. I had to get dressed and go down to the desk and arrange to be awakened in person. It was by the assistant manager then on duty.

Model or Baxter or the woman gave me an advance copy of that issue if it was not then out. I have an extra copy sent me and I'm filing it in a new Model file I'll now start if I do not have one. The article, which I read later, is a crappy one.

Model actually made all the arrangements. Prior to my going to New York. He gave me his phone then at Fire Island, told me of the Riverside Side pad at which I could crash, gave me the magazine and Baxter's home and (weekend) Greenwich Village antique shop so I could make contact when I got to NYC. I did not set up the Monday evening meeting except indefinitely until after I finished my work for Groves.

I spent Sunday beginning about 11 a.m. with Roger Feinman of CBS. Hewent with me to the apartment of the friend with whom I worked that evening and stayed that night and with whom I went to the Grove/McDonald meeting. If I had wanted to I could not have made final arrangements for the Argosy meeting until after the end of the Grove obligation. I also phoned Sylvia from the station, having decided to catch an earlier train so I could have the time, so she could help the U.Va./Lowenstein people on their planned bill of particulars I'd suggested at the Maryland meeting. I think this was June 22.

My point in this is the eventuality that, having nothing of his own and having nothing and being able to get nothing from Robert, to meet the demands of his contract Model has to steal what I had to tell Argosy to make the offer. What he has to seal that isn't stolen by someone I can't imagine. So I warn him, I think politely.

This is the first time I recall hearing from him since that night. I did not ask him to speak to Manor and as you know what he did talk to them about is what I can't be interested in absent an advance of the kind I can't imagine and that would wreck his projected book of which I'd heard earlier without the Robert connection. Just a few days ago. However, I am not without previous contact with McFadden-Bartell or Manor and I'm pretty sure Littell if he originates in Washington. All negative. Now maybe Model is the kind of guy who would decide what I want without asking me, but if he isn't one obvious possibility is that this kind of thing is a cover for an intended theft.

Hastily,

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701

8/24/75

Mr. F. Peter Model
37 Riverside Drive
New York, N.Y. 10023

Dear Peter,

Your letter of the 21st is kind and thoughtful as is the effort you report in it. I do appreciate it, more because so few have been so willing.

I remember the night we spent together well and got the same impression that whether or not Baxter was honest he is a bit paranoid. I remember also that all I then told both of you was in confidence and subject to the purchase of ancillary rights to Post Mortem. Please you also remember it because otherwise there is going to be a nasty situation. I am proceeding to bring this book out and I will be doing whatever I can about any further ripping off of any of my work. ~~It is a very serious situation~~

It has become an industry I am going to have to end, partly because the rippers off misuse it. You should recall my explanations of this, including Robert Groden.

Waiting for Baxter to come back to me delayed effort to seal the ancillary rights but ~~it~~ on the next approach someone did come here and does have copies of enough for his publication to make a decision. There thus will be other and wealthy interest in any plagiarism.

If it were not for the personal relationship, I'd have done something about what Robert did in Rolling Stone. He has lost his balance on this from the attention he has received. He has talked himself into believing what is not true. In that piece, aside from using and not crediting my published work he also used something that to his knowledge was stolen from me. I have a full record on this and because it is from theft and not from research that duplicated my work I will have to do something if you use it. If you read that piece with care you will see a meaninglessness on this written into it.

Do your book but be careful, not to use any of my work because I have not and cannot and will not give permission for it. Robert has not had permission to use any of it and he hasn't even asked.

If you reflect on this you will understand that it is not unfriendliness. You will do better to write the book without writing any problems into it. I was quite open with you that night because you were to be the Argosy writer on the proposal I made and on which there is subsequent correspondence. And it is all copyrighted. As you presume, Baxter has not proceeded on the offer.

That night is not uncharacteristic of the life I lead. I worked the night before until I fell asleep working. That night I got less than three hours sleep. Night before last less than three after being up 25 hours. I've not rested and I am tired so if any of this seems unclear please ask me and I'll clarify it. I've just returned from another short trip.

I don't want to paperback Frame-Up now. I have too many hardbacks to sell. I do not want to paperback the Whitewash series because without a hefty advance I do not believe probable it will cost me money. The sale of the original editions is quite good and is what keeps me going at all. I have already obtained estimates on the two close to out of print and I do expect to be able to swing the financing.

This does not mean that I do not want a publisher. I do. Remember, the offer to Argosy included a condensation offer on Post Mortem. I will still want that after I print the unabridged work to which I am now adding other new evidence. No condensation will have any acceptability without the backstopping of the full work, however, because it is too Byzantine, too unprecedented.

