

9/29/74

Dear Dick,

If you had sent me Skisick's address I might or might not have approached him about distributing Whitewash IV because with each day I realize how tough a book it really is in a day when fear pervades.

But because you did not send the address I can't now write him what I think he urgently needs to know. Nor can I afford to phone him. Besides, that may not be possible until tomorrow, when I'll be spending most of the day with James Earl Ray in his jail cell. I leave tonight.

Today's Wash. Post has a story reporting that S & S is considering making a thing out of Ford's book, Portrait of the Assassins. (Interestingly, indicative of S & S p.r. carelessness perhaps, the Post says "an Assassins" the original title.) It is to be at some kind of book fair in the State Dept. in D.C. beginning the seventh.

The fourth of the Whitewash series has been delayed by mechanical problems but it is in manufacture. It has in it what has never been done before, a comparison between Ford's allegedly direct quotation of an official transcript and the actuality. I mean in an age of corruption you will not recall many if any instances with the purposefulness of corruption, distorting meanings and misleading unpleasantnesses.

It would probably be quite helpful to me were there to be this attention to Ford's dishonesty about the same matter. It could attract considerable attention to my new book and who doesn't want that?

However, I also assume that from the past you have some kind of S & S connection. They did distribute Parallel books through subsidiary. So, if any of these people mean anything to you, you may want to alert them.

The only thing of any consequence in the Ford-Stiles book is as crooked as it can be, the proof will soon be published, and even the ghost is another example of personal crookedness. He was put on the public test to ghost and do nothing else.

Yikes, not the shenanigans in the media, is the real Ford. And if S & S is having financial problems now that is nothing to what a little of their former author (?) will be giving them. It is inevitable that he is going to preside over a real economic and financial disaster, as I have already suggested to you. This will mean serious political troubles, too. And I do not think very good S & S public relations if they hear of this crappy book now. Were they to have concern about this and to seek a graceful out, I'd suggest that they say they reconsidered and decided it might be taken as a commercialization of the Presidency and perish the thought!

If you decide to mention this to them.

I'll probably go to Memphis Monday night, where I think I'll be staying at the Albert Pick. The soonest I'll be returning is Thursday night.

My proposal to the TV set is still under consideration, so in trying to be a decent guy I am not unhelpful that it does not serve my personal interest. I know their interest includes my secret relationship with another Commission member who doubted the most basic elements of the Report Ford and he signed. You would never know it from what Ford submitted to trusting S & S, but he had such that could not be more relevant to say that a) Ford edited out and b) did not indicate he was eliminating.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg