

[1948, c. Feb.]

Dear Bob:

Being a man of normal pride, I am ashamed to be obliged to write anybody in the circumstances under which this letter is composed. I am writing in advance of seeing you, so that you will not be put to the sudden embarrassment of a personal discussion for which you have not been prepared.

The circumstances are as follows: during the summer, foreseeing that there might be difficulties in the future, I took steps sharply to cut our living expenses by final preparation of the ranch here in Ventura County as our permanent home---a job which required extensive electrification, road construction for winter usage (we have much snow here) and water development. I had set aside---how unlike me! ---a sum in cash sufficient to handle these essential improvements. Then Washington---\$7,000 as my share. The trial in January or February---another \$4,000. And the expenses of what then will follow, plus the necessity of living without income.

We moved to the ranch on November 22nd, and are living here comfortably---Cleo, the three children and I. We have no servants, nor intend to, and by sharing the work manage to live quite well and very cheaply. But the cost of the improvements, still unpaid for, constitute first liens against the place, and I am desperately afraid that unless I get a war chest together immediately I shall find myself losing everything I have.

There is practically no doubt---or so Martin Gang at least believes---about my getting a most substantial settlement out of Metro. You know the contract and its terms; and it was without morals clauses or options until March of 1950. The best legal opinion believes that---caught as I was in mid-picture, with work already done still un-paid for---I am in letter perfect condition; and that of all the suits mine will be the first settled, the easiest to win and the most substantial. Obviously, however, being under suspension rather than discharge, I am unable even to seek employment elsewhere were it possible for someone to hire me; nor am I legally able to assume a new name and divert whatever talents I have to it until the Metro business is settled.

I am now asking you most earnestly and urgently to lend me five thousand dollars for one year, upon my personal note secured by:

(1) My library---appraised at \$7,000 by an appraisal company for insurance purposes (I'll get this to show you), plus Cleo's silverblu full length mink coat in-



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sured for \$12,000 and presently in storage at I. Rubin. This security is backed up by written agreements that:

(2) I assign to you the sum owing to be deducted from whatever settlement is made with Metro; and

(3) if no settlement is received by me, then I assign a claim against income from the sale of literary material written by me under mine or another name as soon as I am legally free to produce and sell such writings; or

(4) as soon as I am legally able to do so, I would, under another name, give you value received on any script you chose to have me work on.

There's nothing more to say, and I have to have been forced to say as much as I have. I wouldn't ask unless both the need were real and the possibility of repayment, in my own mind at least, certain. I shall be in town and telephone you early in the week; and you must believe me when I say that if you find yourself unable to help, I shall not reproach you nor ever feel reproachfully toward you.

Regards,

Lazy T Ranch  
Frazier Park  
California