

Route 12 - Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
January 23, 1977

Mr. Richard Curtis
156 East 52 St.
New York, N. Y. 10022

Dear Dick:

You may not be aware of it but on January 19 you wrote me what months ago I said in more detail you would.

almost a decade ago

Your letter also explains all over again why I had to recast the role in which I could be of social usefulness.

The King assassination is one of the turning points in modern history. It is the most costly crime in our history. The FBI says its investigation is the second largest and second most expensive ever.

In almost nine years only one book not a sycophantic, unquestioning support of official mythology has been published. This is my FRAME-UP. It has an unusual history for a book. It provided a defense for the accused Ray after he claimed he had been coerced into a guilty plea. It and my subsequent investigation reopened the case. There was a successful habeas corpus petition based on this book and my subsequent investigation. Both were then acid-tested in open court in a long evidentiary hearing. In each and every particular the book and this subsequent work were proven correct. The judge's decision totally ignored guilt or innocence in the crime.

To me this represents the failure of the basic institutions of our society. Society is thereby endangered. The obligations of a writer of nonfiction include seeking to protect society and informing the people so they can.

I thus undertook an overview of the assassination, the institutions and the people involved, some quite famous. Beginning with the title, THE KING CONSPIRACIES, I could not be more explicit about content. At the outset I distinguish between kinds of conspiracies, separating those that, whether or not outside the law, will not be considered conspiracies under the law. I show with solid, totally irrefutable fact that all the institutions designed to protect society combined to assure this terrible crime could not be solved and that the lone accused would never be tried.

Except for two chapters, neither essential to the sense, there is a rough draft of about two-thirds of the book. You described it as "brilliant." I provided a description of the last third. It is without precedent in the material on which it is based and the means by which I acquire this material. In the conclusion I "solve" the crime to the degree this can now be done - everything except the names.

Zebra has rejected what it praises, "a very saleable property." While they did want a "solution," without a solution it can be "a very saleable property."

"If Harold can edit out a lot of the personal vendettas and the Kennedy material" is the explanation of the rejection. With editing there is "a very saleable property." This is of no interest to this publisher.

I've been told this before. The reasons have nothing to do with any Kennedy material or alleged vendettas. It goes back to one of the earliest rejections of my first book which became the best seller predicted by so many editors. An honest editor wrote me, "Certainly one day soon you must find the publisher with the enthusiasm and courage necessary."

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The reason then was fear. The reason now is fear of a tough, irrefutable book about an important event and the surrounding circumstance, a book that even when my earlier work is considered will be the most definitive exposure of official misconduct, particularly by the FBI.

There are always legitimate differences of opinion relating to all aspects of a book. There can be major differences over what should and should not be included. The passion and anger of my writing is often unwelcome. It happens that I must express emotion to be able to work now. I am aging. I am tiring. The adrenalin must flow.

Simultaneously I am engaged in what I believe history will record as both the largest and the most successful investigation of officialdom, investigative agencies and official misconduct ever undertaken by one person. It deals uniquely with the political assassinations and with the integrity of our basic institutions. In volume it now takes up about 20 file cabinets.

My role is not only that of writer. Without filling the other roles I cannot write. While I was drafting the first two parts of this book, I was recovering from serious illness and suing the Department of Justice and the FBI for more material to include in the book.

I knew it was probable that both editing and cutting would be wanted. So I put the book together enabling almost all of this to be done with pencil and scissors. I then told you a publisher making a meaningful commitment to the book could have carte blanche on editing and cutting.

The book is a first-person account. Others do not have to agree as I do with Bobby Kennedy's corruption of Dante, there is a special corner of hell reserved for those who remain silent in time of moral crisis.

While I do not know what is meant by "personal vendetta," it is what one "can edit out." Only I am to do it, not the publisher to whom I've given carte blanche.

This makes a publisher no more than a printer. And who does all the investigating and other work such books require while I am editing?

A publisher who is no more than a printer publishes for a writer whose interest is vanity.

I told you that with a decent contract I would drop all other work and complete the draft within a month but that without a contract this would be foolish. That judgment was based on prior experience. It has since been vindicated to an extent I had not anticipated.

The third part will be a real shocker. Now it also will contain suppressed official proof of everything I said about the crime based on my own, my personal investigation and analysis. Point by painful point.

My means of obtaining official records are not limited to what is turned over to me because it is specified in my Freedom of Information requests. At the time I told you what the third part would hold, I had obtained more than enough under FOIA. What it says can be put simply: The crime was not committed as officially alleged, all officials involved knew this and, knowing it, they combined in a frame-up. This is why I selected the title, The King Conspiracies. This is a horror story.

Now, because I did not write the third part, I will do it differently, including a different set of records. I will do this in what I believe will be a quite dramatic way, taking each and every allegation about the crime and showing with each the contrary official evidence. I do mean on every point of the allegations, even those not relevant. I do mean this totality. I can now do it in facsimile on every allegation. This extends to my solution to the crime, mine of years ago, the one on which I have worked so long and so hard. I now have the official proof of how the black messiah

was killed and how those who killed him were made immune.

This one set of records not under my FOIA request measures 15 inches. It also is the smallest segment of what I am getting. At least 25,000 pages are coming through the court. At the very minimum this book is backstopped by the entire FBI headquarters FILE ON THE King Assassination and on James Earl Ray. I have already made the large initial payment. I am doing this outside of court. My source chose quiet cooperation in preference to a court record.

There has never been a book with this kind of backstopping, these kinds of credentials. This is not just a prized archive, part of an even larger one for which I had another request from another university this week.

This is a book with a unique potential. It can and I believe with a dedicated publisher it will break this major case apart.

I have already done most of what the new House committee can expect to do on this case. It is politically oriented and floundering. It has bought FRAME-UP to use as a staff text. You can evaluate them from this: Immediately after they bought FRAME-UP, they leaked some of it to Jack Anderson, represented it as the results of the committee's own investigation.

You say that you will take no more initiatives. I give you this added information about the content in the event you come across a publisher who is looking for a definitive work on the subject, not the readily-placed junk nobody fears publishing.

I would like to believe that with such a book I may yet "find the publisher with the enthusiasm and courage necessary." It should be both gratifying and profitable to a dedicated publisher.

There now are no real risks involved for a publisher. These were visualized with the early JFK book. There have been very real risks for me. One cannot fight the Department of Justice and the FBI as I have to obtain these records without putting one's head on the block and daring the chop. I actually had to put them in a position to prosecute me. When they dared not, I believe there is more than a change in climate to assure publishers there will be no retaliation.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg