

4/26/71

Dear Paul,

Got your, er, that is, your wife's, complaint today. Enjoyed reading it and as soon as I did I phoned someone on the Washington Post, which has a thing about any kind of bugging, who is interested and to whom I'll be sending it with the same mail as this. You may or may not hear from them. If you do, do or do not do whatever you think serves your interest. Because it is a court paper, nobody need know how they got it or learned of it, and there is nothing I told them that committed you to anything.

All I told them about you is that you are a solid citizen, not any kind of "nut", to the best of my knowledge sincerely devoted to serving the interests of your employer when you were his employee, and protecting him.

The subtleties arena a delight. My hat is off to someone.

You have said nothing farther about the book. I have to go to NYC early next week. If I can get to see someone I think can be interested, someone to whom I have made casual mention of this in the past (and gotten casual expression of interest), I'll raise the question again, this time mentioning the suit. I hope to have that copy of the complaint back by then. If I do, I'll take it along. I have a strange notion a bit more could be said that therein is! But I think it can be a bit provocative.

I wish I thought there were some chance of my getting there sometime soon. I'd like to know more about what you say or can say, for I think it can be a valuable literary property. And the people I have in mind are big enough, wealthy and capable enough, to make something of it, in all dimensions. They are entirely non-political in their publishing and if they have any politics, it is not reflected in their publishing. It is not in any sense a "liberal" outfit. They publish by what they conceive to be proper, commercial publishing standards, and that runs pretty much the entire political spectrum, when there are political contents or considerations. To the degree any big outfit is unafraid, they are.

Somebody is going to have to be out of his mind to let your case go to trial.

A little eastern attention to your here-unreported suit might promote a little interest in your book. If the Post doesn't go for it, when I get the complaint back, there are other things I can try.

Meanwhile, if I may offer some unsolicited advice, if you are proceeding on your own with the book, stay away from the right-wing publishers except as a last resort. Often the least valuable part of a literary property is the initial hardback appearance. Try for a package, which is what I have in mind. This means that the company that has the ultimate paperback rights, if you deal with them, work on the hardback publisher to really do something with it, otherwise their reprint rights have less value and more cost (as in advertising). As I believe I told you, I think this could also have movie interest, and I know someone there, too.

Good luck!

Hurriedly,