

20 September 1979

Dear Gary,

Many thanks for your letter of the 14th. You must not assume all the blame for the lack of coordination—it is at least half my own fault. I, too, am pleased that our indexes to Vol. X match each other. I have had no formal instruction in indexing but have proceeded pragmatically, trying to include all information that might need to be retrieved in future.

I would certainly welcome your participation in a team effort to produce a master index to the JFK volumes. An ideal mechanism would be for your university computer facility to undertake such a project. If that is not possible, could you perhaps form a team of students, giving each one a few letters of the alphabet to work on? I do not know if you are familiar with my Subject Index to the Warren Report and the Hearings and Exhibits (if it is not in your library, copies are available on order from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan) but what I have in mind is a title, let us say, "autopsy", followed by citations from the HSCA Report, Vol. I, Vol. II, seriatim, so that a researcher looking for "autopsy" citations would find in one place all references to this subject in the HSCA volumes. The same for names of individuals, which could be in alphabetical sequence with subjects, or which could be separated (as in my Subject Index). I would welcome your reaction and suggestions.

Yesterday I was talking to Jeff Goldberg of the AIB, on another subject, and he raised the question of the indexes that I have been doing. He raised the following two possibilities: (1) giving the indexes through Blakey to the Government to include in a second printing of the HSCA volumes; or (2) having them published in a vanity edition, by Bud Fensterwald. I said no to both suggestions. I do not wish to hand over the results of months of hard labor to the Government, which should itself have ensured the preparation of these indexes. Nor do I see the need for a vanity edition, when it is not unlikely that we could find a publisher—after all, I did find one for my Subject Index. I told Jeff to do nothing until all the indexing is completed and we have a chance for consultation among all interested parties.

It is my intention to proceed now to index Vol. IX (organized crime) and then Vol. VIII (acoustics), of which I do not yet have a copy. After that I was going to tackle the five volumes of Hearings. I estimate that this work (seven volumes) would take me the rest of the year; of course, that time would be shortened if you decide to do one or two volumes of the Hearings. I would only suggest that you phone me collect before you start, to make sure that I have not yet embarked on indexing the Hearings. My phone number is 212-242-4293.

No, I have heard nothing about the Bronson film. I am told, however, that Blakey is pressing the Department of Justice to pursue the further investigations recommended by the HSCA, which of course do include this film.

With kind personal regards,

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