

August 7, 1969

Mr. Stephen L. Bair
Dell Publishing Co.,
750 Third Ave.,
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Bair,

Thanks for your letter of the fourth and the enclosed copy of your letter to Bill Lucas. I have a high regard for Bill. His failure to keep his promise to do what you asked when he had promised me to do it after our March conversation, leads me to believe it is a kind of lawyer's embarrassment I may perhaps not quite understand. If you do not have this after what you regard as a reasonable time, I would like to talk to you further along the lines you have already suggested, with which I agree. In your position you understand the situations in which writers sometimes find themselves, and I do have need for this money.

With further regard to the Enle book, I would like further information. If you are unwilling to provide it, I will not regard it as improper. My interest has nothing to do with Dell but does have much to do with the case, with which I assume you have no personal familiarity. In short, while I do want the information, I will not regard it as wrong if you not to supply it for I recognize it may be what you would not want to let anyone know.

What was the advance? I know how much of it he gave Ray/Hanes.

Did he ever give you any manuscript of the book? He indicated in a letter that it had been completed and he expected May 15 publication. The date of that letter is reasonable indication he had by then delivered the manuscript. From this, were it the case, I would presume Dell found it not acceptable (as I would from the Look articles").

Has he indicated when you may expect a manuscript, or that he has withdrawn, or is there a tentative publication date?

He changed the title from "They Slew the Dreamer" to "He Slew the Dreamer". For whatever it may be worth to you, I am satisfied the second title is not accurate, not in terms of legal evidence, anyway. To me this indicates a different book than contracted. If there is any comment on this you would care to make, if not for use, I would welcome it.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg