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8/14/65

Dear Sol,

I hadn't been in touch, except to find out how your operation left you, because I knew how much more busy this absence from the office must have made you. Now I regret it because there appears to have been a confusion. The way I understood it, you were going to proceed to effect the return of my manuscript and materials and collect the moneys due me, but were going to wait before filing a suit for breach of contract. We can get together after your return.

As of today, the book is under active consideration by Collins, a major British publisher, which asked Sir Hartley Shawcross, QC, for a legal reading. He told them his connections with the British Government precluded any public statement, so it is now in the hands of another Queen's Counsellor.

There is a clear probability of plagiarism in France, whether by the publisher, who had my manuscript - still has it after 2 1/2 months- or another, I'm not in a position to say. The only thing that is certain is that the publisher violated our agreement. As a matter of fact, when it called for a determination of which I'd be immediately informed by July 1 I have heard nothing formally. Four letters have gone unanswered.

I had an agent, a major one, who said the book was excellent but three weeks ago said he thought no American publisher would touch it. The book is now at Atheneum, which promised a three-week reading and is aware of other considerations, including the history in brief. The authority of the person with whom I spoke by phone, Janet Wiener, is unknown to me. I sure wish it could be faster than three weeks.

I am taking steps to copyright the book, having learned some of the technicalities of the law. Athenium is run by Simon (?) Bessie, Harriet Pilpel's brother-in-law.

All of this has cost us a great amount in cash and time and has precluded other things which should have been income producing. The agent wants me to be working on another book, which he believes could also make a movie. Our suit against the government was finally filed, after 15 months, and that takes a little time. Between the two situations, I'm not emotionally geared to constructive writing. What I have done is not good, but I'm working on a bunch of stuff.

So, my opinion of lawyers, based upon a fortunately limited experience, is roughly similar to that of publishers.

By the time you return, really the end of next week, Ubolensky will have had my manuscript for 6 months. It leaves an additional problem, a legal one with other publishers.

All of this keeps Lil unproductively busy, not a happy condition. We both hope you have made a good recovery and are having a relaxing and stimulating vacation. Regards

Sincerely,

SOL RABKIN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
315 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016
MURRAY HILL 9-7400

August 6, 1965

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coque d'Or Farm
Hyattstown, Maryland 20734

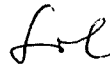
Dear Harold:

In going through the material in my dispatch case to make sure that everything that had to be done was being done before I leave for my vacation on August 8, during which time I will go to Greece and Italy and be back about September 10, I came across the material you had given me.

As I recall it, we had left matters in status quo until you will let me know publication plans on your book. Has anything developed? Please write me at my home, 395 Ocean Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11226, telling me what the situation is so that I can know what further steps I should take when I return from Europe.

I hope everything is going well with you and Lil and that your income crisis has been solved. Frieda and Nancy send their regards.

Sincerely,



SR:mr