

P.O. 17/25/292

23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal.

16th February, 1960.

Dear Leo,

Thank you for your letter of January 13.

1. Yes, I am quite satisfied that you should negotiate with Scribner's on my behalf.
2. I would also be very happy if you negotiate with them on the question of translation rights, and of Canada.
3. I shall try to remember that you are my principal agent, and not to commit myself or give any undertaking.
4. Yes, I am satisfied about a straight 12½% from the beginning.

Now for some other points.

- (a) You will see the first draft of the chapters as soon as Dorrie has completed typing the Oxford chapters, of which there are four, to send to Secretan.
- (b) When you receive these chapters, certain important points will be raised. One will be the style of writing. Another will be how to deal properly with the mass of material. I have made a great many quotations, and on maturer reflection, I might throw most of them away. I would want your advice about this.
- (c) I would also want your advice about the advisability of writing the whole book in this detailed way, and then re-writing it. It is not the actual writing that takes the time, but the assembling of all the material and deciding how to arrange it, and also of course in trying to give elucidation to fresh points and puzzles that present themselves.
- (d) I think I should tell you without further ado that I shall not finish in May. Further I think I shall have to leave our house, but I do not like to leave Dorrie here alone, nor do I like to leave the house alone. But we may have no option. One thing is certain - I

cannot go on like this. I need not detail to you all the other commitments that I have never been able to ignore successfully. For example, there is the musical play, EMKHUMBANE, which Malcolm Woolfson is producing, the book of which I wrote, and the music of which Todd Matshikisa wrote. It is being done for a week here on behalf of the Institute, and it would I feel be quite wrong for me to show no interest in the production, and not be available when some re-writing was wanted. When I get a chance to write, I write well, but I think you, with your scholarly habits, would be quite astonished if you saw in what a piecemeal manner the writing of the biography is being done. It is not a good thing to write a chapter in several sittings, the intervals between which have been occupied by other unrelated matters.

I hope you will write encouragingly to me because it is getting me down at the moment.

May I ask whether you are to be my editor? If I were writing a story, I do not think I would ask for one, but here I think I need one. I hope you will not dismiss lightly my idea of re-writing when all the material has been arranged.

We are glad to hear that Nell is on the mend, and send our love to you both.

Yours ever,

P.S. Please thank Fred Cannon for his message about Mrs. Wren Howard. He will also know of course that Jonathan Cape has gone too.