

Dear Richard,

11/1/93

Once again I start to write you at midnight on the third sleepless night Carroll and Graf have caused me. Consecutive sleepless nights and little sleep as I get normally, this is not good for me at all.

As a dear and very good friend of so many years, I have dealt with you in trust and I do not assume that this problem is created by you. But it is a very real problem for me and it involves David, with whom I made the first agreement. I refused to agree ~~not~~ to the reprinting of WHITEWASH under any conditions. My reasons for this are real and for me important. If he had not so much wanted to do something, I would not have agreed to any reprinting for, among other reasons, the problems that can cause us that at our age <sup>and</sup> the state of my health are just too much.

I have received no notification of any kind from C & G and I learned with the cancellation of book store orders and many inquiries from individuals that the first announcement was that a book titled "The Complete Whitewash" was to be published,

In response to my complaint, someone at Carroll & Graf phoned me and we agreed to the title SELECTIONS FROM WHITEWASH. I heard nothing further and therefor assumed that this agreement would be honored. My first knowledge that the intent was to deliberately violate this agreement was when, without any prior notice, I got the proofs and they have the title-page title of WHITEWASH.

While I am not able to promote these books, they are and for years have been listed in Books in Print. We also carry an ad in it yearly. (So there would be quite a bit of trouble from two books on the JFK assassination with the same title but with only the C & G unauthorized use of that title in the book stores.)

Last year, with sales a <sup>bit</sup> better than usual, our income from that title was ~~close to twice the advance~~ <sup>(and almost half of our book income)</sup>. This is also significant to us. And this will be wiped out by C & G's unauthorized use of the title. I could put this more strongly.

Their book is designed to give the impression that it is the real WHITEWASH. That title is not only the cover title, it is carried, that single word, on the top of each even-numbered page.

I had no interest in any reprint. I agreed to accommodate what I took to be David's desire, *and now this!*

As I seek to work with my health considerably poorer than when you last saw me, the last thing I want is problems that need not exist, abnormal problems. These are not problems that come from honest intent. There was no basis at all for the announcement of the coming publication of the misstated, really deceptive title of THE COMPLETE WHITEWASH, *IT WAS COSTLY AND QUITE TROUBLESOME TO US* AND I have no way of knowing what sales it cost. It did cost lost sales.

*And now this!*

I doubt you have any way of realizing what this does to me and costs me other than in sales but it is very real and it is very bad for me.

And I know of no real reason for departure from normal practises. They present no problem to me.

As I think you can see from the speed with which I delivered a long rough draft on HOAX that, despite my age and these many medical and medical-related problems, I can still function. It took less than two months. And mindful of the opinion you expressed, I had started a new preface when these unannounced proofs came. As soon as I can I'll return to that and to the first two chapters and rewrite them as I think I told you. This and NEVER AGAIN! should do well. I have the highest opinions of both from the two historians who are best informed in the ~~field~~ field.

But this unanticipated, unnecessary and quite improper ~~problem~~ problem may well interfere with that. My normal problems, many as they are, do not interfere with my work, as my production reflects. And, in the absence of these unnecessary and abnormal problems, there is much I can do to help these books. I indicated one with the writers of Posner's puffery. I learned of another real possibility today, ~~for~~ from a Washington Post researcher who spent the entire day here. But I do not want even to seem to be a loose cannon and go off on my own. With the possibility I saw today, that will not be how it would be and I'll do that and send you a copy.

I hope you will be able to get this straightened out promptly. If it is not I will, very reluctantly, have to take steps to protect myself and our interests.

At my age and in the state of my health, these abnormal things are quite hurtful to me. Through all my trouble I have never had any problem returning to sleep when, as is always going to happen, I awaken. All the tensions in doing both rough drafts did not cause that one, nor did any other problems for years. I can live with my situation. And I can function with it, as these two manuscripts reflect. I hear from Wrone and McKnight that they would not have thought what I have done possible.

As soon as I am assured that the agreement will be lived up to, I should be able to return to my norm and do as I have been doing. I am anxious to complete the preface and send it to you and make any changes you may want and then do that with those first two chapters that I think will be cut heavily and changed in other ways when I can get to it. I recognized the problem you saw and began addressing that in the preface.

The Post's Sunday review of a page, mostly on Posner but including two other books, was not favorable. 20/20 is already pissed off on him, having learned a little of the truth. But CBS is about to make a mark of itself in its special. I learned that today. And Ambrose has made even more of a mark of himself. The situation for HOAX is getting better all the time. I believe even more that it will create a real uproar. And what a scandal in academic circles! As I said to begin with, their sales disappoint them. This, too, is a good augury. This, too, <sup>in a/b/o me</sup> wants me to be able to return to this and do what I can

to help this along and put Herman in a position to do it <sup>if he sees this need.</sup> ~~as fast as he can.~~ It is not impossible that a situation can develop that may indicate a real possibility for it because scandals can develop with it whether or not they do. They can be helped to develop.

