

Dear Ed,

9/27/75

If Jim were not so busy I think he'd have been in touch with you. He is behind schedule on the Ray appeal and then has one that may be precedent under the new FOIA to prepare. Meanwhile we are being ripped off right and left.

The protections of the law are always available to those who have money. In a way other than I've asked it before I ask again is there are any lawyers who are expert in publishing law who will take and handle properly the case of an indigent who can't pay a fee in advance? On contingency?

There are many cases, which means a number of different potential defendants, which means a number of different law firms on the other side.

There are no indigent potential defendants. If there are the offenses I think there are and are going to be - and on some we've discussed I think the cases are clear - I think the return can be good.

There has been really dirty stuff. Tricks of various kind and in all cases, no exception, involving those to whom I've attempted to sell ancillary rights. My work reproduced as the work of another word for word, the same excisions, the same inclusions. My work pretended to be the original investigation of another and used in the form of an interview when there never was any interview.

While I can't and don't claim ownership of a government document, there are other considerations. Like others not knowing about it and me offering them normal commercial arrangements, them not going for it and buying my books from me in some cases and then using it as their work.

The National Tatler even stole our pictures off of the cover of Whitewash IV and used them without so much as asking. Both are unique pictures I used on the book and nowhere else, although others may have used the same trick. Tatler owned by Warner Communications.

Among Rolling Stone's many offenses, whether or not against the law, is removing credit to my copyrighted work when it was included by the author and then presenting this as his/their work. Gordon and Kaiser both in one issue. In a later issue they pretended to have interviewed Lesar and me, having interviewed neither. They quote me from Frame-Up and they knew before publication that their author had not interviewed me when they had a staffer phone to check the quote.

Pending is what seems likely to be an enormous CBS ripoff of my work, not for the first time. I proposed their 1967 special. My proposal was rejected in writing by the man who did it in 1967. Now they have bought my books from me, I offered to sell them all my rights, they have not even spoken to me on their JFK special, and they are going around duplicating my work to present it as their own. Meanwhile they have bought exclusive rights to Zapruder and threaten to sue all who use any of it.

What it boils down to is can it be that in all the firms that practise publishing law there is not one willing to help a poor man who has worked all these years with no pay and is regularly robbed by the rich?

I do not assume that you have shown anyone anything you have gotten from me, but if you have I ask that you notify them of my refusal to give any away and let me know who... There is more to the CBS thing but there is no time for it now. One includes a frivolous suit in the Ray case. They lost. Their purpose again was to present my work as their own and here it is clear. No news need... There is also a potential fortune for a good firm willing to do good work for Ray on civil suits. Best to both,