

D.H.J.

428-1172

Hatch End 3771

36 St. Thomas Drive,
Hatch End,
Pinner,
Middlesex

29. 11. 72

Chairman,

Booker Bros. McConnell Ltd

Dear Mr Bishop

I write as a shareholder of your company to protest strongly at your literary panel choosing John Berger's novel to receive the £5000 prize for fiction - recently awarded.

I was the more surprised to read that the critics (almost to a man) were at a loss to know why it had been chosen at all.

The crowning insult (in my opinion) was the decision of the above person to state publicly that half his prize would be

given to the funds of the Black
Panther movement. If this is
a threat which yr. selection
panel can accept with equanimity,
the vast majority of your
shareholders would react
in just the opposite direction.

If John Berger objected to
the firm so much, I am
wondering why he entered the
contest at all, and many of
your shareholders will be
wondering why, according to
the Sunday press, "you proceeded
to stroke this snappish writer
with the hand he had just
publicly chewed" Cant
Mr Berger be relieved of this

2 to him, obnoxious stunted money? It should be presented to another writer, who would use it to much better advantage than to support a Communist Revolutionary movement which gets Mr Berget's approval, through him, our company's money.

My neighbours of many years standing, and the holders of Booker's shares over many years, ~~with~~ support these views, and have signed this letter also.

Yours sincerely
Arthur J. H. Williams.

Arthur