

July 23, 1968

Dear Subscriber,

I want to thank you for your order for the soft cover book described in the notice to which you replied. There has been a brief delay in the actual printing of the book, which I hope you will pardon. The pages of the book have now been printed; the present schedule calls for the bindery process to be completed this week, and for the books to be mailed at the fourth-class book rate within the next 10 days. They will be mailed in "Jiffy Bags" or "Jet Packs" normally used by many book stores.

The notice sent to you specified that the Executive Session transcript of the Warren Commission was 300 pages long. This was a counting error that was made by me when I prepared the notice. The exact number of pages, on which the printing costs were based, was about 290.

A footnote to the project may be of interest to you. The National Archives still has not declassified the January 27, 1964 meeting of the Commission. Excerpts of this meeting have been published in Chapter one of Congressman Ford's book "Portrait of the Assassin". These excerpts deal with the allegations made by the Texas authorities that Oswald was an FBI informant. I wrote Dr. Bahmer a letter requesting declassification of this material, and pointing out incongruities in the present state of affairs. First of all, the material is, de facto, no longer secret, inasmuch as Congressman Ford saw fit to publish classified portions of his personal copy of the transcript in his book. Second of all, transcripts of the Commission's hearings are NOT copyrighted, although they CAN be withheld from the public if they are classified. In this situation, we have the spectacle of classified uncopyrighted material, which has now been made public in such a manner that it is protected by the copyright that applies to Ford's book! For if one wishes, at present, to quote extensively from the portions of the January 27 1964 meeting which have been published (in violation of the law) by Congressman Ford, one must get permission to do so from Ford's publishers! Not to do so would be to violate Ford's copyright. Dr. Bahmer replied to my letter that the National Archives could not do anything further about this matter, and declined my request to declassify even those portions of the Jan 27 meeting that have been published in Congressman Ford's book. Therefore, those wishing to have a complete copy of all the Commission's Executive Sessions that are now available should also acquire a copy of Chapter one of Ford's book, published in hardcover by Simon and Schuster and in softcover by Ballantine Books of New York. (Both books, incidentally, are now listed as out of print, but copies are available at some stores.)

Thank you for your cooperation in replying to the notice, and regarding the delay in shipping the book. I hope you will find the documents instructive and rewarding.

Sincerely yours,  
*David S. Lifton*  
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