Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
10/28/73

Dear Mr. Shepherd,

Here is the book-length beginning of Watergate:Fascism's Floodgate, to the point my wife has reached in retyping the draft. I am two small books ahead of her.

I do not disagree with your opinion of the complexity. I do believe it requires preparing the reader to be able to understand and to be willing to believe, one of the reasons for the length.

You refer to the "many interesting things that have happened." Do you recall one of the snatches I wrote and sent you without reading that, after initial suppression, was forced into the news by publicity and now is credited with being one of those matters than may have required of Nixon what he did? We may get more in hearings this week. I hope so!

Because of the cost of time today, I am aware that long manuscripts have less chance for a careful reading. Because of manufacturing costs, I presume large books also have dimmer prospects. However, this is a unique subject. We are at a crucial historical moment when society has no valorous champions, only men who make nice gestures. In such times I believe the obligations of the serious writer are heavier. Thus and because I had no contract and no publisher to say what he does and does not want I have seen no choice (for me) and am writing a bill of indictment for popular rather than legal use.

As with the attitude toward the Warren Commission and the Kennedy assassination, I presume an unwillingness to believe that all those enjoying a good press really have not earned it by the most diligent pursuit of society's urgent needs. Therefore, I will be documenting that more completely than could be accepted on other subjects. The book is too long for an appendix even if cut heavily, something I've tried to simplify in the writing. But I have quite a collection of xeroxes now and probably will be getting more. Good spook stuff I'll be quoting. But I'm building, or hope I am, to these kinds of things. The more I get into it, the more there is of what is not known even to those who have followed the stories with care.

One of the other problems causing length is my belief that readers and editors may apply standards to this subject they do not to others and they also will be unwilling be believe. With the proof mustered, they and publishers may be willing to condense. And I don't know what will be attractive to whom, so I'm including and they can exclude. Meanwhile, I'll have made a rounded historical record I do not see anyone else tackling now. To illustrate, the last chapter I'm sending is virtually a book, but it can be cut or it can be broken into chapters and be a separate part. So with the two that follow it, both roughed and both very long.

These will not be retyped as soon as I'd like. I don't know how much Dick told you about me, but we live in financial desparation and deeply in debt. We are 60. My wife has part-time work, every other day. She was too ill to type her last three free days and today had to take a small bookkeeping job, although it is Sunday. We will be working as rapidly as we can. The Senate hearings and legal work will slow me down for a while, too.

I hope you do not find this uninteresting.

If you have connections with the more sensational European publications, I have let the National Enquirer have some of my unpublished JFK assassination material. They do not sell abroad. None of the so-called responsible publications here will touch the subject. This is solid stuff and I think important, historically unprecedented and comprehensible. "Top Secret" stamps all over everything. And scandalous. It should be out in a couple of weeks. Until then, I'll worry about how they handle it.

Sincerely,

HAROLD OBER ASSOCIATES
INCORPORATED

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759-8600

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LITOBER, NEW YORK

40 EAST 49TH STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

October 25, 1973

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thanks so much for yours of the 22nd.

I am bound to say that I think the many interesting things that have happened since we corresponded in August only make it less likely that one person can possibly do the job that I understand you to have embarked upon.

Even so, if you want to send me your manuscript in its present state, I would be glad to take a quick look and let you know if I think I can do anything with it.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Shepherd

PS/kv

DOROTHY OLDING