

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
10/28/76

Mr. Richard Curtis
156 E. 52 Street
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Mr. Curtis,

Zebra is anxious for a book on the King assassination. They spoke to Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., who had been Ray's attorney and has contracted an entirely different book with them. He says ~~that~~ he told them they'd be crazy to talk to anyone other than me and that I have a book half-~~done~~ done.

His former associate in the Ray defense and now Ray's and my lawyer is Jim Lesar. Fensterwald phone Lesar this morning to tell him this for me. He said not to ask for anything less than \$25,000 for an advance.

I had to go to Washington today to pick up 442 pages of formerly secret FBI pages on the King assassination. Lesar told me and I spoke to Fensterwald briefly. The person who ~~spoke~~ spoke to him or to whom he was told one should speak is Roberta Grossman. He gives her address as 521 Fifth Ave., phone 687-6511.

Zebra may or may not know me. If I had not exposed their most successful book as a total fake for another publisher they'd not have had it. They made a pot on Hugh McDonald's Appointment in Dallas. He and it are frauds. He is also glib, a real con man. So he did well in promos.

I was also used as a consultant by a popular publication that was actually going to give \$25,000 for serialization. They didn't.

From this I learned a bit about Zebra. The man who seems to run it is Walter Zacharias. The money is that of a man named Geller. He lives in Connecticut. He is virtually a one-man conglomerate. Last year they were on Madison Avenue.

If they'll spend their money on a real book on the King assassination that they did on the fake about JFK, they'll make another pot. I can do legitimately in promos what McDonald did with what would disgrace a barnyard.

It can lead to much and to many different kinds of legitimate promos. For example, if the advance is large enough to cover the cost of all the records I'm getting by this litigation. I'll then deposit them in a university. The arrangements have already been made for all my files anyway. Today I picked up my ticket to go there and speak and conduct seminars for a week beginning 11/9.

Although this is independent of him I am and have been Ray's investigator. I can expand on this much because I provided him with the defense that led to the reopening of the case in court and did the work that laid the basis for turning the Congress on. I alone am suing the Department of Justice and the FBI for this suppressed evidence. There now is no question but that I'll get it all. There is a question about when. Their last offer to the court and to me satisfied neither of us. However, they have already promised 88 volumes each not less than more than two inches thick. The first two totalled the 442 pages I picked up this morning. There is a total of 203,500 documents, not pages. The xeroxing alone costs 10¢ a page. But I'm sure they'll stonewall me all they can. They have been on this since March of 1969.

I, again alone, conducted all the investigation against both federal and state governments for the evidentiary hearing of 10/74. Neither tried to rebut any of it. And all that comes out now is, of course, my work. I think they are unusual credentials for a book. But not all. All I have time for because I have to get up at 4:30 again tomorrow morning to be in court in Washington on another case. This time I'll be deposing a string of FBI agents whose retirements I forced. Today started before 4:30.

I don't care how or how much the book is cut as long as it is faithful. And if Geller wants the university archive to be known as the Geller Archives I do not have that kind of ego. What I want is to complete as much of this work as possible and to do it as thoroughly and as well as possible. This is why I rush so with the writing. It can be the Geller Archive.

As you will ~~xxxx~~ see, what I have written comes largely from entirely new documents. This will be true of Part III, which will be ~~based~~ ^{based} on what I've gotten and am getting from the FBI. Not all of it. I don't really need more than I have. All were once secret.

With a good offer I'll let other things go and do the last part of the draft rapidly. Even though I've just had a call from Lesar informing me that the FBI has just coughed up another 150 or more pages of their files for the case tomorrow.

Lesar is as determined as I am. It may seem incredible but we do force them, for all their power and influence. He and I alone, without any funding or support.

But can you imagine the potential value and the historic significance of getting 203,500 secret FBI records on anything?

In this case, remember, it is the basis of the coming House investigation and it can be printed long before that investigation is really started.

Remember also there was the Church investigation. They did not get this stuff!

I think that between this natural of two lone men without means or influence and the ~~xxxx~~ sensational nature of what I have already the coming part will be exciting and hot, authentic yet commercial.

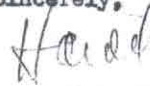
With good editing it should be a real one. It can be the first assassination book to tap the black market, too.

My hunch is that the more you demand the more interested Zebra will be after their experience with McDonald. You know these things better than I but modesty they appear not to understand or appreciate. A bigger blowhard than McDonald I've never seen.

I'll mail this in Washington in the morning because our weekend mail goes through the most ineffecient of all post offices, Baltimore. If you want to talk, I'll be home Monday and Tuesday even if the phone rings without response for a while. My wife is returning some time Monday and I'll have to pick her up at the local bus station and Tuesday, probably in the morning, we'll ~~xxxx~~ vote.

By the way, there have been several ^s Hollywood movie interests in a King assassination plot.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg