

10/1/71

Mr. Ron Hobbs,
211 E. 43 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Ron,

Miss Longdon's letter of the 29th reminds me that I have on several occasions intending writing you on several matters. One one it is only your (and may I see unique in my experiences?) kindnesses that has deterred me. The other was just still working the same killing day, with more years and more problems.

If the letter means what should you do with what of mine you have, unless you want any of it for future possible collectors' item value, please return what you do not need. Occasionally I do have call for them.

I have been wanting to give you a copy of FRAME-UP. If you do not have a copy, I had to buy some and I would like to do something I have never done, volunteer an inscription. Because I will be penniless in about two weeks, if you have a copy, please let me know.

I know how busy you are, so the rest, if not responded to, I will take as negative response.

I am not new to black struggles. Although I do not know your age, I venture to suggest I was part of them, as best a white man can be, before you were naturally aware of anything deeper than mistreatment. Where I am deficient is, I suppose, because I am not black, in understanding black attitudes, including literary attitudes. Nonetheless, on some subjects I have maintained files, hoping that at some point black investigative reporters might emerge, or black writers willing to collaborate. To those anywhere near as poor as I, I ~~would~~ ^{would} willingly give this work. I think it represents several viable books. My understanding has been this good: you will find elliptical prediction of what became the Hampton-Clark murders in Chicago in the draft of COUP, contracted into FRAMEUP, where all not relating to King had to be eliminated. And I have been attempting to get the few I know interested in what to demand and have preserved in the Jackson and Attica cases before official destruction, and accurately predicted the destruction were it not done. On the latter subjects, if you have any writers working on these things, what + have they can have.

Outerbridge and Dienstfrey arranged no single promotion of the book, discouraged the few I and friends arranged and have beat me out of about half of the advance. To this they have added fraudulent charges against me. I have no funds to engaged a lawyer. Do you know of any help available in New York? I can't pay for it. I am more than \$30,000 in hock, have no income and an almost empty back account, with little prospect of collecting the other (and considerable) sums due me. I am aware of how ~~paranoid~~ ^{paranoid} this sounds, but (please make no mention) but I have a copy of an edition Dell's accounting doesn't acknowledge, for one example.

There seems little point in mentioning it, but I have completed the writing of the book on the JFK assassination (I know everyone thinks it is dead and irrelevant) that has the "new evidence" for which all the intellectual finks have been clamoring. This is stuff denied the Warren Commission now in my possession as the result of suit and threat of suit vs, the government.

Should you find a weekend when you want to switch one set of problems for another, come down. You can go back with enough for a book on the revolt in the New Orleans ghetto that I think of and file under "Desire", both the recent and the racist/cultural background.

I believe there is still good prospect for FRAMI-UP and that I can take it away from OGD. I went to Memphis after it was printed, and I have enough for a whole new book I'll never write. But the pictures I have and a few transcripts of interviews with witnesses (all on tapes I have) could give it a new life with someone like Stuart, who doesn't like me because he owes me \$85. I know it sounds like paranoia again. The few new pages it would require are a negligible cost.

I now know all that happened but ^{not} the names, I am Ray's investigator. I am not off on a free-James-~~Earl~~ Ray kick. The pictures are as close to totally exculpatory as anything can be. And I think he'll be put up to trying to escape again and will be killed. We have been in regular correspondence. I am the only one who writes him except through his present lawyer, who I arranged, and it is not one of my better accomplishments. The same mechanism can eliminate any black leader who achieves King's status. And will.

Please excuse my worse than usual bad typing. With the bleak future and the pressing, immediate problems and the unpleasantness of what I must do when I finish this, I am not enjoying a good day.

It may be your norm, but you are the only one in any aspect of publishing who dealt with me honorably and considerately, and I do appreciate it.

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg

Ronald Hobbs
Literary Agency



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(212) 687-1417

Cable: Ronhobbs

29 September 1971

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Expansion in space has developed and we would like to know what you would like us to do with your manuscripts and proposals?

We shall look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Millie Longdon

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E.S. Ron sends his regards.