

A Watergate Subject Index

Sylvia Meagher
September 1973

for attention of
Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

- - - -

(1) I am contemplating the task of preparing for the transcripts of the Ervin Committee hearings and exhibits and for related publications issued or to be issued by the Government Printing Office a Subject Index similar in methodology and format to my Subject Index to the Warren Report and the Hearings and Exhibits.

(2) A number of questions would have to be clarified before I reach any decision to start work on such a Subject Index --first and foremost, what arrangements are being made by the Ervin Committee or the Government Printing Office for indexing the testimony and exhibits? If adequate indexing is to be prepared by those government sources, there would be no need for a Subject Index from a private indexer.

(3) A further question to be clarified is the number of volumes to be published, and the timetable for release as well as a rough estimate at least of a cut-off date.

(4) The number of volumes to be issued and made available for purchase by members of the public, and the price for the set of volumes or individual editions, are also vital considerations. A Subject Index would be useful only to persons who acquire the set of transcripts and exhibits; the number of purchasers (especially libraries, universities, and similar institutions) would be a central consideration in seeking commercial publication of such an Index.

(5) Finally, the phased preparation of a Subject Index in a series of up-dated versions corresponding roughly with the phased release of the hearings must be studied in terms of utility to users, on one hand, and as a serious obstacle to commercial publication, on the other.