

Dear Dick,

4/23/74

Your yesterday's call caught me by surprise in a number of ways. I had forgotten about my letter to you because I felt that if you were going to react to it you would have immediately. When you didn't, in fact, I got in touch with a friend in publishing the end of the week, leaving a message for him because he was away (soliciting advice—he can do nothing); and writing a political figure early this week. I was expecting a call from a young lawyer friend who was delayed getting here. And immediately before your call there was one that did not come through. That is, when I picked the phone up, there was nobody there.

My taping is not automatic and not indiscriminate. Because of sophisticated threats, so confirmed by the police, and with the collaboration of the phone company, I arranged a system I can activate rapidly. Because of the incomplete call I was ready and had the machine on the moment I picked the phone up when you called. Retrieval from tape is an extraordinarily time-consuming matter. I use tapes this way only to eliminate the failings of memory. When I got talking to you I forgot I had the thing running.

If your letter gets here today I'll be able to respond tonight. I have an afternoon appointment and the mail gets here midday, one delivery.

I did not have time to think of your call immediately afterward because the lawyer did get here and we were until suppertime on that business. I think it will interest you. It is another of my Freedom of Information suits. (I can file one at any time on the Watergate book, really two. I can also file against Nixon and the White House. Evidence has been withheld from me.)

My immediate purpose in writing before your letter comes is not to forget. There are many things we will want to discuss aside from content and financial arrangements. One of this is time and timing and rushing. We will have to decide on the potential of the book and then on what efforts we will make along those lines, if any. This has the capability of being the deciding factor. It will entail minor expenses I will not be able to advance or absorb, chiefly trips to Washington and freebees. The time I will invest.

On the other end, there are mechanical problems. Example: everything except printing costs less here, especially typing, compared with NYC.

My files are organized around an entirely different book, a sort of Dr. Weisberg's *Five Feet Watergate Bookshelf*. I have several written. To do a fast job, I will need a research assistant. I have one in mind if he is free when college is over. From Philadelphia. I'll write him later today.

Other things have occurred to me and slipped my mind. Others will. I'll start a file of them so we can try to miss nothing. Doing an underground book means exploiting all its natural possibilities.

This hoped-for research assistant is a fairly competent typist and a sharp young man who could do some editing of the ~~xxxx~~ rough rough.

And there are concerns in my mind about your positions that I think you should be fully aware of. It was no figure of speech when I told you this will be an extraordinarily tough book. It has no justification unless it is. Or prospect.

There are a few mundane problems here. I'll have to be able to hire a boy to keep all the grass mowed or I'll have to take time from writing. I'd prefer to get my exercise in walking, which means thinking time, but I can't afford to hire a kid. When you are here you will see what I mean.

If there is to be another with you, and if you have things to discuss, it might be better to drive. I find the bus enables working while travelling. Scheduled time from NYC to Baltimore is about 3 1/2 hours. There is about an hour layover in Baltimore and the trip to Frederick from Baltimore takes another hour. If you drive, I'll type the instructions on a card so you can follow them. It is easy. Superhighway almost all the way. Only one stop sign even.

Meanwhile, be thinking of where a magazine piece that has separate worth and news-value can be placed and that part, dealing with CIA domestic activities, left out of the book. It can provide me some income, help the book and should be brought to light.

Sincerely,

Your letter of the 23rd came. Thursdays our mail is always late because of the preference of the junkies for that day's deliveries. And the lawyer who is handling my current FOI suit is also late. I begin a response because if he is late enough he can mail a completed letter in Washington tonight, which will save a day.

I agree that we should get together and that next week is best. However, in some ways it is a bad week. To take first things first because this man can come at any moment, we have medical appointments in Washington on Thursday, May 2, mine at 11 and my wife's at 11:30, at a clinic a half hour from National Airport (plus the time required for retrieving the car). If there are no X-rays, etc., my wife will not mind waiting when her examination is completed, assuming it is not by the time I can leave, I should be able to meet a plane landing about 12:30 p.m. This would give us much of the afternoon. This should provide a safety factor, to avoid keeping you waiting, because I have no assurance that any testing, X-ray or other, is indicated or required.

Monday is out except here because on that day a young friend who is more like a son is coming for the week. I must meet his bus. Tuesday afternoon I have a local medical appointment. Wednesday if open, but Friday I will have to deliver this young man to his transportation home, leaving the afternoon only.

I share your view that there should be no misunderstandings. I remember Oswald in New Orleans very well and from it learned that I must also understand all details. I then did not.

In your letter, which I realize may have been written in haste, I find ambiguities and phrases the interpretation of which is not clear to me. What determines publishability if one. We could later disagree on this and that I would not want.

What in this case a "joint venture" is I do not know.

My lawyer friend has arrived.

In haste,

*Richard J. Gallen*  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

14 EAST 60TH STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022  
PHONE 753-1713

April 23, 1974

Harold Weisberg  
Route 8  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Harold,

Concerning the publication of your book on Watergate, I would suggest the following procedure:

1. A meeting and review of material next week in Washington or Maryland to determine publishability.

2. If answer is affirmative a new corporation will be formed to publish your book. The new corporation will offer to you an authors contract as follows:

- a. An advance of \$1,000 payable as follows:  
\$500 on signing  
\$500 on acceptance of completed manuscript.
- b. \$250 for stenographic expenses.
- c. These will be advances against a 10% royalty on all sales of US editions.
- d. Foreign editions and movie rights retained by you.

3. Upon acceptance of the manuscript the corporation will attempt to find distribution, arrange a joint venture, distribute the book itself or if none of these alternatives appear feasible, will revert the rights to you within three months of acceptance of manuscript. You will be obligated to repay the \$1250 only if another publisher purchases the manuscript from you.

There is no assurance that even if the terms are acceptable and the manuscript is acceptable that the new corporation will be able to publish the book. This is a risk you should carefully consider before consenting.

If the book is self-published by the new corporation the best format would be your original WHITEWASH format. The book should be short, accurate, emphasizing the highlights and providing the documentation.

*Richard T. Gallen*  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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*A professional editor will be supplied to work with you.*

*Once again let me caution you that a signed contract would not carry a commitment to publish. I want you to understand this clearly to preclude any later disagreement or animosity should publication not be feasible.*

*You might give some thought to preparing a chapter outline and a few pages summarizing the highlights for our meeting next week.*

*Best regards.*

*Cordially yours,*

*Dick*

Richard T. Gallen