Dear [name],

Thank you for your letter and the enclosed story. I know it well. What he hates about the Sea of Cortez is that it descends, I mean. He is the same kind of man who screamed with pain at the cruising of the Beagle. Incidentally, I sent Zimmerman on the great adventure, asked him to write a picture script for "Beagle." He refused. It would take three years to do it well.

I don't know how the television series is by now as "Sea of Cortez" progresses. And I don't ask because I am working on a hardcover, my present book. But if it should come to life, I might ask you to stand in for me in the matter of collecting techniques and attitudes. As a matter of fact, with a beard, you could even play [name]. But as I say, I've heard nothing more.

As for the degree, if you could get one without effort, it would do me harm. But the best people want demand of you only the second nature, who have to earn their knowledge in the act of the exercise of their mental organs. Do you know, I turn down at least six honorary degrees a month. Recently a funny thing happened. Maybe I told you. I have always defended the "Protector" on the ground that once I had no degree from...
my own university, Stanford, it would be unwise to accept an honorary one from some other. Well
recently the President of Stanford asked me to be a "fellow" there. I wrote down a note and
then held him the pen cutting the ground out
from under me and asked him to understand
the offer - which he did.

You seem to be having fun. Think
you realized the value of writing our argu-
ments.

Look - you seem to be unhappy with your
agent. Would you like to change mine. The
only one I can think of is Mr. Test. 18 East 41st
St., New York 17. Elizabeth Test or Shirley Fisher,
probably the latter is the best to write to.
Tell Mr. Test. There are wonderful
people and Shirley Fisher in particularse is particularly interested
in your field although not formally trained
in it. You don't have to stay with an agent
you don't want - unless your tenor contract.
I have no contract with them and I've
had them for 25 years.

Tell in a rush next
Thought you'd better be

Yours
J.S.
22 March 65

Dear Jack:

Thanks for your letter and the enclosed story. I know it well. What he hates about the Sea of Cortez is that it describes him. He is the same kind of man who screamed with pain at the Cruise of the Beagle. Incidentally, Fred Zimmerman, the great director, asked me to write a picture script for "Beagle." I refused. It would take three years to do it well. I don't know how the television series is going to be based on "Sea of Cortez" progresses. And I don't ask because I am working so hard on my present book. But if it should come to life, I might ask you to stand in for me in the matter of collecting techniques and attitudes. As a matter of fact, with a beard, you could even play Doc Ricketts. But as I say, I've heard nothing more.

As for the degree - if you could get one without effort, it would do you no harm. But the best people won't demand one of you - only the second raters who have to wear their knowledge in the set of the tassel of their mortar boards. Do you know, I turn down at least six honorary degrees a month. Recently a funny thing happened. Maybe I told you.

I have always refused the "Doctorates" on the ground that since I had no degree from my own university, Stanford, it would be unseemly to accept an honorary one from some other. Well recently the president of Stanford asked me to take a "Doctorate" there. I wrote him a rush note, told him he was cutting the ground out from under me and asked him to withdraw his offer - which he did.

You seem to be doing fine. I think you realize the value of writing one's degrees now.

Look - you seem to be unhappy about your agent. Would you like to query mine - the only ones I ever had. Elizabeth Otis or Shirley Fisher. I'll tell them I have recommended you and you do also if you write to them. They are wonderful people - and Shirley Fisher is particularly interested in your field although not specially trained in it. You don't have to stay with one agent you don't want - unless you have a contract. I have no contract with mine and I've had them for 25 years.

I'm in a rush now -

I thought you'd like teaching

Yours

JS