

12/20/69

Dear Russ,

It's been a mixed-up time of too much to do and many visitors, so, I forgot to mail this, after putting it aside for that purpose.

I've just finished a 10-12,000 addition to the addition to COUP, dealing with two things, the suit I am about to file (and the federal responses to my inquiries, on which Louis Carroll could not improve) and the Black Panther murders. If anyone in TV could and would take a cool look at it, with the appropriate Angew backdrop, I think they'd go for that part of it, formulated other than I do it.

Meanwhile, the feeling of impotence is overwhelming. Everybody is missing the boat. And there is not much I can do about it.

All the holy ones are more Catholic than the pope.

I've finally reached the conclusion that the militant blacks are not so much persuaded that all whites are whitey and the enemy as much as they will this to be so.

Lemmings.

Twixt and tween I've just read a novel I recommend, Sam Ellison's "The Spook Who Sat by the Door". Chicago and black guerrilla warfare.

Two small publishers have expressed interest in total COUP. I've had a copy for only one, who has it. The other may be in touch with you, Moore Pub. Co., Durham, N.C. - Gil Barker. I told him of your novel. He'll be back this way in a month. The one with the book is Luce, now Luceless (no loss). I don't know where, if anywhere, the agent has it. I heard only that it took it back from Baron. Not suffering the usual writer vanity, I've told both the minimum condition is immediate appearance of the complete, unedited work in a private printing. They can contract and popularize and each edition will note the other. I get the private printing. This is a stiff price. But I'm not interested in a year from now and I've learned some lessons, including about editing.

I tremble at the size of this work, its scope also bearing me down. Lil is less than half-way through it carding for index, and she has 3,000 cards. It is not only well over 300,000 words, but it has a vast appendix for the part you have. And I really want to do some notes updating that but I also fear to. How big can a book be, how costly? and still sell.

I feel so much as a few must have during the early days just before and then under Hitler, before it got really rough.

Have a good holiday

Sincerely,