

June 26. ;994

Dear Richard:

In your undated letter postmarked 6/ 17, you finally answer the question you had refused to answer earlier. You are again not keeping your word on when you will publish NEVER AGAIN! now saying you will do it in a little less than another year, next March. You tell me I am welcome to have it published elsewhere after stonewalling me for a year I had no reason to believe I would live and knowing full well that, at my age and in the precarious state of my health, that is not really possible for me. And you seek to justify this with the farcical explanation that "I am sorry the book is not more timely publishable."

Remembering the past I spare you further comment on this other than to say that it could not possibly be less true.

But I do not ignore your first words, "NEVER AGAIN is now fully edited but not yet copy edited." Your "now" is about a year late. It was fully edited and the editing of that time was agreed to and I was assured in your name by your agent that there would be no further editing. I also was then told, in your name, that it would then go to the copy editor as preparation for being published. And you refer to that as only "now"?

What in the world has happened to you, Richard?

You also say you "do not wish to debate the justification for your anger" and that, so much younger than I, you "do not have the energy." The truth is that you simply cannot defend your conduct and your breaking of your word to me knowing full well what my situation is and how much it meant to me to have the book published while I live.

This is not a reflection of the man I have known to be so thoughtful, so kind and considerate.

I was, in fact, merely responding to your refusal to respond when I asked you if you would now keep your word to publish the book this September by what I took all that time and space to show you is not a true complaint and is not even relevant, that I had given you "a fusilade of complaints." Not that that would not have been more than justified!

And you want my reply "in a page or less." When as a lawyer you know full well that a single word can take pages to refute.

If what you did to CASE OPEN and call editing were to become the standard, then New York's unemployment lines would grow enormously longer as all the publishers let almost all their editors go! You eliminated only the focus on the CIA in the title of what you read when you agreed to publish the book, did not give that part of it the editing it needed at all, and then just eliminated all but two chapters of the rest, by far most of what I wrote, with no perceptible editing of them. You merely eliminated what you said you wanted, the "lawyer's brief" made possible by Rosner's prosecutor's

approach. In doing that you eliminated the exculpation of Oswald, with all that means, to the government in particular. No other interest was served unless there is a business complication of which I do not know but have a justified suspicion.

As you well know, Richard, both manuscripts had the best of possible peer reviews. One of those of CASE OPEN is that with normal editing it qualified for submission for a Pulitzer. Which was not awarded in the history division this year.

As the District of Columbia appeals court held years ago, the JFK assassination is a subject in which interest will never end. Have you no concern at all for the record you have made for yourself in this, of doing what serves the interest of errant government and in that raising the very legitimate question of whether you have some such involvement?

With copies of the rough drafts of both books distributed to more than those who provided the peer reviews, the best of possible peer reviews on this subject, and to others who are subject-matter experts?

To those who are aware of other CIA intrusions into my being published going back to 1965?

More, when you say, knowing full well that it has never been true, that NEVER AGAIN! is "not timely publishable" before March 1995, after you have given a copy of it to be used in a lawsuit that has every prospect of attracting much attention well before then?

That alone by normal publishing and public-relations concepts calls for the fastest possible publication. More, too, when for all the time you have been delaying publication, I called to your attention that there would be (as there then were) a number of news developments that would help the book enormously if it was on sale when they came to pass.

The question is not alone what you have done to me, Richard. It is very much what have you done and what are you doing to your reputation.

And what you have done to the precious history of our country. Which I did think meant something to you.

Especially when this is compared with the terrible schlock you and C&G have published about the assassination, deplorable books that confuse the people and the issue even more when the only interest served by that is again the interest of errant officialdom.

Aside from Hillel's teaching, in which I thought you believed from your very many kindnesses over so many years, how can you have done this to yourself?

Your offer of "Best wishes as always" is more than true of the past but if you had the slightest perception of what you have done to me, even while accusing me of not trusting you when the record is so painfully true that I trusted you too much, I fear you would be very uncomfortable.

