

To: JNM

8th September 1971

BOOKER PRIZE

Marilyn has been on the phone with various problems, some of which I hope I have settled, others will need your guidance.

1. The second meeting of the judges has now been brought forward to 20th September. At Antonia Frazer's suggestion, Marilyn asked whether the meeting could be here rather than at the Booker flat (it is thought that this will be more impressive to Saul Bellow!) I have made arrangements for the Conference Room to be available on the 20th September from 12.30, and have arranged a lunch for six people. I don't know whether you will wish to see the judges at all when they are here.
2. Saul Bellow is somewhat upset at the suggestion that he should travel tourist class from Chicago. Marilyn feels it might be better to pay him a first class fare rather than having him feel slighted. This does, however, raise the point as to whether expenses should be offered to the other judges. Could you please give Marilyn your ruling on this.
3. Marilyn also raised the question of paying the judges their fee. It is suggested that at the meeting here on 20th September it might be a good idea to have an envelope for each of the judges with a cheque in respect of their fee enclosed. Saul Bellow would also need to be paid the return fare to Chicago (first or tourist, as agreed) since apparently no-one knows his address in the States.
4. There have been various problems on the timing of the announcement of the winner of the prize and Peter Smith will be able to keep you up to date on this. I understand that it has now been agreed NOT to go for the Sunday papers (i. e. the presentation will be mid-week, as originally envisaged).



MJW