

7/21/73

Dear Barry,

This letter is really for Maxine Cheshire but perhaps you'd like to read it first. I've just read her story headed "Watergate 'Writer' Ill in Jail."

Until quite recently Hunt's agent was and for a long time had been Maxwell Wilkinson. Until the death of his partner (about 1968) he had a Manhattan office. The agency seems to have ended with that death and Max operated out of his home in suburban New York, I think somewhere on Long Island. Max placed Give Us This Day.

For perhaps two months Max repped me, in 1965, long enough to end a live deal I took to him, thus my interest.

He had been a magazine editor until he retired from that and became an agent.

If you want to do any checking on MacCampbell, of whom I know nothing, your book-review editor or your library should have JMP, standing for Literary Marketplace. Max is aging or since I saw him last may have aged much. He was not young then. If MacCampbell has no listing, he may be a helper Max has engaged to assist in creating a Hunt industry. Another alternative is that he is an employee of another agency. Perhaps Miss Cheshire knows what I do not, having spoken to him. What I have in mind is that if Max is not incapacitated, there might be some reason for the change in agents.

My knowledge of publishing law is limited. From this limited understand I'd say that most of the rights to Hunt's work, if it may be so styled, have reverted to him. I think that in the absence of departure from contractual norm, the period is five years, unless the publishers keep the books in print. If this is correct, because he had several publishers, the simultaneous sale of 17 of his books none of which was ever charged with having any literary merit might in itself be interesting.

Under the pseudonym Robert S(alisbury) Dietrich, where Gordon Davis is given as a pseudonym, Contemporary Authors lists Fawcett, Dell, and Lancer as his publishers. Six of the 13 books there listed were Dell's. Of the 13, the two latest were Fawcett's, 1964 and 1965. (I gave the Post a copy of this last year.)

He also used David St. John and John Baxter. Some novels by one Leigh James read like Hunt. I've not checked Leigh James through the standard directories.

The quote attributed to Dr. Comer is less than precise, which does make me wonder. All a doctor needs to discuss a case is the patient's o.k.

The spookery tends to prefer those with some pre-existing psychological problems. Paranoids tend to be more security-conscious. Those with a tendency toward self-destruction are often more daring. My personal contacts with those who share Hunt's political views, especially those actively anti-Castro, are fairly extensive. If there is one who did not have apparent emotional problems, I can't recall it. I expected Hunt's deterioration before it was reported. I'll not be surprised if this ends like a novel, with him flipping entirely.

If I had the means of getting to Danbury, I might ask to see him. Not over Cuba. Rather another area and something personal. I have reason to believe our paths may have crossed. It was no benefit to me if it happened. If Miss Cheshire has MacCampbell's address, I'd appreciate it. Should it be possible for me to get to Danbury, I'd write MacCampbell. Not Bittman, whose firm has handled CIA work. (Have you traced out how Hunt got him? While Hunt was on the lam, and when he decided to return, about the July 4 weekend, through an intermediary to whom he had earlier introduced Liddy and by phone he asked that counsel be engaged for him. Liddy arranged for Caddy. Hunt rejected Caddy.)

Happy Hunting.

Sincerely,