

July 27, 1965

Mr. Robert Penn Warren
West Wardsboro,
Vermont

Dear Red:

Thanks for the recent communications. The enclosures are safely here.

The letter from Neibuhk was really impressive. I wish that I could report more impressive response on the part of the public: it is not bad, but it seems to hold steady at an average of 250 a week, so far. If it would keep that pace for several years, there would be nothing to complain about.

The real trouble, of course, is the absolute glut of reading material on that subject and the feeling of many people that they have read all they intend to about it. This was dramatized by the recent response of Victor Weybright at New American Library. They not only do not want to make an offer of any size for the reprint rights; they are trying to get out of some existing contracts which they made some time ago to do other books on the subject. Because of this reaction, I strongly advise you to agree to a Vintage edition as soon as possible—probably Spring-1966. I believe that this would generate about as much revenue as any arrangement we could make outside, and it would certainly increase the number of readers, especially among the young and non-affluent. Since I cannot tell them to go ahead until I have your approval, I hope you will let me have it right away.

We have no news beyond the advent of Bridgeport hydrolic water—on a limited basis for the time being. They tore me and the place apart getting it in.

Love to all from all,

AE:sb