

24 October 1979

Dear Paul,

Your letter of the 19th with copies of the Vol. IX index just arrived, many thanks. Enclosed herewith is index to Vol. IV Hearings, of which Gary Owens should get a copy before anyone else. Gary is doing Vol. III Hearings and will do Vol. V. I will do Vol. VIII (Acoustics, etc.) of which I finally got a copy. Then I will look carefully at the Legislative and Administrative Reform volumes (2 of them) to see if they need to be included. If so, I will index them. That should bring us to December!

You will be happy to know that Scarecrow Press has agreed to publish the indexes and, indeed, to reprint the Subject Index to the WR etc. in the same volume. I wrote to them, intending to canvass other publishing houses if they declined, but they happily accepted and are sending a contract to Gary and me. Gary will share in the credits ("Meagher, in collaboration with Gary Owens") and of course will share in the royalties. He seemed very elated and I hope that the fact that we have a publisher and hopefully a cash advance will help him through the nasty job of consolidating the indexes to produce (1) a subject index covering all volumes, and (2) a comprehensive name index. In addition, I intend to include the individual indexes, volume by volume. I will also compile lists of names, giving classification by groups (e.g., police officers, FBI, CIA, Secret Service, Oswald associates, Ruby associates, news media, HSCA Members and staff, etc. etc.—as I did on a smaller scale in the Subject Index). Jeff Goldberg is trying to get from Blakey a complete list of witnesses and/or his famous investigative plan, in exchange for the indexes I have done so far, for which Blakey has been asking.

I do appreciate your suggestion about Westworks, but of course that has been overtaken by Scarecrow. After consultation with several of the critics, I have decided to leave aside entirely the MLK part of the HSCA's product. No one seems in the least bit interested. It might be a good future project for Gary Owens, now that he has tested the water, or for someone else. But it is not to be contemplated for now, at least not by me.

The Eddowes business is repulsive and infuriating, a typical straw-man-to-be-knocked-down disinformation mischief which will inevitably reflect on the critics as a group. I cannot understand why Petty involved himself in this black comedy, except for publicity. (Blakey isn't having very good luck with his forensic pathologists—first the Baden controversy, now Petty.) The NY Times of Saturday 10/20/79 had a news story and a blistering editorial on the proposed exhumation—if you don't have these from another source, let me know and I will send you my copies to zerox.

No, I haven't heard a whisper about the autopsy photos, but, like you, I have heard that Justice is hot on the trail of the culprits.

All the best,

Hurriedly,