

20734

October 3, 1966

Dear Paul,

If I had been fortunate enough to encounter people in the publishing business as decent as you (plural) have been, my entire history, and perhaps not mine alone, might have been different. It was both thoughtful and helpful of you to call. I had to rush to town to mail a copy of the manuscript to my agent in England and as soon as I came home I wrote Wainright. A copy of the letter is enclosed. I really need several more copies of the ms. Having it xeroxed on your own machine may be a burden, even an impossibility. If it is not, I'll gladly pay for it. Say three more copies, if your people can do it, four. If you cannot, you need not apologize. Had I ready alternatives, I'd not ask it. When I see you, which I hope will be soon, I'll explain. I hope it was not unwise to offer Wainright the right to make a Xeroxed copy while preserving my rights. I know what Popkin and NYReview did after I had a copyright, and a few others. An editor of the Sat. Eve. Post who is becoming an expert on the writing in this field (they have Founding Father Whelan in Dallas looking for assassins) tells me he has seen traces in eight works, including similar paragraph structure.

It can be quite helpful to me in the future if you can save any releases on the subject that may come in.

Please say nothing about Dell's interest. I have not agreed and very well may not, but a rumor or leak, even if right, could kill the sale of WHITEWASH now, and it is doing well. Obviously, this is important to me.

Things that should never happen continue to. Parts of the ms. that I had sent my English agent as it came from the typewriter never reached him. His return of what he had was not only opened, but labelled as having been opened. This is by no means the only such incident. I lost publication in hardback in England some months ago because of non-delivery of mail.

Also enclosed is the addition to the chapter "The Hoover Diversion" which my wife typed while I was in New York last weekend. I'd appreciate it if you could Xerox these few pages and add them in the appropriate place and return the carbons.

I may be in New York Thursday or Friday. If I am I'll phone to see if you have any interesting news and what you and Mel think of the sequel. I have all the evidence cited, including pictures and documents.

Although there is no doubt in my mind about how trustworthy you and Mel are, I would also like to ask that you not talk about the sequel to others. I think it is of some importance, and I'd like to be the first to use my own material, at least from here on.

Again, thanks for being the kind of fine human being I once thought everyone tried to be. It was decent of you.

Sincerely,

*Enc - 1/6 in reply 1/7  
part ms 10/10/66*