

February 21, 1972

Mr. Aaron Asher
Editor in Chief
Holt Rinehart and Winston
383 Madison Ave.
New York 10017

Dear Mr. Aaron:

I believe that Mrs. Sylvia Meagher has written you recently concerning my manuscript on the assassination of President Kennedy, which is enclosed for your consideration.

I presume that Mrs. Meagher has told you that I wrote this book, Presumed Guilty, last year, when I was eighteen years old. My writing style was then and is still developing and, as a result, there are many passages of the book which are no longer completely to my satisfaction. Likewise, with over a year to reflect, there are certain portions of the book which I would now prefer to remove or revise. The great burden of my academic work at the University of Pennsylvania has prevented me thus far from making any changes in the manuscript. However, I am quite willing to allow great revising and editing by a competent editor with my permission. I mention this in the event that you or others at Holt Rinehart and Winston feel, after reading my manuscript, that it is in need of substantial alterations.

My main intention in writing this book was to present a persuasive and coherent interpretation of the evidence which proves that Lee Harvey Oswald was not the assassin in President Kennedy. I also felt obliged to demonstrate that the Warren Commission operated under the assumption of Oswald's guilt. I now feel the material in the book of an accusatory nature should be removed, along with large portions of the lengthy medical discussions.

I would greatly appreciate any attention or consideration you could give my manuscript. I have no idea how long a time is usually required to arrive at a final decision regarding publication, but I would like to hear from you within four to six weeks, regardless of whether or not a decision has been reached. I can make only one submission at a time, as you must realize, so that an excessive delay with one publisher could hamper my chances for publication. Of course, I expect no commitment within four to six weeks, but perhaps a word from you within that time could indicate to me if I had better consider another publisher.

Thanking you in advance for all your troubles, I remain

Sincerely,

Howard Koffman