I have other works in part^{ly} written. The last thing I want to be is my own publisher. I'd much rather spend that time writing other books. So, when I can I'll be in touch with Littell, but not on any of the proposals it was so kind of you to make for me.

My immediate situation is that I've raised some money that enables me as a publisher to hire some help that will be here Tuesday for two weeks only, competent help, which is rare in this field, and I have to prepare for using that short time to the maximum. I have other and potentially valuable arrangements made for that particular work and there is a ~~deadline~~ deadline that can hit me any time after Labor Day, which is close. Before then I must be as close as humanly possible to actual printing, for which I do have arrangements already made and a ~~schedule~~ printer's schedule with which to conform.

I know that it can appear to be unappreciative and other things but I can't now discuss what I can't do with Littell and I can't, when I'm working an average of 19 or more hours a day and not keeping up, engage in any lengthy kind of dialogue for the future. I'm quite willing to talk to Littell by phone but I can't go to New York now on anything, not even a deal on a future book. I have the immediate one to get put under enormous liabilities and unending problems. I am willing to discuss any of the future possibilities so that he can be thinking about them and after this book is in manufacture we can talk about them more. Remember, I am one man who is investigator, researcher, writer and publisher and I'm in litigation with the FBI right now. And from the years and all this I really am pooped.

Because I do recognize your kindness and do appreciate it I take the time to go further in what I strongly encourage you to believe is your interest and Manor's. Robert is an expert on nothing except photo-optics. He moves without realizing it and is entirely out of control. He is off on an ego trip and can't recognize that. He is overly-impressed with the commercialism of him and what attention and revenue it has produced. And he has been getting away with murder. I have enough recollection of the Argosy piece to know that you also are not expert. Writers generally are not and this is no reflection on you. You were quite honest about the deficiencies of that piece the night we spent together. But if you are rushing out a book, as you say and the market potential demands, and you are neither of you experts, this alone can make trouble for you and for Manor. Robert can't give you anything of his own besides his photo-optics and the insanity of his public statements already wrecked beyond repair by the Rockefeller Commission Report which is neither inaccurate nor dishonest but rather is understated on this. Robert if he is honest will tell you I kept warning him about this all along and there are countless others who know it and some who also had no influence on him. He knows so little he phoned me before his confrontations so I could prep him for them. It has come to the point where he can't even be truthful and this is tragic as it is emotional and not his character. He also makes promises, as he did in June with many witnesses that he then does not keep. And when I've asked him for copies of Zapruder prints other than the one he knows I have he has told me that he hasn't made them, and others have told me, others plural and as recently as Friday, ^{he says} that he does not have them and never did. This might indicate to you that he has other than simple ego involvements. One of the two important things he has done, the slow-motion, was my idea. I am not certain whether the isolation was his or mine. At every step he brought his work here for me to go over. Including what is ~~garbage~~ garbage about the film showing an assassin in the bushes and I then warned him the film does not and cannot show it. But it is I who urged him to study the part after 343. If you have questions, call me and I'll not object to your taping it. Thanks and best,

FP Model & Company, Inc.
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

21st August 1975

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route # 8
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Harold:

I've thought of you often since that rather flaky evening of June 23d, with our unstable friend Ernest Baxter of Argosy. As I told your godson's father, young Groden, I have a hunch Baxter was being less than honest with you, that nothing will ever come of his grandiose publishing plans -- much less of the magazine itself.

Which is why I've taken the liberty of talking about you to John S. Littell, editor-in-chief of Manor Books Inc. Manor, nee MacFadden-Bartell, is a reorganized, well-capitalized, aggressive paperback house, and I have urged them to talk to you about paperbacking Frame-Up. They might also be in the position of helping you re-issue Whitewash I-IV.

John Littell is expecting your call. He's at (212) 686-9100, and if things are tight, call him collect. He'll probably take it out of my hide, anyway, as Groden and I have just contracted with Manor to do a fast, updated and expanded book-length version of the Argosy piece. Naturally, should you by the remotest chance be still in dialogue with Baxter, I would not want Ernie to hear of this project as he's apt to (frankly) fuck things up with his peculiar flair for paranoia.

I advised Littell that if your phone dialogue goes well, that you two should meet; I also suggested that Manor should be prepared to spring for a Metroliner ticket, and I think they will. He understands the circumstances in which you find yourself.

Do yourself a well-deserved favor: move on this. I have a hunch you could make yourself a couple of bucks. Manor's address, by the way, is 432 Park Avenue South (28-29th sts) NYC 10016.

Warmest regards.



FP Model & Company, Inc.

37 RIVERSIDE DRIVE/NEW YORK CITY 10023



Mr. Harold Weisberg
Rt # 8
Frederick, Md. 21701