

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
11/20/76

Mr. Peter G. Grenquist, President
Trade Book Division
Prentiss-Hall, Inc.
Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632

Dear Mr. Grenquist,

Your rapid acknowledgement of 11/18 and some of the language in it appear to me to be signs of good intentions. I therefore find it welcome and want to do as much as I can for you or your people may ask so you can be satisfied and so that the continuing damage can be relieved. By a carbon I am informing my counsel, Jim Lesar.

I do believe it would be very helpful to you for your counsel to speak to him as soon as possible. This is not only because he is my lawyer. It is more because of his own dealings with Lane and on this subject and because of the problems presented to him as James Earl Ray's only counsel of record by some of Lane's incredibly unethical acts. You became involved in them because of your contractual relationship with Lane. I knew Lane well enough to be confident he is trading on your name in these things.

You are welcome to show him not only the letter you refer to but all of them. I believe I told you this in my first letter. I'll go farther. You can arrange a confrontation between him and me. This will eliminate his possibility of deceiving you. Over the years of his thievery and dissembling he has had stock non-responses, such as that I am impossible, that nobody can get along with me, that I imagine these things, etc. What is immediately in question is fact, not opinion. You have little way of knowing whether his representations are factual. I do. So does Les Payne when he returns. (He should then be in a position to do a unique book of current topicality, if I may suggest it.) Ordinarily I would not expect Lane to agree to any such confrontation. However, he now has enough at stake so that he might. If there is one I'd like it to be tape recorded and be available to the current House of Representatives investigating committee which he has already led into difficulties by a combination of his thefts and dishonesties. These do defame the FBI and they have misled the committee. That Lane is the cause of the most recent one was confirmed to Mr. Lesar and me Wednesday when the chief counsel asked us to defer on this subject.

When you have a contract with Lane and he is misleading a Congressional inquiry in a field in which he has done no original work I think you do have an involvement whether or not you intend it. This is separate from the damage to me. The committee now has no way of knowing this. However, in the spirit of your third paragraph, I am informing you. Also, I believe that what he has done subjects him to bar disciplining. While I believe you have no knowledge of this I do believe it can and will react against you.

Under normal conditions the existence of a contract for a book on a subject can discourage another publisher from becoming interested in that subject. In this case what is not normal, the thievery, combined with the known existence of the contract is in itself damaging to me. I have had this experience with Lane before. You are welcome to the records. Leslie Frewin, in England, was drafting a contract for my first book when he was fed false information about the appearance of Lane's, which was contracted by the Bedley Head. The false information related to the pub date. Frewin feared it would cream the market. As a result he decided against publishing my book. The reverse situation was the actuality. Lane's book did not appear in any form, anywhere until long after I published mine and that was quite long after Frewin was deceived.

It appears to me that your interest and mine are both best served by your doing whatever you may do as speedily as possible. Without some assurance of this I will have to ask Mr. Lesar to do what he considers appropriate and necessary under the circumstances. Mr. Lesar's two phones are 202/223-5587 and 484-6023.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg