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November 24th, 1965

Miss Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12th St.
New York, N.Y. 10014

Dear Miss Meagher:

Sorry to be slow in answering yours of Nov. 19 and 23. The additional material arrived and I shall insert it in its proper place. We can not start composition until everything is in hand and in final form since we go directly to page proofs in cold--type composition and that does not leave too much leeway for insertions or deletions after it is set. It can be done but it is a slow and costly chore, and it does not help the appearance of the book no matter how well it is done.

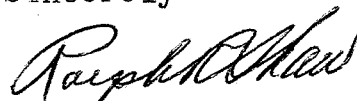
I look forward to receiving the index.

Re the citation by citation recheck, we can not undertake to do it, as I told you. Also, I think that you will find that ~~no matter what you do~~ there will be some errors no matter what we or you do, and the thing we have to do is to keep them within reasonable limits. I have never seen anything without some sort of typographical booboo (including the New Yorker). I suggest that you check every 20th item at random for say 25 entries. If you do not find any errors in that check you can be as certain as you are ever likely to be that the errors are well below a fraction of 1 per cent, which is as good as you will ever get it. On one of my books, done by Columbia University Press- which is quite meticulous, I proofread eight times and then later found three errors, two of which were put in by the print shop after the page proofs!

Not that I like errors or want them, but there is no point in killing yourself on this one. You have done a good job. A good sampling check will tell you whether there is any point in doing it all over. If the sampling discloses errors you will, of course, need to recheck the whole, if not, you probably will not come up with a more precise tool by checking it all.

Normally mail is delivered in 48 hours at most so there should not be anything that you need to phone me about, particularly since I move around so much that it might take that long to find me. However, my home phone number is 30308 and the University of Hawaii number at which I would be reached during the day is 918-564.

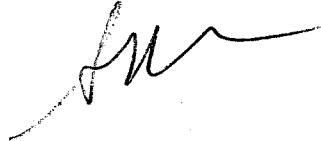
Sincerely



P.S.

I was just about to mail this envelope when your letter of the 24th arrived. Thanks very much. As you will see, I did uncover errors. Many of them originated in the Warren Report footnotes, which I transposed and integrated into my index--without checking each one for accuracy at the time. I found myself incapable of checking every single citation, without any exception; but about the worst errors which may remain are accounted for, I believe, by the caution in the explanatory note that some citations which appear unrelated to the specific subject are included for collateral or negative value. So I shall keep my fingers crossed, reassured by the fact that you take the same philosophical view of the mathematical improbability of achieving absolute perfection.

Again, I apologize for pelting you with inquiries, additions and corrections, and promise you that as of now the job is really finished, from my end, so that you can go ahead with your plans.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J.M.', located at the end of the letter.