

Dear Mac,

11/17/74

Here is a copy of WHITELASH IV.

Its appearance is delayed by a series of printer's snafus and work that had to be done on the Ray case. You may have seen some of the reporting.

We will have no organized distribution for many reasons, none encouraging.

Almost entirely those who want copies will have to write me. This means the considerable and unpaid work of mailing them.

We haven't had to borrow the money to print. This means, that is, the combination, that we'll have no freebies. I hope you can see your way clear to pay us for this copy that I need because I'm sure you want it.

So heavy has the other work been that I'm still dealing on ancillary rights. As you probably know, these are generally sold in advance. However, it is not at all impossible. I have one firm but entirely inadequate offer and expect to hear from what could be a better one, in money and in prestigious attention, this coming week.

So, I also have to ask respect for the copyright. Now wholesale use or reproduction of any kind but what is normal in reviewing. With you were generous than normal, naturally. But really large-scale usage can still kill the possibilities of ancillary rights and we urgently need whatever they can return to pay the printer's bill, meaning the bank.

Several friends in the major media have bought copies because they knew the realities of our financial situation. Jim and I have both worked entirely without income on the Ray case and between us have done virtually all the work. It is not impossible that several large papers will carry stories.

Publication (and release) date is 11/22. Not because of the anniversary. It is keyed to Congressional efforts to override Ford's ("open administration") veto of the amendments to the Freedom of Information law. One of my suits was in large part responsible for these amendments. I just didn't want to run any risk of a hatchet-job killing what possibility of Congressional attention there might be before we can get copies of the books to the Members. These 535 freebies are a great financial burden to us. It is more copies than the average wealthy publisher gives away when he has good distribution and the possibility of reviews.

You will see there is a major FOI content.

And on the "national security" line we did, for the first time, beat the federal finks before a judge who appears to have a personal objection to the FOI law.

Meanwhile, we also have to work on the closing arguments in the Ray case, due 12/2 and then two more weeks on rebuttal, all in writing. And then, regardless of how the judge rules, there will be appeals, to the Supreme Court. We have been there once on this (victoriously), are on the way there on a subordinate issue now. The amount of work is simply enormous.

Best regards,