

September 10, 1966

Mr. Philip Wittenberg  
70 West 40th. St.,  
New York, N.Y. 10018

Dear Mr. Wittenberg,

I may now need a lawyer with your skills and dispositions. It appears as though Viking has, in effect sold my material, given then in confidence, to Bantam for an appendix to the Bantam edition of INQUEST. Besides the continuing dirty things an early one of which I referred to you, there is a clear inference that part of Lane's book comes from mine.

Perhaps you read the July 28 issue of the New York Review of Books. You keep up with things in the book business better than I, and may have seen the ad for the new Avon-New York Review book by Popkin. It is on page 14 of the September 5 issue. I have not seen it but a friend has described it, including the use of my name on their cover.

While I cannot vouch for the accuracy of my information, I have reason to believe it. Avon is said to be holding back on their advertising until I sue them, which I have not suggested. I have never spoken to anyone at Avon, or to any one else about it. I never thought of it. Of course, I had no knowledge of what they were doing until tonight.

Our situation has improved considerably, at least on paper. We have sold 10,000 copies of WHITENASH despite everything and with the improvised distribution we have in but a small area. The third printing of 8,000 is just out of the bindery. And I am almost finished a very rough rough draft of a sequel, WHITENASH II: WHO DID IT. In it I tell who did the whitewashing and how, with names and I think you will find quite shocking documentation and proofs. I also believe those who read it will understand how it was possible for men like Earl Warren and some of the other Commission members to make the mistakes they did.

Meanwhile, I am seriously concerned about the Reichstag fire potential that is in all of this, which is not a bit diminished by the very nasty things that are being done, or the kinds of public-relations that are being engaged in.

If, as I think, I need help, I hope you can offer it. If not, can you make any suggestions?

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg