

6/16/75 Dear Jim,

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I'm sending you this copy of the letter by the friend of a friend based on which the friend was to have decided whether to make an effort with a publisher to get Post Mortem out.

My friend is the one whose address I asked you to get Barbara to check out.

This letter, which I had not then received, is one of the reasons. I knew in essence what it would say.

It is irrelevant. And when people like these ~~writes~~ written irrelevant letters I do find myself wondering.

Martin begins by saying he is saying only what I had already said about the defects in the complete book for commercial purposes.

But at no point does he come in contact with the alleged purpose for which he read it: would he write a condensed and popular version?

Any reading of his letter does lead to the conclusions that he does believe the commercial success of what I proposed is at least possible.

I may or may not question my friend of the past on this.

At the moment I'm inclined not to.

I think it would be a waste of time and could not be productive.

As you know, from the first my proposals on this have been predicated upon the appearance of a popularization.

I fear that with all the efforts I have made along this line I'm going to have to abandon that effort.

There has not been a single sincere interest from any of those who have professed interest.

And there is no reasonable question about the commercial success today or at any time for the past five years.

I may decide to write the other letter merely as a matter of record.

Right now I haven't time.

If and when Lil can find time I want her to type the index to Post Mortem after I edit the cards. I'll not do this editing until she is read to type because if there are any questions I'll have forgotten what I had in mind. Once it is typed and there comes to time to decide on the contents of the appendix the typed index will be an accurate enough guide to the space the index will take and thus to the space available for appendix. It will be a simple enough job then to add the appendix to the index. Mostly mechanical work.

However, until there is prospect that it can be printed it is wasteful to even try to put the appendix together. New material requires inclusion, as the Memo of Transfer. There can be more.

™ Ditto with annotating the completed text. As footnoting Hoover's death.

I don't know how comprehensible my note on my private meetings with the Virginians and the Lowensteiners is. I was so tired I could not finish supper last night. I fell asleep looking at 60 minutes and slept sitting up for several hours. However, it enabled me to get an early start this a.m. and to get through most of the accumulated mail. Now I'll attack the packages during the a.m. TV news.

If it is not clear, I believe these more experienced students have a legitimate complaint about slowness in organization. I discussed this with Floyd, who was not entirely undefensive about it. I suggested that he ask for the inclusion of some of those from other schools who were present by appear not to have met the others.

I do not think this is an immediate problem. I do think that the real organization can be around the Bill of Particulars when it is done if it is as good as I think it can be. The preparation will be a measure of what we can expect from those who are new to us.

Best,

WILLIAM MARTIN  
92 IVY WAY  
PORT WASHINGTON, N. Y. 11050

June 9, 1975

Dear Harold,

Dick asked me to look over your manuscript, which I have just done. Since I am hardly well versed in the investigation, I could not comment on the substance, only on the form.

I guess I felt what you have already said, that the ms. is a document of record which would later have to be reorganized and condensed to create a commercial book. As it stands, it is not organized only thematically but partially historically, in terms of the development of your investigation.

I think Dick would have to see a document reshaped before he could evaluate the commercial possibilities of the book. I know I, not being expert in the area, often could not put together evidence on given issues presented in part I with that in part II. Moreover, those who haven't read the Warren Commission Report and the earlier Whitewash books may be stepping into an intellectual thicket without a compass.

(By the way, one little factual question involving the O'Neill-Sibert report of 11/26/63. Don't they say that Adms. Holloway, Berkley, and the ~~and~~ other big shots left the room -- went to an adjoining room -- right before autopsy and that only medical personnel plus FBI and SS agents were present?)

In any case, I found it a fascinating though very complicated document. It made me wonder whether the time might not be ~~worth~~ right, if it were possible, to put together an overall work, using older as well as newly obtained information, stressing the fact that the case remains unsolved, and highlighting

- Exhibit 399
- the location of the wounds
- the so-called re-enactment, etc. ???

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

*Bill*