

4/26/67

Dear Miss Fortel,

If there is anything I can do to help you, I will. At the moment, as has been true for some time, my problem is time. I have just completed one book promised for a month ago, and working on one promised for two months ago, and have 1400 orders for a third due in February.

So, if the ms is long, I cannot promise when I'll be able to. If it is short I'll lay something aside to do it as fast as I can.

If you researched the medical findings in Mark Lane's book, I urge you to reread Humes testimony carefully, for he did not burn his notes. I have receipts for them and trace them to his head on the witness stand. They existed after the burning, which was of the first draft of the autopsy (2H373, I think, very top of page).

Avoid a private printing if you can.

We are sending Ray's monograph, with a check for the overpayment on both.

If she has time, Mrs. Meagher would be an excellent choice to read what you have written. Do not underestimate her knowledge of the subject matter.

I'd be interested in your discovery about the mistakes in the artists drawings. In my reprinting I did not use the muscles.

I look forward to the appearance of your book. For months I have believed that specialization is now necessary, as with Ray's work, which I unsuccessfully tried to get him to make more complete. Good luck

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Ruth Fortel
G.P.O. Box 1611
New York, NY 10001

24 April 1967

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown
Maryland, 20734

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I am getting a book together on the Warren Commission, mainly the autopsy report with anatomical illustrations. Professionally I'm a painter but am now having to write in order to explain the drawings.

When the X-rays and photos were transferred to the National Archives I decided I waited too long to get my work seen by those who would be interested. I quit my typing job last January to get the project into shape. I had not been in touch with anyone since a friend closely allied with Mark Lane went to London last year. I know Mark Lane, in fact, and researched the medical findings that appear in his book. For economic reasons I dropped the WCR study for a year. Finally, in January, I talked with Sylvia Meagher on the telephone. I never met her but our conversations will surely lead to a meeting one day.

I had been looking for Ray Marcus's book, "The Bastard Bullet," and haven't been able to find it here in New York. Mrs. Meagher suggested I write to you because she believes Mr. Marcus sent a supply to you. I also want to buy "Whitewash II" from you, and have enclosed an \$11 check. I hope it will cover the postage.

I hadn't bought your second book because I was most distressed that it didn't have an index. Because the first one came out WITH one, I was hoping the same would happen to the red book. But now I can't wait any longer, knowing that I can't be without the information you've been digging up. Incidentally, I have both editions of your first Whitewash.

Mrs. Meagher is a most kind and helpful person, and also suggested that I ought to get my manuscript read by someone; certainly I need a check on some mistakes I'm bound to make. Is it possible to approach you for this chore? The subject range is limited to the medical findings and testimony, though there will be drawings of the Zapruder frames, the May 24th reenactment, and figures or charts on trajectories.

At first I thought I would put the book out myself, being a good typist, but when I thought of the distribution end of it and the time and money involved, it became too formidable. At the same time resistance is breaking down all over because of the books already published. After some feeler-letters to publishers, I have one that is ready to read it--in about two weeks. I tend to be pessimistic but will be elated if they take it.

I wrote to Ray Marcus about a month ago but never heard from him; I wrote in care of Ramparts magazine. But Mrs. Meagher remembered that he took a trip and probably hasn't even seen the letter yet. I wrote to Ramparts itself the same day and sent them a copy of a drawing on the neck muscles--Lifton and Welsh had made the same mistake on them that most people make and which the Warren Commission seemingly intended them to make. With no more space and my message given, I'd better stop--

Sincerely, *Ruth Fortel*