SELECTIONS is a really powerful book. <sup>With</sup> any attention it should do well, particularly with any scandals. If David did the selecting he did well. And I'd forgotten much of it until I reread it.

You should have three powerful and important books unique in a field in which interest is never going to die.

When the time comes I hope I will be consulted and used in the public-relations. That is a field in which I've had experience. <sup>Including with books.</sup>

The coming TV specials are going to help because they are all going to be bad. I hear a bit about them from those who know. They will <sup>leave</sup> people even more dissatisfied and looking for what my mail indicates there is a real market for, solid, factual work. The Post <sup>researcher</sup> reporter was surprised when I showed her some of <sup>Monday</sup> today's mail.

Their treatment of their commemoration stories is going to be on the earliest days. She was pleased with the several hundred copies she returned with. It will not all be on that but in the other areas they are not likely to get as far and what I have given them will make exciting reading on how all went wrong at the very beginning. That also will be a good augury. They will syndicate what they produce, too. I do not suggest and I do not expect that this will include any credit to me for my help. I mean it will create a good situation for solid, factual books. <sup>And who else has a single one.</sup>

PBS and ~~CBS~~ CBS will support the official mythology. There is considerable internal dissent on this at PBS. CBS will use Rosner.

I believe that the widespread dissatisfaction from these shows will be good for NEVER AGAIN

Unlikely as it may seem, I can see the possibility of Oliver Stone helping both books.

Here I tried to and did get a little sleep. It left me weary and with a chest ache that impels me not to walk this morning, something I rarely miss. I add one other thing and then I'll read and correct this later: there must be a clear statement at the beginning, perhaps in the <sup>roman</sup> ~~roman~~-numbered pages, first in them, that the book consists of selections from, followed by my books in order of their publication, with Whitewash in 1965, etc. I think it would be wise and helpful to the book to add a little to that and if I feel up to it later today I'll draft something short. I will not ask that the various selections be identified as normally they are but otherwise the appearance of this being Whitewash not be indicated in any way. I think in terms of the book it would be helpful to it to say a bit more about these books and about me, no more than would fit on both sides of a single sheet of pages in the book. That will require renumbering

only the relatively few Raman pages. I think this would help the book in a number of ways, one of which is informing possible reviewers and purchaser/readers.

Before trying to catch up on some things important to me that I let slide to read those proofs - and giving me entirely uncorrected proofs with so many typos and I think departures from copy to correct was abusive and an imposition - I recall a bit of the past I think you are not aware of. I do not recall telling you, for example, that when Parallax was housed with Grove in that downtown building in 1965, and I did not meet you then, some <sup>one</sup> gave the ms, to read to a man named Newman. He did not tell them that he had a very

bad competitive book of his own or that he really knew nothing at all about the subject. His was really a very silly book in its basis which also had no fact in support of it. It has ~~based~~ on the childish notion that Oswald's cheap USSR radio enabled him to get instructions from Cuban normal radio broadcasts. His radio did not work and those

broadcasts were easily picked up on the cheapests and smallest US radios. If I had been talked to there could have been a vast difference. I knew the truth and Parallax would have made a ~~hit~~ <sup>let</sup> from a major sensation, as perhaps 20 of those who had declined the book told me at the 1966 American Booksellers Shoreham convention.

If I had been told that Parallax <sup>later</sup> distributed through Simon and Schuster/Pocket Books, I would have reported that up to Shimmkin they flipped over the book in early 1965, predicting it would be that year's "Green Felt Jungle" and that with their p.r. know-how and my background I would be one of the best-known men in the country. They actually believed it would make the best selling book of the year. They even tried, on their own, to place it elsewhere for me, and I do recall that in detail. But Shimmkin, not improperly, fear <sup>ed</sup> that with the Grossman/Calories "on't Count indictments it would be "the red flag under the charging bull." and he did not want to be added to those indictments. But I knew they would not distribute for that reason.

Norton deliberated for some time. It had a favorable recommendation from Tom Wicker, Posner's puffer who remembers me and that time, but when they asked me to reangle it ~~as~~ ~~into~~ ~~it~~ into a charge against the government, that is what decided me to publish it myself. And when Feltrinelli, pleased with his Italian edition, asked me to write as a sequel which he said would sell around the world, a J'Acuse, not being able to say that as he wanted it said honestly, I declined.

This is to say that I can be helpful to publishers if they allow it and do not keep secrets from me and that I will not do anything I consider less than honest. I have lived too long that way to be tempted in any way to change now.

But I do believe that with the glut of crap for the anniversary an honest, factual book that has important content can be well received, especially because it will be so much in contrast to all the others if people know about it. And I think a simple statement of truth about me in the Selections can influence reviewers as well as others favorably.

Best, Harold