

MAY 12 1973

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Dear Jsq

New York was tiring. And I'll never buy good shoes again! Couple of years ago there was this Florsheim sale, half-price, and I got a pair of nice ones, while I was still going around speaking. Wore them a couple of times after oiling and they were pretty good. But I walked in New York and in notime flat had a couple of the largest blisters! Most of our friends haven't been alive as long as it has been since the last blisters I had. So,, I'm tired and I have blisters. But, they didn't stop me from walking, and I mean really walking! which also gave me thinking time. I'm in a little better shape if I wasn't Doubled Xed to get rid of me.

Two of the wholesalers have agreed to settle. That we'll have to see. One has agreed to pay the shipping costs of books he returned to the wrong address. And Dutton is buying Outerbridge and has agreed to pay me what has been collected on my sold books and in return for my not pressing a claim for \$10,000 for the sold copies (1,000 x\$10) has agreed to give me the remaining 2,000 and the unbound pages, shipped at their cost. That awaits conclusion of the matter of the unapid advance. David, to whom I'd written in advance and who was careful not to phone (he wired at 6:52 p.m. last Friday-not clever) has a lawyer. Dutton put me in touch and he has agreed to give me substantiation of the figures. It will be my way or fraud. Or David, if he wants his Dutton deal, will have authentic ones. He never dreamed I'd take his corrspodence into the president of Dutton, which is precisely what I did. Said president didn't seem too happy about what David said about ~~him~~ Dutton selling my remainders and blaming it on Dutton.

Whole I'm not there I have no way of knowing what will be done, but I'm not without some hope now.

And the strangest thing is that all the people at the wholesalers' and at the DA's office (fraud, but civil, not criminal) remember my first TV shows and said so. One of these guys actually was late for a banquet and drove me all the way accross town in the wrong direction to save me calling a cab.

The lawyer who has done nothing got himself disbarred in an unusual humanitarian act. He didn't tell me but I suspected it immediately. So, in the course of searching for him I spoke to an old friend, the on- who had sent me to him. He is also a lawyer and is back in the literary field. I spent an evening and a night with him (thank God for permanent press shirts!) and he thinks a WG book is not impossible. He says all the publishers will fear that Bantam will cream them and won't go for it. What I think is worse is writing a book on an breaking story. I'm not supposed to know it but Bantam is (secret) doing one called White House Conspiracy, by Clark Mollenhoff. However, I have something else in mind and it is for this that I wrote without looking at a big stack of mail or even unpacking. I think I have enough that has not been published and is not likely to to have fresh copy on fact. I have a different approach in mind. While trying to catch up on some Timeses I bought and didn't have time to read returning on the bus the title Watergate:Fascism's Floodgate suggested itself. I would like to treat the whole thing as a CIA story and as that of the new American Authoritarianism. My friend things the CIA part is viable, but the problem there is exculpatating the Trickydiick. I'd like to review, bad word for a hot book, what the CIA has done by training all these anti-democrats and turning them loose and combine that with what WG really means. However, I haven't had time to thing and won't because the immediate needs are priority and I must first do what getting something dor the bank requires. I need a formula. 'f you have any suggestions, I'd welcome them as soon as you can swim to the surface.

The ACLU, which had written that they were too busy and the case would require investigation beyond their means, has changed its mind. I just barged in and sat until the Big Man came in. We were supposed to have about 5 minites but it was much or a morning. He has dropped all that and wants board approval now. I am to write the memo that will enable it. When I told him what I'd already done he forgot about the investigation part and agreed that if there is approval, depositions will do it. Or, we depose Hunt and the like. He was also quite impressed by the court of appeals decision in my spectro case. He mentioned it often and as I was leaving took me to the Big Boss of all the Big Men to introduce me and to refer to it. If I've had my experiences with liberals, I'll hope and I'll do the memo.

But I've an awful lot to do, over and above the too much that I left and the week's accumulation of clips, the gress is 12" and a friend is coming tomorrow. I'm to bed. HW