

October 19, 1979

Dear Sylvia,

Thanks for your letter of the 10th. Your Vol. IX index is really quite a feat, and I ~~kn~~ know that Peter in particular will find it invaluable. Your original and two copies are enclosed.

Have I already suggested that you contact Russ about possible publication of the indexes? Westworks, which published "Crime and Coverup," is basically Russ and a few friends, their print shop, and a name. But they apparently have some sort of arrangement with what's left of Ramparts Press for distribution. Maybe you can find a more ~~ex~~ established publisher, but you can certainly count on Russ for quality and enthusiasm. (His current address: Apartado [P.O. Box] 16, Adjuntas PR 00601.)

I don't think you have any ~~xxxx~~ alternative to ~~going~~ going ahead without MLK indexes. This omission was an ~~xxxx~~ even more serious problem for us, of course. We ended up with just a one sentence disclaimer, saying that we weren't uninterested in the case, but lacked time and expertise. Harold's right, of course - if the HSC was ruthless, unethical, etc. in what they did to the Ray brothers, that does reflect on their work on the JFK case. I happen to think the Rays are guilty as sin, but I thought the public hearings were, in some respects, badly done.

Maybe you should include the tables of contents for the King volumes with your cumulative indexes. (Actually, it might ~~xxxxxx~~ help to have them for the JFK stuff too, plus the HSC's summary of findings and ~~xxxxxx~~ recommendations.)

I don't know if anyone has picked up on my idea of compiling a list of HSC witnesses - at least, those cited in the Report. I really don't know how much work that is, compared to the index for one volume. As I mentioned, I did such a compilation ~~w~~ for the Schweiker Report (complete with a list of all citations, which isn't necessary) and found it quite useful. Unless someone sends us a copy of the HSC's investigative plan, a chronological witness list may be the best available information on what they did, and when. Maybe some of Gary's students could take ~~this~~ this project on.

As far as I know, the book is proceeding ~~xxxxxx~~ normally. To my surprise, the lawyers have not yet raised any red flags. I guess my ~~ex~~ experience with Random House, unpleasant as it was, at least taught me what libel lawyers look for. The publishers are talking about starting to set type now, but I don't ~~kn~~ know what kind of production schedule that implies.

Your proposal ~~of~~ on the Justice Department documents sounds fine to me. Of course, I'll pay postage both ways for the documents you lend me.

Last night was quite bizarre - the Eddowes stuff. The first I ~~heard~~ heard of it was when the local Eyewitness News people called me (Peter being unavailable). All I got to say on the air was that Eddowes has an explanation for anything - the fingerprints match, so the Russians infiltrated the FBI's filing system and switched them. I hope nobody thought I believed that! Perhaps the strangest thing - besides the very heavy coverage, and Petty's involvement - is that almost all the press acted as if the HSC hadn't existed. Someone even said that despite official findings, lots of people believe there was ~~a~~ a ~~conspiracy~~ conspiracy! Finally, on CBS today, Preyer got to allude to the HSC's expert studies of the two-Oswald claims. Really strange stuff. (The second story on the local news was Eldridge Cleaver's conversion to the Moonies. Must have been something odd in the air yesterday.)

I'm hearing nothing about Livingston et al., expect a report that there is a very serious investigation (of them, I gather) going on. If you hear that anyone is about ~~to~~ to publish the autopsy photos, please let me know.

Regards,

*Paul*

PLH