



HOLT, RINEHART AND WINSTON, INC.

ARTHUR A. COHEN
EDITOR IN CHIEF
GENERAL BOOK DIVISION

September 12, 1966

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown
Maryland 20734

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you so much for your letter of September 1st. It was not that I sought to ignore your original letter to me, however not having been at that time as familiar with all of the details of what appears to be the intramural competition of the experts, I referred the letter to Mark Lane for answering. I am sorry that you did not find his answer satisfactory.

We were and remain of the opinion that RUSH TO JUDGMENT by Mark Lane is justified in being regarded as the first study published by a major American publisher dealing with the entire investigation of the Warren Commission. It is indeed true that your book was published and available, however I confess to having been unaware of the originality of your own contribution until Mark Lane apprised me of it. To the best of my knowledge we will not be advertising again the claim of Mark Lane's book being the first. It seems now to be an irrelevant and unnecessary claim and particularly so since indeed your book had been available.

Your interpretation of the absence of photographs from our volume is rather more "sinister" than is in fact the case. When Mark and I discussed the preparation of the book it was my opinion that it would be desirable to have photographs and at the time -- considerably in advance of manufacturing estimates -- Mark consented to the desirability of including a signature of photographs. In due course, our publicity and advertising department, in its preliminary advertising, made reference to a photographic section. Subsequently it was dropped because of cost and moreover because we regarded any photographic presentation as at the most partial. As you will note from our further advertising in the public press there has been no reference to a photographic section.

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Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.

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Last but not least I do wish to assure you that there is absolutely no connection between Holt, Rinehart and Winston and any television station, and in particular no connection between Holt, Rinehart and Winston and Alan Burke or WNEW-TV in New York. Please be assured of this as if any evidence or allegation to the contrary should be forthcoming and an indication that pressure was placed by Holt either on the station or that show, it would be malicious and untrue and would undoubtedly be defended by our counsel.

I do continue to wish you all success as I continue to support and wish success to the publication of RUSA TO JUDGMENT.

Sincerely yours,


Arthur A. Cohen

AAC/js

cc: Mark Lane
Mr. Tribe

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