

12/14/76

Dear Dick,

About two weeks ago, when I ran out of FBI files to read and had nothing to prepare for the courts, I read the enclosed retyped draft of a chapter in haste and my wife has retyped it. I believe it is chapter 12.

Two chapters of the first two parts of The King Conspiracies remain incomplete. When I next have some free time I plan to finish the one on Foreman. Both incomplete chapters deal with breaking stories. There is less likelihood of any major change being required in the Foreman chapter because there what I can anticipate relates to the federal indictment under which he has not yet been tried. Within the past week I obtained new and truly sensational material for the other one, the second in the draft you have. It is material I am obtaining through a court action. Voluminous and continuing. I am to obtain as much as a book each week. If most of it is worthless for the book, valuable in other ways, I still have to work my way through it. Without this I have no way of knowing whether ~~th~~ these hundreds of pages contain what is useful in the book.

I have alternatives but without knowing that there are some prospects believe it would waste much time to exercise any alternative. There is no choice that would not requiring reading each page in the future. Therefore I read them as I receive them. If I know there is some interest I can, for example, skim from what I have learned in examining thousands of similar records. In this way there is a reasonable chance of spotting what can be of value in the book, minimizing the risk of missing it while using the time for writing the balance.

While I do assume, having heard nothing from you, that Zebra is not enchanted, it is not only for this reason that I would appreciate knowing. Someone has offered \$10,000 for proof that a Zebra book is a fake. Not Zebra, someone with another ax to grind. If I apply for it - and there is no question at all - it can provide the means by which I might obtain some help that could enable me to be more productive. If I am refused this "reward" that provides other opportunities that have meaning for me. Obviously I would not do this if Zebra is interested in my book. Equally obviously if they are not there is no reason for me to hold off.

There is European interest of which I will know more not later than February, when the TV producer I have been helping returns with his camera crew. He may write me before then. He was to have returned to Europe yesterday. He was to see me on a JFK special but his earlier career is in publishing. He saw some of the new King evidence, what I have not yet written, and it blew his mind. He said he would speak to the publisher for whom he worked and to his own people about a second special. (I did not seek him out. He has come here twice.)

I had another reason for resuming work on the book I can hardly claim now to have clearly in mind with the enclosed chapter. It tells more about the crime. Little is really known about the actualities of it and I did assume that any prospective publisher might be interested in this. It also show the immateriality of fact in major political crimes. If I am uneasy about picking up after the active life I lead seven months after I had to lay a hasty draft aside I am confident of the accuracy at least. I held Temkin to the end in this because I am reasonably certain any publisher will want to cut it and this makes the cutting, to which I would not object, easier. Knowing this I included it for purposes of record.

Rather than hurting the book yesterday's Supreme Court decision will, I think, help it.

If you want to be filled in on what can now be expected from the House committee, let me know and I will do it. No harm, perhaps a better market potential.

Sincerely,