

Dear Jim,

9/16/74

Hoch's writing each of the publications to which he made submissions of our work does not end the potential problems.

I appreciate your calling last night. It was a bad day for other reasons and you eased it by that much.

You say that Paul has asked eached to preserve confidentiality when he first wrote each. (Ir he was more crooked than I'd thought.)

There is nothing to prevent any one from duplicating the more sensational content on its own. We can hope it doesn't happen but there is nothing to prevent it.

Therefore, in our own protection, we should also have copies of those letters in which the submission or the approach was made on a confidential basis.

If we are jumped on this it may still be impossible to do anything.

But having that correspondence may be of value and it would be better to have it before there is any issue.

Now that this is or appears to be resolved except for the potential for harm that is beyond our doing anything about now, let me tell you what I have not told you before.

My relationship with Paul was based on his assurance that he would do no writing. Thus for years I used him as a duplicate depository. Until there was cause not to trust. I stood quite literally for hours and made and mailed copies.

The first time I met him he immediately breached confidence in a way that was very hurtful. I then accepted his explanation that he had misunderstood, that he did not understand what preserving confidence really meant.

He had not found the Sibert-O'Neill report. This was in the late Spring of 1966. If then was buying copies of what I planned to use immediately only because I was then trying not to get too deeply into debt. I told him how to get it on his assurance that he would respect my rights to what I found on my own and I was then researching the second book. You will note that while it is relevant to that book I did not use it in it. This is because of what happened as a result of what Hoch did in preserving confidence.

He immediately sent a copy to Salandria, with no restrictions. Salandria immediately phoned Epstein, whose book by then was set in type if not already manufactured but not released. Epstein phoned a man I had met, Tom Gervasi, then p.r. man for Viking. Meanwhile, not knowing anything of this and having Sylvia Meagher's assurance that Epstein's was this towering work that would put all else to shame, when Gervasi asked for help I gladly gave it. Epstein would not even go to the Archives to get stuff and wouldn't even tell Gervasi how to. So, I did all of this. Even though WW was out. Even to giving Gervasi an application blank, names, phone numbers, etc. So, he merely phoned the Archives and got other of my work.

This stuff actually destroys the Epstein basis. But it was used to make an enormous increase in the Bantam first print of the reprint, in which it was just an irrelevant appendix of sensation-misused. Until it wore off and I'd not be accused of stealing I made no use. IN PM you'll see what none of them understood. EW