

January 22,
1963.

Dear Mr. Fles:-

Indeed, in no way did I mean to cause offence-believe me. Being a trusting soul who has had a recent hurt, I was trying only to be businesslike. I assumed that all authors who had agents also had a contract with that agent. And I was afraid that either I misunderstood, or you are under the impression that I know more than you have told me of your list of authors. I only knew Frank and the WhiteHouse story. Not knowing New York circles of the present, nor publishers to whom I would care to write, I was only seeking solid ground to stand on. I did feel myself being pushed into a decision but perhaps that was my misunderstanding. As I have some very loyal backers who have helped me in the long gathering of my material, I just must discuss this with them before I place the book in anyones hands. Your first letter did not give me the impression that the talk with Viking was informal. Never having had an agent I know nothing of percentages etc. I was only seeking information.

I am working hard on the text of the book and it begins to swing into line, but there is much checking, and seeking of information to consolidate it all that takes a great deal of time. I am one who has to KNOW that all statements are correct.

Your foreign connections appeal to me greatly and so does Viking. MY CHIEF WORRY IS TO GET THE BOOK FINISHED. In no way am I turning you down, please understand that, but I must consult with my backers before making a final commitment.

If all goes well I shall finish PART I (of four parts) very soon. This is the most difficult and the longest part of the text. Also I must make a duplicate dummy. I know full well that dead lines for next fall's publication are near, but if I cant make it, I just cant- I can only do my best to get it finished as quickly as possible.

With the best of wishes,
Sincerely