

Dial 11/16/65

Although Robert at Dell had decided there was no public interest in the subject, I wanted to try one of their hard-back houses. Iva Cpalan recommended Dial rather than Dalscorde, which has a closer corporate and/or editorial connection with Dell. She checked around and suggested I speak to Ed Doctorow.

I told him briefly about the book, he said he was interested, and I left a copy for him late in the p.m. He said he'd read it in a week to 10 days.

11/30 After four unsuccessful efforts to reach Doctorow by phone ( he was in conferences or at lunch, which is, apparently, the longest single part of an editor's day, lasting from about noon until as late as 4, and in this case, if his secretary is to be credited, until about 3 or 3:30) his secretary-assistant told me he had read it and had not made up his mind. I had told her that if he had finished with it and no longer needed it, I did. As a matter of fact, I needed an extra copy that particular day, for Peralex.

12/13/65. Prior to picking up the book I had phoned and, with Doctorow in a conference, spoken to his assistant. She said she thought he had reached a decision and I replied that should tell me what it is. She said she didn't recall and would prefer to get the book and see what it is. I called back later and she said merely, "It is not for us - right now". I said only that I'd pick it up, and I did. The attached note was with it.