

Route 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
1/5/73

Dear Mac,

Seven and a half years ago, after you read the manuscript of my first book and heard of the problems I had getting it published, you told me something I did not then believe, that each time I leave a publisher's office a federal agent enters to express informal disapproval of my work.

If I still can't prove it, it sure is much more credible. Once, for example, J. Edgar Hoover "answered" some charges he alleged had been made but hadn't been in public. They were in a book I was then trying to get published. I did not give Hoover a copy and he refused to send me a copy of the press release he issued.

Later someone who was involved in it and came to despise what he was doing provided me with copies - carbons, not xeroxes - of surveillance of my public appearances done for the CIA. They have a special "front" for such dedications to pure Americanism. I have copies of the bills, checks in payment, envelopes and transcripts of phone conversations about it.

More recently, through my interest in what may come before you and Teddy, what has been called by the diminutive "The Watergate Caper", in looking into E. Howard Hunt, I found what more directly relates to your feelings of 1965. In that year, while he was working for the CIA, Hunt also was connected with a literary agency. By the most remarkable circumstance, it just happens that this was the agency to which I'd been sent by a Saturday Evening Post editor who wanted to use chapters of my first book. The day I got there, Hunt was not in their office, there was no desk for him in it, and he was not on their letterhead. He had this connection through all the years of active publication on the JFK assassination. The end of this connection and that publication also coincide. The deal I'd been led to believe was set was suddenly killed. Hunt also appears to have had other connections at the same time, some I think relevant to this current mess if it is ever brought to light. I do not think he was moonlighting while working for the CIA. I think he spent his later years there engaged in what is supposed to be illegal, domestic intelligence. I presume I was among his victims. And I presume he had a more significant role and a different identity than was leaked after his name was Watergate-connected.

Unless and until you get into hearings on this, I'd prefer that you keep it confidential on the slight chance I can sell an article on it.

I am reminded of all of this and more for which I do not take your time by that which is the main purpose of this letter. Over the years, I suppose in part because it was known I was without means and in part because it was known that my work does not have official approval, I have been cheated out of what are for us large sums of money. The result is that our no longer young age we are in very bad circumstances.

I presume you noticed that there was no promotion of my book on the King assassination. The publisher sent no copies to you. The one Bud gave you I gave Bud for that purpose. He gave copies to a few other Senators and I took copies to members of the House. He had agreed to strong promotion but he in fact killed a couple I arranged and refused others. So, when he also turned out to be crooked after what I knew had to kill the book, I was more outraged than I had been by some of the larger dishonesties. I believed that he had been so flagrant and careless that he had committed mail fraud. When he persisted in cheating me and because I am so broke I can't think of hiring a lawyer, I went to the postal inspectors in Washington. Based on what I told L.L. Blankenship earlier, he said he thought there might indeed be a case of mail fraud. Later I returned and saw an assistant in his absence. This was about four months ago. I had enough of the files with me for him to see and he also offered the opinion that there could be mail fraud. He took what he wanted, told me what else to provide, and I did that immediately. Subsequently there was ever more blatant fraud and confession that money had been withheld from me improperly. I sent the proofs of these things to the inspector with whom I wound up, D.P. Cyr (ST3-5100, ext. 7120 or 8087). He has not acknowledged receipt of the added evidence I sent him or of any of the letters. He has

never written me, never phoned, and I have asked him the status of the case. The last time was two weeks ago.

He said there might have been several areas of mail fraud and selected the one he said he would look into first. He said this would be referred to the New York office, which would send an agent to that publisher and ask him for proofs. If they were not provided and if they were not solid proofs, they would turn the case over to the U.S. Attorney. I did provide him with evidence that proves this alleged proof can't exist.

I don't kid myself into believing I have ~~many~~ ^{ing} many fans in the Department of Justice, but with mail fraud I would like to believe that there is prosecution without political considerations intruding if there is a case.

One of two things seems to have happened, to the end that we have been further damaged and further defrauded. The Post Office has done nothing about it or this publisher has been told to really put it to me. The last thing he did is just incredible.

Under the contract, I was to be offered what are called the "remainders" at the best offer he had gotten. He notified me of the best offer under date of October 5, 1972. I accepted and added that this should ~~include~~ include all books returned later, and he confirmed all in writing. The contract and the letters are explicit: I was to get 100% of the remainders, and at a very, very cheap price, 30¢ each. We agreed on terms and he accepted as a downpayment ~~in~~ a sum of money he admitted owing me. When he acknowledged that he did owe me this money, I told him to apply that to whatever his bill for the remainders was to be. He had no exact count so he could not bill me. He agreed and said he'd render a bill on loading the books for shipment, which would save an extra handling.

The next thing I knew this \$10 book was advertised by Harboro for \$1.00. He professed it was all an accident for which he was not responsible and said he'd halt that sale immediately. He also said he'd ship the books in about a week. This was in early November. The next thing I knew Giant was advertising the book for \$1.00 in Washington. I learned from Giant that they had bought their copies from Harboro. Giant's sale was the Friday before Xmas, or long enough after the "mistake" was reported for it to be corrected.

As of the last word I got, they admit that about 1,000 copies of my book, contracted and downpayment made, had been sold at 30¢. The loss to Lil and me on a book we expect to sell for \$10.00 is thus up to an added \$9,700.00. In addition to this, he has not yet shipped the books. I don't have a single one.

Mac, publishing is a very crooked business, but not generally this crooked. I have trouble believing any businessman would run the risk clearly visible in this without some feeling he had nothing to worry about.

All of the foregoing Cyr has. As soon as I knew of the Harboro sale I informed him. His silence does not seem completely normal. So, I ask if you can make inquiry to learn what, if anything has been done or will be. If they claim they have the proof referred to above, I would like to see it because it just can't exist.

Returning to Hunt and your possible investigation and those said to be under consideration by other Senate committees, after saying that I am anxious that there be such an investigation and would be willing to help it in any way possible, I want to give you a word of caution. All of what is known, at least all of what I know, has not been published. I know you are aware that your principled position in this will not endear you downtown. However, I think it is likely that you do not know all the enemies it will make for you. Perhaps you do not realize how this might be related to your concern for what has become the very inferior role of Congress. If you want to hear more, let me know and I'll come in day or night. (I think that particularly because of her World War II experience Ann might be interested.)

Please take my caution seriously. The ¹⁹⁵⁷ time you heard one, you saw that what eventuated was worse than I had forecast. This relates to what was being done and since was done to Teddy and his family. One of those who pressured Burke Marshall is a director of what at least was a CIA foundation. What appeared in quotes in the New York Times was partial truth resulting in untruth. Thanks and our best to you all, sincerely,

Harold Weisberg