

December 9, 1974

Mr. Lewis H. Lapham
Harper's
2 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Dear Mr. Lapham:

Thanks for telling it to me as it is.

When I had heard from neither you nor Taylor (who had indicated authority and interest), I did proceed with a nonexclusive one-time use of one part that I had thought might interest you. I am sorry that nothing is working out now because I do think we have common interests and by working together could serve them and those of a decent society.

I am so deeply into so much that the probability is I will not be able to take any initiatives along the lines I talked with Taylor about so that if your view and situation changes what we discussed should still be possible.

You may or may not be willing to accept my assessment of it but I do think that journalistically it could well be a very real if not exceptional accomplishment.

You have not responded to my reference to an indefinite suggestion Taylor made about Harper's selling WHITEWASH IV or for that matter any of my earlier books. If it interests you or your people who handle matters of this nature, we have an arrangement with others that might interest you. They sell the book, get paid, take 25% and send us their addressed label. We then mail the book and pay the postage.

Jim Lesar and I are now applying 100% of the gross sales of the book to the \$6,000.00 we had to borrow for the printer and although neither of us has any income, until we pay off the bank we are absorbing all costs. As I am sure you realize, the printer's bill is far from the only cost we have to recover. We therefore have no capability of paying for advertising.

However, if you can do anything along the line Taylor suggested, we would welcome it and if there were any collateral sales directly to me, we would deal with you honorably and you would be paid.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Harper's

HARPER'S MAGAZINE CO. TWO PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 TELEPHONE: 212 686-8710

December 5, 1974

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Rt. 8
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Taylor Branch tells me that he continues to hold conversations with you. I have left all decisions in the matter to him, largely because I cannot envision an article on the JFK assassination appearing in Harper's monthly in the near future. In the January issue of the magazine, we will publish an article about the doubts gathering around the RFK assassination, and for the time being I expect that we will draw back from subjects of a similar nature.

I wish you well with your book, and I regret that we couldn't manage to arrive at a more satisfactory deal.

Yours,



Lewis H. Lapham

LHL:as