

27 Bishops Road London N6 4HR

26 May 1979

Dear Allan

Your May 15 letter arrived yesterday. You should by now have received the re-writes, they were sent immediately, airmail!

Your suggestion for the ~~rewrites~~ change of setting is not a good idea, sounds like panic. Those trade unionists and British cabinet ministers are very British in style and tone. What they talk about is applicable everywhere - in the main, but the manner of their saying it will sound odd if suddenly they are American. Just don't worry about not being able to achieve British accents throughout. Let them try, and if it doesn't come out then that's the occupational hazard everyone is aware of. I just can't believe your audience is that ignorant or stupid that they won't understand what 'a quid' is, or 'soccer'. And if they don't then it doesn't really matter, audiences are always having to make intelligent guesses. What did you do with British cinema? There weren't subtitles!! We don't have them for American films!!

Such a transposition was done for THE OLD ONES by Ben Shaktman when he did a workshop performance of it in New York. The actress who played the lead came to see me later and said it had been ~~an~~ mistake, as did many New York friends. You'll confuse your audience more if you set it in an American newspaper setting.

Yes, Hughie Green is a well known face on TV here, he ran a show called Opportunity Knocks. He has the most sickly of patronising voices 'give 'em a hand ladies and gentlemen .... you're just married? ... well what about that, a hand ladies and gentlemen ...' He's Canadian. Arnold Weinstock is a very powerful industrialist producing everything from electronics to armaments - he had a meteoric rise. And for Uruguyan Tupamaros you can say ~~the~~ 'Third World Galahad'.

hope

I'm glad to hear all else is going well and that you've not panicked and gone ahead to make an American Sunday. I look forward to hearing how it all goes. I've just had good news - the British Film Finance Corp has ~~just~~ decided to give me script development money for a film script of The Trilogy. Keep the good news coming ...!  
In haste



Arnold