

13 October 1971

John Fowles, Esq.,

Dear John,

I have very much pleasure in sending you the enclosed letter from Saul Bellow which followed his cable to John Gross, as I thought you would want to see it. Alas, as you will know by now from John Gross the other three judges have voted in the affirmative.

The short-list has been sent to the press with an embargo for Friday and at this stage no public announcement about the dissension, really to avoid drawing any more attention to the name Naipaul at this stage, in I hope what is not a vain attempt to keep speculation alive. Having said this there is no reason at all why you should not make your own feelings perfectly clear if approached. At the time of the announcement of the winner I rather think that an announcement will be made on the eligibility question anyway, perhaps on the basis of "and yet it will come, the readiness is all".

I am unable to think of any other points at this moment, I do hope that you do not feel too badly about this.

Best wishes, as always,

Marilyn Edwards