

9/23/74

Ms. Mildred Neely
Trade News
Publishers Weekly
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10036

Dear Ms. Neely,

From my enclosed letter ~~of~~ of August 22 to your editor, not book reviewer, and Albert Johnston's response of the 13 (not received until today) I think it is apparent that someone at PW did not understand the purpose of my writing.

While anyone wants and appreciates a review, my purpose was because I think there is news in the fact that when I had to invent the underground book to open the subject of the Warren Report I am again having to do the same thing to bring to light expeditiously what I believe people should know.

There are also other facts I believe could be publishing news. For example, check your own indexes and find what is available to people who want to buy books on the turningpoint in history the JFK assassination was.

To the best of my knowledge these "underground" books alone are available.

I do believe these and other facts should be worthy of serious trade consideration.

Together with some of my commercial experiences.

My Johnston has jumped to a conclusion that is not warranted. I am in every sense a publisher and I do to the degree they will handle my work distribute through commercial channels only. The exception is where book stores discourage individual orders and purchasers look me up in Books in Print and write me.

When you consider that in the original format the first of the Whitewash series was a best seller and the first of four reprints was for 250,000, it is precisely the readers of PW who should know about this work because there is a large buying public that will want to know. Without PW there is no way of reading the bookstores.

It will not be possible to advertise this book as I would like. The one ad I will place is my regular one in Books in Print. That won't be able to appear until long after the book is out.

The printer ran into unexpected problems, beginning with a paper strike and shortage and continuing through mechanical errors so I can't say when the book will appear. When it does I will let you know and I will send a copy on the chance that somebody at PW may agree with me that the policy Mr. Johnston states is one that is its own kind of suppression. When the New York Times asked for the 24th freebie of my first book I made them pay for it. The paper carried two half-page stories on the next two books of the series, as news, but the book-review department never did acknowledge the existence of any of the series. When more than 60 U.S. publishers rejected a work their editors predicted would be a best-seller and it became one, that isn't news in publishing? But to PW's credit, I think in your department, there was reference to the work, wholesalers stocked it and distributed it, if only long after pub date.

Please excuse the typing. When my wife is not home this is a one-man publishing operation.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg