

21 April 1970

Mr. Edmund C. Berkeley  
36 West 11 Street  
New York N.Y. 10011

My dear Ed,

There seems to have been a misunderstanding. I did not undertake to prepare any list of persons who "knew too much" or any other list. I am surprised that you came away with such an impression.

Let me try to make things clear. I have a time-consuming and demanding job which of course has first call on my attention. In such free time as I have available, I am conducting a careful study of a large body of unpublished documents from the National Archives, which I plan to annotate, index, and use as a basis for an article or several articles if the contents of the documents merit such treatment.

I believe that I was careful to emphasize that I would be willing to be helpful to you to the extent that my other activities permitted. Specifically, I would be willing to look over any manuscripts of articles and comment; or to answer any questions that I can answer more or less from memory and without undertaking any search of the published record or other systematic or prolonged labor. Subject, of course, to the availability of time. If it is a question of reading a manuscript and commenting on it, I would require a week or two and could not do it on a crash basis.

Forgive me if I say that I was taken a-back by your brief note of the 18th, which seems to suggest some kind of arrangement or agreement which never even entered my mind. I hope that this clarification will remove any ambiguity and that we both understand that I have made no commitment to become involved in your project except on a purely voluntary, ad hoc basis, subject to the availability of time—in short, the same cooperation I have always tried to extend to my fellow-critics and to others working on the case.

I will not be at home on Thursday evening but I trust that this letter will reach you upon your arrival in town. Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,