In reading and correcting this a few other things came to mind for which I tax your flagged energy a bit more. This is because I want the record for history and that I'll give to my executors to be clear.

You had NEVER AGAIN!, in which you expressed interest, six months later, in January 1993. In normal publishing it could easily have been published in another six months, in July 1993. That was well before Posner's book so successfully corrupted our history. That conflict alone could have made mine a very important and successful book. The norm, publishing in six months, could not have been more timely - if you had proceeded normally - even more so because it would have preceded all the trash published to exploit the 30th assassination anniversary. And it would have provided a standard of comparison for the awful books of which C&G's self-descriptive Killing the Truth is the most monstrous and indecent.

From this alone it is not unreasonable to wonder if you delayed my book to protect Livingstone's and C&G's investment in it.

From a Publisher's Weekly article sent me there can be the same wonder about your not keeping your belated word to publish NEVER AGAIN! this September.

I do not recall asking you for anything other than the information to which authors are entitled and that publishers normally provide, friends more so. The length of what I had to take time to write you about was caused solely by your steadfast refusal to respond. Ever.

You refer to your alleged sorrow that NEVER AGAIN! is "not more timely publishable." With regard to timeliness, there has not been a day since you got it that it did not have the timeliness most nonfiction publishers would envy. Yet you have sat on it for more than a year and now tell me you'll do that for still another year.

With regard to what is publishable, when you published what you butchered as CASE OPEN, is there anything that is not by that standard publishable?

In so small a part of what I wrote there remains more than 75 typos I caught and corrected in the typed copy and again in the proofs. It has two contradictory subtitles. It has no table of contents! Which I also caught and called to your attention. It had no conclusions - in a work of nonfiction! When I provided conclusions overnight, you took your meataxe to that, not editing it, and after that butchery you have a dozen blank pages! It has no index, as serious nonfiction books do. It eliminated the significant pictures you and I had. It even disputes itself from your lack of editing and that after I caught it, too!

And what you eliminated is of unquestionable historical and reader-interest importance, as I mention above. It is also unprecedented in the field in which there is so much interest despite the garbage heaped on readers by so many publishers including you.

From what you did, nothing is unpublishable! You did no editing at all. You refer to the elimination of most of it that was so absolutely solid

and important as "editing." This is ludicrous!

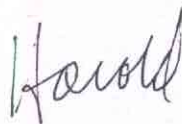
I did give you the right to edit, there was editing needed, but you did no editing at all and you ignored the editing I did!

If you really believe what you have told me, I strongly urge you to seek the help you need. If you do not believe what you told me, and I think I have made clear that it is not true at all, not in any part, then I think you should take stock of what you have done to yourself in this and why and what you represent of yourself in it, what for 25 years I would have considered impossible for you.

This in particular has troubled me and right now troubles me. As I think back over as much as I can recall of my 81 years, I can think of no man I have had anything to do with of whom I would have considered more impossible what you have done to the country's interest, to mine when I was your friend, and to yourself and to your reputation.

What you have done to me and to the rights of any writer leaves me no choice but, given the state of my health, to inform my executors.

Regretfully,



That NEVER AGAIN! "cannot" be published "before March of 1995" or a year and a half or more after the editing was agreed to is so preposterous I need make no other comment about it.

But that you do say it makes me ask again, what has happened to you, Richard?

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Dear Lil & Harold,

Never Again is now fully edited,
but not yet copyedited.

If you prefer someone else to
publish it please make the arrangement.
We cannot publish it before March of
1995, but will do so then if you
wish.

I do not wish to debate the
justification of your anger. I do not
have the energy to involve myself
in more acrimony.

I am sorry the book is
not more timely published. I am
sorry you are vexed. I am sorry
you are not feeling stronger.
My Best Wishes, as Always,
Richard

P.S. Please keep any reply ^(over) to one page or less!

You gave me carte blanche to
edit Case Open.

It was not publishable
as delivered.

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