

4/23/67

Dear John,

The draft of the New Orleans book is done and off. I'm going to add half a chapter in a week. Meanwhile, my agent has it and we have a tentative deal on it with a regular publisher. I hope it goes through, for it is and has been beyond our capacities to continue turning out private editions. The audience we can reach is too limited and the work too great for two people if we are to continue to write, as I must. With any luck and no more interruptions than I can now foresee I'll have the drafts of two more books done in about two months. I'm working on both and both are well started.

It was my wife's birthday. In the future we will face many more without as much exhaustion. Thanks for your good wishes. Without her, what I think I have done and intend to continue trying to do would be impossible. But what a way to treat a wife - or to allow her to treat herself.

What I have always had in mind is a document documentary. It has never been done and I think will be exciting beyond conception. But I think for all the information to be available I'll have to finish my present work schedule. Thereafter I have something else in mind that might make a sequel. My research on it is largely done. What I am saying is that I have many things in my mind that will not do others much good until I can communicate them. This means the completion of ~~the~~ the manuscripts of Manchester Machiavelli: The Unintended Unofficial Whitewash (on which I've probably lost my deal by setting it aside to do the M.O. book) and Whitewash III: The Archive, which will have most of the documents and which will organize them, making sense and giving meaning. When I have done this, others will be able to work with what I have. Do you think anything constructive can be accomplished before then?

What you say interests me very much. If not sooner I'll be in New York in a couple of weeks and will discuss the whole thing with my agent. I now have one: John Starr, 444 Park Ave. I do not know what if anything he has started on. Remember, I have started something on radio. I await the contract, but I've taped 40 weeks shows in between other little things. I am to get a call on the status of the contract today. I'll probably not type any more until the contract is signed, but I have given my word.

There is one thing that possibly can be helpful to ~~others~~ others: When I get some time off if it becomes urgent I can make some thermofax copies of a few of the documents and bring them out. I can now show enough to shock men capable of it, for I have the outline of the report before the first hearing was held and disproofs of the major items, like the single bullet, from inside - even the names of the experts, and more on the autopsy that is shameful. There is a whole bit on the pictures not used, not wanted, that may be dynamite. I had to let someone else take up my work on it. He tells me it is sensational.

I understand that I forecast there are existing pictures of that sixth-floor window that within a couple of seconds before the actual firing of the first shot and with the President in the same picture shows nobody in the pictures. These are movies. Others show the presence of people under suspicious circumstances in the grassy-knoll area. These are not my pictures, of course. But if they come out and show what I think it is my work that did it, and perhaps we can use that.

I wish there were some prospect of some kind of good TV exposure for me out there, or something that would take me out there so we could all get together and discuss this. It could be important and it could be valuable and worthwhile. Although, slowly, our situation improves, I just cannot afford to get on a plane and fly out. And I regret and begrudge every minute I take from writing. I have almost entirely discontinued research, at a time when I hate to for there are now things that could be even more important that should be available, for I want to get what I have and what I think on paper.

If something should gel, in a hard month I can finish WHITEWASH III, with the help of an artist to paste up the documents, and once I know the size of the page. There is some publisher interest. Here is where most of the evidence will be.

Thus far I have preserved the collateral rights on everything I have done.

I hope this is not too disjointed. I flew out to Milwaukee Friday night, after a long day, did a two-hour radio show, got up early yesterday and spoke the whole damned day, then flew back, getting home about 2 a.m. I'm more than usually tired. My best to Harve and Judy, to whom I'm sending a copy.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Harve-I'm going to New Orleans Thursday. There ought to be a movie in this alone. Complete with fag marriages. I have a witness of my own who has given me valuable information and, if he understood what he knew, could give me more. But I'm going down at Garrison's invitation, postponed for some time so I could finish my own book first...The heat under the invisible ink is hotter and I think the initials CIA are clearer, so opposition will be stronger. Dell made me an offer on the book, subject to a libel reading, which they can interpret to mean anything. When I tried to call you I had just heard that Carlos Bringuier is going to sue me for defamation of character. I wanted to suggest what you might learn by calling him again. I'll be silent until he does file, if he does, which even for him would be insane. ...There is a lot more steam behind Charles Roberts than a \$1 can pay for. But he will not face me, nor will Salinger, who has evaded my challenge.

Jerimark Associates

Management Consultants

722 MONTGOMERY STREET

SAN FRANCISCO

DOUGLAS 2-6535

JOHN G. CHRISTIAN

RICHARD M. WARTES

April 19, 1967

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Maryland

Dear Hal:

Harv tells me your New Orleans treatise is about to hit the presses. Congratulations; please find a check to cover the cost of sending along several copies when they roll off.

The attached letter is from a key operative within Columbia Pictures, John Polando, Chief Publicist of their Western States division. John's endorsement could give us an excellent entre.

A proposed submittal - which will include statistical data to support box office potential - will advocate a joint venture development of our contemplated project. Generally speaking I propose the following:

1. Formation of a primary "braintrust", consisting of myself, you, Harv, and whomever else necessary and available to develop overall policy. This nucleus will be formalized into a business entity involving a Limited Partnership, with equity distributed as warranted and needed.
2. Primary effort will be focused on (my) preparation of a Prospectus/Proposal for submission to Columbia and others. The Proposal will involve details of a motion picture and (concurrent) long-play album set. TV and radio can become hybrids of the aforementioned.
3. Our thrust should be couched in an academic setting. The Law Departments of either a University or College should prove approachable to act as an "advisory commission" to the project. As an example, San Francisco State College has exhibited the kind of continuing enthusiasm on the matter that we require. And, we have immediate access. I propose to expedite their interest through a "grant" within our total budget.

Harold Weisberg - page #2

Quite naturally, your expertise will be the focal point of our production effort. The complexity of the story will require strict supervision of both outline and continuity. I propose that your presence be made available for at least 90 to 120 days during production, out here in San Francisco, the ideal home base of operations.

The aforementioned should suffice for your impressions and consideration, at least before I attempt to followthrough with Columbia or anyone else. Please understand I have no illusions about the magnitude about the task at hand. At best it will be impossible to pull off. But it's worth a good whack.

Harv also tells me that you have had a recent anniversary. Your wife must be some fantastic kind of woman if measured only by her incredible feats of typing. I won't be so cruel as to comment on your own typing capacity.....but thank God for your ability at oral communication.

Best Personal Regards,


John C. Christian

JGC/bm

cc: Harv Morgan
John Polando



COLUMBIA PICTURES

C O R P O R A T I O N

988 MARKET ST.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 94102

April 18, 1967

Mr. Jonn G. Christian
JERIMARK ASSOCIATES
722 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Jonn:

I've given some serious thought to our recent discussions about the JFK controversy. Whatever the substance of their arguments, the Warren Commission critics are unquestionably developing a legion of followers at home and (especially) abroad.

Enclosed is the latest stock market tear sheet on Columbia Pictures, outlining our company's overall capacity. We are now the world's largest producer and distributor of motion pictures, and our sweep of the Academy Awards this year ("Shrew", "Seasons", "Georgy") will put us even further out front of Universal Studios.

As I understand your plans, you propose to package a deal which will include a feature length documentary, a TV special or series, a long-play album set, and a radio syndication. I see practical integration here.

Columbia is ideally suited to participate in at least three of the four areas proposed should it like the project. Aside from Columbia and Screen Gems, we have our own record label (Colgems) which is tied to RCA Victor's distribution. As you can see, Columbia would have more to offer and gain all round.

Let me suggest you round up your principals immediately, set up your own independent production group, and get the necessary clearances from writers, authors, publishers, etc. I believe this is a project well worth consideration from both a social and business standpoint - and will urge Columbia to take a serious look.

Sincerely yours,

