

1/11/74

Dear Abbey,

Vacation? Man that must be better than fuel oil!

It has been so long since I had one I don't think I'd know what to do with it. Or on it. Which is separate from not being able to pay for it.

There are many new developments in my work, but there is no advantage and much disadvantage in disclosing them when there is no book to back them up or be sold by them. I have no interest in personal publicity.

The strange thing I didn't anticipate is that there is a new generation that is anxious to be able to have access to the "old" developments. If I had thought of it I would not have been surprised. But once they were reminded - well!

From about the first of October there have been fewer than five days on which I have not received unsolicited orders. There has been no day on which I didn't get a check for previous orders when there was no new order in that mail. Or, not a single day without some business on the old books in more than four months.

This is really exceptional.

Only a couple have even mentioned Executive Action, and those few in questioning ways. They were uneasy about the content. Not as entertainment, but they wondered if it lived up to the (factual) billing. Good sign. It doesn't.

In this time I've done no advertising, made no promotional appearances, etc. People are ordering from old books, to the address we left more than six years ago, or from the listing in Books In Print.

If Whitewash could be reissued now it could be a best-seller. All over again.

So, your guy could have had an interesting show and maybe I'd have sold a few more books.

The author of the book coming out the end of the year is a young man in college and too busy to do anything now. It also would do him and the book no good. I have told him about you and when the book is out he will be in touch. He carries a very heavy schedule and maintains a 4. average. He hardly has time to write letters. Reads 2,000 pages a week plus texts, that kind of course. And thesis, too. He usually comes here for the holidays but didn't this one.

I suspect, if I can anticipate your question, why this rekindled interest, that the 10th anniversary and the corruption of Watergate account for most of it. I know I have done no single thing to entice it. The odd thing is that the underground books, those publishers would not touch, are the only ones still available. I got a virtual monopoly! If I had any way of advertising, could I sell books!

Sorry about the confusion, but thanks for your understanding.

Best regards,

JANUARY 9, 1974

DEAR HAROLD,

I WOULD HAVE ANSWERED YOU SOONER, BUT YOUR LETTER CAME WHILE I WAS ON VACATION. I TALKED TO BILL AND HE SAYS HE THOUGHT HE HAD SAID THAT WEDNESDAY WAS OUT, AND HE WOULD CALL TO SET UP ANOTHER TIME.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE MIXUP CAME, BUT I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE WE CAUSED YOU. I FEEL DOUBLY BAD BECAUSE I PREVAILED UPON AN OLD ACQUAINTENCE FOR A FAVOR, AND AS YOU SAY, THERE REALLY WAS NOTHING IN IT FOR YOU.

SINCE "EXECUTIVE ACTION" WAS RELEASED, ANY NEW DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR INVESTIGATIONS WOULD BE INTERESTING NEWS. SO, IF WE CAN GIVE YOU A BOOST IN SOME WAY, DON'T HESITATE TO GIVE ME A CALL... COLLECT. WHEN WE TALKED, YOU MENTIONED A FELLOW IN PHILADELPHIA WHO HAS A BOOK ON THE WARREN REPORT, ETC. SOON TO BE RELEASED. I WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN TALKING WITH HIM, AND WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD LET ME KNOW WHERE I CAN REACH HIM. AGAIN, MY APOLOGIES AND BEST WISHES, AS ALWAYS.

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