

18 October 1979

Dear Gary,

Thank you for your letter of the 12th and the index to Volume I Hearings, which arrived today. I have written to Paul Hoch and asked him to send you my indexes to Volumes II, VI, IX and XI. I will start to index Volume IV Hearings in a day or two, while you are working on Volume III. Then we will have to deal only with Volume V Hearings, VIII Acoustics, and the two Legal and Administrative volumes. With luck, we should be finished no later than end of the year.

In addition to the indexing of the remaining volumes, which we will share between us, I will undertake to do the following: (1) I will classify the individual names in the collective indexes (much as I did in my Subject Index to the WR) to indicate identities: eyewitnesses to the assassination, police, FBI, Secret Service, Warren Commission people, HSCA people, scientific experts, associates of Oswald, associates of Ruby, etc. That will expand our final product a bit more--not for the sake of padding but because those lists do prove useful after the passage of years. Also, Jeff Goldberg of the AIB has some prepared material that he will offer us for possible inclusion. I have asked him to send me a list of what he is prepared to make available, from which I will suggest what I think we might use, subject of course to your agreement.

(2) I have already written to Scarecrow Press (to whom I thought I should offer "first refusal" rights) and if they are not interested I will write to a list of publishing houses and/or university presses who specialize in reference works and try to get us a contract for early publication. If and when that happens, we can discuss "billing" to reflect our collaboration, and the division of any advance and of royalties. I will be glad to know what you would consider fair and I am sure we will not have any problems on that score.

When we have finished all the volumes, you will be ready for the job of consolidation. I hope that you will be able to get some students to help you. I do foresee some problems of harmonization and reconciliation because there are some stylistic inconsistencies within the indexes I did myself, and between my indexes and yours.

I have looked over your index to Volume I carefully. It is excellent and more professional in a number of ways than my indexes. I would be perfectly happy to consider your index as the "model" but that will mean adjusting my indexes to make them stylistically and substantively compatible with yours. Or is that something that your mechanical apparatus can be programmed to do? Or would you undertake to ensure compatibility?

I will mention some of the disparities. I have not underlined the names of periodicals or newspapers. I have not indexed the HSCA exhibits nor (except in the Volume II index) the WC exhibits. I have listed the "Backyard photographs" as an independent item (where you have placed them under "Photographic Evidence") and I am inclined to think I am right in this instance, because in the Volume II index there are some six or eight sub-classifications under "Backyard photographs".

When I do Volume IV, I will follow your model for the Blakey listings and indicate "Narrations" by subject; and I will follow your model for the Purdy listings, indicating the names of witnesses. But my index to Volume II will have to be adjusted to your models. Can you get a student to do that?

Many other petty inconsistencies will become apparent to you when you receive my Volume II index. In due course, we can discuss further how to proceed to reconcile stylistic divergencies.

(I should have said in paragraph 1 of this letter that the reason I am asking Paul to send you the indexes which you are missing is that I have only the master copy plus one, and I do not have easy access to a xerox.)

I agree that we should have a heading "Critics of the Warren Commission" and I have included such a heading under "Critics..." in some of the indexes which I have already completed.

I will call you after I complete Volume IV (in about a week or ten days) and we can then decide what each of us should tackle next.

If you want to discuss any of the matters mentioned in this letter, please do not hesitate to telephone.

I trust that you are fully recovered from your flu attack.
With best personal regards,

Yours sincerely,