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Ms. Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12th Street
New York, N. Y. 10014

*Rev 1418
H S E B
Pat on list*

Dear Sylvia:

I apologize for the delay in replying to your letter with respect to the indexing of the Ervin Committee hearings but I did want to gather as much material as possible before writing to you.

I spent about a half an hour today with the two men with the Ervin Committee who are in charge of the editing and printing of the material. They think there is a possibility that an index will be done by the Committee, but such a decision has not been made and will not be made for some time. The senior one of these two men is John Walz whose address is Room G-308, New Senate Office Bldg.

Taking up your questions one by one: As to the arrangements between the Ervin Committee and the Government Printing Office, there is no arrangement at the moment for any indexing by subject matter. The indexing in volumes I and II, which are now available, are by interrogator, by exhibit number, by name of the witness and some other minor categories. As I said earlier, there is yet no subject index nor any decision that one will be done.

The first phase of the Watergate hearings will occupy some forty days of testimony and will be divided into approximately ten volumes. The first two of these have been printed and it is expected that an additional volume will be available each week in the next two months. These estimates may be optimistic and it may well be Christmas or later before these ten volumes are finished. Theoretically, the Committee is supposed to have finished its work by February 1st, but there is every evidence that an extension will be made on this date.

Ms. S. Meagher
Sept. 17, 1973
Page 2

As to the number of volumes printed, the Committee receives 6,000 volumes and of these 6,000 roughly 4,000 are mailed out to people who are on the Committee mailing list. In addition, the first printing contains 1,400 volumes for libraries throughout the country and other parts of the world. In addition to these 7,400 volumes, there has been quite a demand on the first volume and I understand that the GPO is now in its third printing of Volume I. I do not have the number of copies, but they can be obtained from a Mr. Goerner in the Office of the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office. He is on Extension 9763 of the Government Printing Office. The various volumes are on sale for \$3.00 per volume.

The final decision on whether there will be a subject index will probably be made by Sam Dash, the Chief Counsel of the Committee. The task is somewhat simplified by the fact that much of the material of the Committee has been put into a computer. However, much time and skill would be required even if the computer could spit back the contents of a subject index quickly. It is the thought of this time and expertise that would cause hesitation by the Committee.

I have a very strong feeling that not only Sam Dash, but the other members of the staff, would welcome a proposal from someone from outside, either to do the subject index independently or in conjunction with the Committee's work. I believe that they will be more than happy to make the computer run available to any one who is willing to cooperate. This can be discussed either with Sam Dash or with his secretary, Caroline Andrade. If and when you want to come to Washington, and discuss this, I would certainly arrange for you to see these people.

In addition to the work of the Committee, I know that you are by now familiar with the work which is being done by the Congressional Quarterly. Here again, I do not see any prospect of a good subject index being done, but I believe that they would be willing to cooperate with you or anyone else who is attempting to do the job. I do know some people who might be able to assist in negotiations with Congressional Quarterly, if you wish to do this.

Ms. S. Meagher
Sept. 17, 1973
Page 3

There is one additional phase that should be covered. There is a man by the name of Cleveland J. Wall in Laurel, Maryland who has talked to me at some length about a proposal which he has for putting all of the Watergate material on microfilm. I don't know what he has in mind with respect to indexing but, again, I think that a cooperative arrangement may be worked out.

What I am saying is that a trip to Washington will probably be necessary before you can get a very clear idea as to whether you wish to go ahead with your project. Needless to say, I will be glad to do everything possible to expedite and coordinate your visit here if you will let me know when it will be convenient for you to come.

Looking forward to seeing you in the near future, I am

As always, with warm regards,



Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

BF:crr