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Ms. Mildred Sela Neely
Trade News Editor
Publishers Weekly
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10036

Dear Ms. Neely,

Sorry I've been unable to answer your welcome letter of October 15 until now. It is because I am the kind of publisher I am and because I am also other than a publisher. If you've followed Martin Waldron's stories in the Times you are aware of the unprecedented hearing in the James Earl Ray case, which is the direct result of my work in Frame-Up, the last of my works, reviewed by PW, ^{with} which a preception Waldron reduced to the most flattering profanity down in Memphis. In person, that is!

Because I am also Ray's unpaid investigator I had to abandon the new book temporarily because of this new precedent we have established and to be in and work in and out of the courtroom. The major legal lead was carried by my associate in this new book. So, he also could do nothing with or on it. I'll explain some of the consequences.

First, however, this new precedent because it was possible only because of the work represented by Frame-Up. For the first time there is the right to what lawyers call "discovery" under habeas corpus. This right was unanimously upheld by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the State of Tennessee is appealing to the Supreme Court. With this legal help ordered for the first time by a federal court we now have proofs of violation of the Constitution that also are without precedent, even in the famous Ellsberg case. Even though most were withheld from us. For your information, Ray's mail was all delivered to his prosecutor, who xeroxed it! We have copies of these intercepted letters to lawyers and judges, from the prosecutor's files. Even copies of filched notes Ray made to participate in his own defense, notes to his lawyers. In fact, we've an admission in court of what I'd learned from Ray, that the guards even went diving into the toilet when Ray tore work-papers up and before he could flush them away. Over and above all this, there was constant electronic surveillance, now in a court record. So, the obligations of the citizen/writer/investigator had to take precedence over the needs of the publisher.

The printer has not yet delivered the books, even though they have been printed for weeks. I enclose one of the few copies picked up by hand and mailed to me. I shudder to look at it because before I left for Memphis two signs had to be reprinted. One had a page upside down and the other four pages reversed. The envelope is too large, although he had a sample, and on the wrong stack, printed the wrong way!

There is interest in the ancillary rights which will influence pub date but not for long because this work can be important in a Congressional effort to override Ford's veto of amendments to the Freedom of Information law that are largely due to official corruption in the one of my four suits that went to the Supreme Court. Should this interest you I have that Congressional Record. The book, as you will see, is possible only because of the bizarre history of the fourth suit. Until I hear further from these in Congress who are interested, my knowledge is limited. Right now it looks like less than two weeks before we'll have to give copies to all Members, not an inconsiderable cost to one so small.

While I would prefer to have all distribution by a publisher who does distribute for others, there simply hasn't been time to make the effort. This means that the commercial distribution will begin through wholesalers, as with my earlier books. And the only one of these I've been able to approach to date is Bookazine. They will stock the book and will have copies as soon as I can get and ship them. I have their order.

What has happened in the past is that the initial attention to the book causes other wholesalers to order. Bookstores are used to ordering directly also. They have been dealing directly with us since 1966. The odd thing, as I wrote you, is that only the works on this subject in which interest has not slackened that were published by the country's smallest publisher are still in print and still sell regularly.

The retail price is fixed. It is \$6.00.

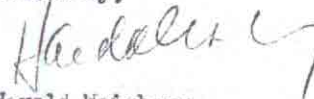
I'm sorry that this is all so confusing. Confusion is the reality, alas, when one wears so many hats.

However, I'll let you have the answers to the other questions as soon as I can.

While writing this I've tried to reach my associate. It occurs to me that an appropriate pub date is the coming 11th anniversary of the JFK assassination, the 22nd. If I do not add a postscript, it will be the 22nd. And you'll have a specific date.

Thanks again for your interest and for PW's fairness of the past.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg