

Hyattstown, Md. 20734 7/31/66

Dear Mrs. Castellano,

Things are going remarkably and restrictively well, so well that could WHITEWASH do alone what we all want I'd be more than content. As of yesterday it has sold 6,774 copies! If things keep going as they now are, I believe we will be entirely out of debt by Labor Day, which will make a big difference with us and what we can do. Friday I paid the printer the last of what was due him on the first printing. Without the ceremonial paper burning, for I hadn't even gotten a bill from him then, it was a happy day. While we picked up a few expenses on this run, it should, in all, cost less than the first, and there were what for us were great collateral expenses in launching the book and arranging that distribution we have that for the most part will not have to be repeated. Further, I have by now become a sufficient "personality" that I think I shall not have to pay my own expenses for the various public appearances that have been so instrumental in accomplishing what has happened. We have also prepared a flyer for the various wholesalers to use as a means of letting their customers know they have the book - in many cases that it exists. Following the WNET-TV and WCAU appearances last week we have been flooded with letters from the central northeast and a few from more remote areas where the radio signal carried complaining that their local book stores didn't have WHITEWASH and didn't know how to get it. There have been at least more than a hundred of these and all, of course, had to be answered. Not one of the wholesalers did anything to let the stores know he had the book. You probably know that at the time of the Joe Dolan program there wasn't a copy in SF. After the tremendous reaction to the Alan Burke Show on WNET-TV last weekend one of the wholesalers saw the real profit possibilities for him and he had his girls spend their spare time on the phone. The largest wholesaler had gotten the last 500 copies of the first run not earlier than Monday (25). The taped show was aired from before midnight (23) until near 2 a.m. (24). On the 26th. He phoned for 1,000 copies more! Two days later another phoned for an additional 500! Both used the word ~~wildfire~~ "wildfire" to describe what was happening, but the second was so excited it came out, "Your book is going like wildflowers!" There was a problem. Binding. The bindery has been barely able to keep up with it. By the first of the week, though, the remainder of the 5,000 should be finished, and pending that I have two more radio appearances and one on TV lined up, NY and Phila. I also anticipate something in Baltimore soon....Most of the sale has been concentrated in two areas, NYC and CG, with not too many in Phila and a scattering from other parts of the ~~ix~~ country. More important, I meet no one who hasn't heard of the book and the subject, and all strangers immediately summarize what it says. This, to me, means that the word is getting out. The only fly in the ointment is how it further restricts what I can do because it all takes so much time. And I have a tremendous compulsion to finish the sequel, most of which I have in hand. It is for that reason I can write you now, for it denies me sleep and I arose this morning at 3:40, and not tired and anxious to work. Yesterday I just rebelled! I let other things go to get back to work and I reread the Willis testimony. I last saw it the end of 1964 or early 1965. Suddenly many pieces ~~fell~~ fell neatly into place and I am now satisfied I understand at least the major reason for the elimination of frames 208-11. Which leads me to the purpose of this letter. But before getting into that will you, when you are in touch with them, tell the other California people who may be interested what I have recounted above? Also, that the second run has an index and four more pages of exhibits, but on this I'd prefer your silence for the moment so the bookstores can clear the earlier run, which does not have these. I shall be sending you all copies of this 16-page addition soon, so you will all have them. I had several hundred of them run off for this purpose...And please tell Bill O'Connell that a note from Sylvie reports she has no tape of either the Long John or Alan Burke shows. I've asked for and been promised a tape of the Alice Wallace show but haven't yet gotten it...The news from England is not too encouraging. The London Sunday Telegraph, which has been agonizing over WHITEWASH since April, had a lot of heat put on them by the Lane and Epstein publishers and finally decided against the subject. This apparently means that the larger papers had already made the same decision. I am, however, trying a few back doors, by remote. And my agent has finally come around to considering doing in

England what I am doing here, but I will not be there to help. This also will take what money comes in from WHITEWASH and is a considerable gamble, if he can arrange distribution and printing. I have already sent him the copy, had done so as a means of pressuring him before he agreed to the effort. This coming week I shall be sending him a list of European book distributors that I have arranged to get, so if he is willing to be the angel he has been, we may get it going there. No further word from Italy, where an option was requested three weeks ago. The Spanish contract for Arribo's serialization has been signed and sealed, but the fee has not yet been delivered. And I guess this is the news.

Now we can spend a few bucks, even if they are not ours, for there is a reasonable presumption we'll be able to pay them back. The first thing I want and want urgently is the entire Willis thing- slides and prints, and as fast as possible. If you have any reason to believe he is no longer selling them I'd like to be able to borrow yours. Lifton several weeks ago promised me this and other things, but I have not since heard from him. I shall write Willis today.

Also, have you any clearer prints of the Zapruder slides than appear in LIFE and vol 18? My interest is in those immediately before 207, 203ff.

I have demanded of the Archives a copy of 210 from the exhibit. I have not yet gotten it and the verbal explanation is unsatisfactory. I have also requested a photo, not a Xeroxed copy of Shaneyfelt 25, and may have the same problem- and I really do not understand what it is. I have found, though, that if I make a legitimate request and am patient I ultimately get an official answer in writing, from the Archivist, and these are good letters.

I loaned Bill a copy of the first interview with Marina, taped by the SS, and of one of the Reports on her interviews. It is entirely confirmatory of my chapter on her. And I have obtained other good materials I haven't time to go into now but, if I can ever find writing time, I shall before too long be able to send one of you in the form of the sequel, about 20% of which is drafted...So you can better understand the time demands, this week we mailed out, from here, 389 copies of WHITEWASH and answered every letter that came in that required an answer, at least 75, besides the other things. I now have a proposition to tell the story in a series of radio programs, for syndication. The proposal is for 39 weeks, five a week, five minutes a day. This will mean about 80,000 words, and I fear it is beyond my capacity and too long. I'm meeting with a representative of this company at noon in DC today and will suggest cutting a third, with the option of later picking it up for the contents of the sequel. This, if at all successful, should give us a tremendous audience, especially if there can be a tie-in for sale of the book through the stations.

When Bill and Maggie called, I told them of hearing from Liebel, I have had no response to my letter, and he hasn't paid for his copy, either. In a real quite way, what he did with Altgens, Willis and Zapruder is, I believe, as bad as what Specter did. Incidentally, one of you, perhaps Marcus or Lifton, promised me some of his statements, including early ones. I am quite anxious to get these as soon as possible. I have an almost illegible copy of the memo, handwritten, by SA Phillips, conveying the film to Washington the night of 11/22/63. It is important. Bill now has a copy of the not quite complete Altgens picture, with a description of the little that is missing. Perhaps you can devote your not inconsiderable talents at photo intelligence and your eyes that I hope are better than mine to the two open fire-escape windows in the next building and the man on the fire escape, among other things.

Before writing Willis and getting back to other work, the fly I referred to is two-sides of a sheet with photo reproductions of a few things in the press about WHITEWASH. I have prepared it with a coupon and shall include one, when I get them, with every mailing from here. For each of the wholesalers I have replaced the coupon with his name, address and phone number and the note that he stocks the book. To make even more painless, they will be shipped all ready for insertion with the monthly statements. I do not think then can reach Reymar in Monrovia in time for this month's but he can use them next month or in his orders, and this should cover much of your area. At least two of the east-coast wholesalers will get them first thing Monday mornin', delivered by the truck of the accomodating printer, who just happens to be going to NY and will do this for me. Both know these are coming. And Monday is their billing day. ~~Regards~~ Regards to you all, and thanks. Harold Reisberg