

Aluminum Extrusions  
Rod  
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Forgings  
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R-4386

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ALUMINUM  
TUBES AND PIPE  
WALBRIDGE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
20734

February 21, 1966

Dear Mr. Meagher,

It has been nine days since I wrote Oscar Collier a long letter, going into many things. I presume he didn't mention it to you because you made no reference to any of its contents. He raised the same questions with me about six months ago when we first discussed the book.

I do not really think he has any doubts about the sale, nor do I think any of the others who gave this as his reason did. In his case, I do believe I may have made a mistake in being honest with him and telling him what other publishers said. I was aware at the time of the possibility he (and the others I told) would wonder whether there might be some truth to it, and this question, added to the certainty of some problems, made the prospect too discouraging.

Many thanks for your effort. It may have done some good, for he must have thought about what you said after you left.

Possibly one of the problems is the type of government we live under and the things we are taught. This is a difficult thing to believe; yet I cannot believe my book didn't persuade him. Most of the editors, including some world-famous correspondents have commented on its persuasiveness. Collier's real reason I may never know, unless at some time he chooses to reveal it. Meanwhile, I have no choice but to assume he means what he said and, when I can, I am inquiring into the possibility of getting for him some kind of a guarantee. At that point I will know more.

However, I do not agree with you that anyone would print this book with no financial risk involved, that it doesn't take much courage to decide on a sure thing. Exactly this decision has been made by people who thought they were being offered at least a best seller; and quite a few of the editors said, some in writing, that it was precisely a lack of courage that resulted in no contract offer.

He was both nice and cordial with me, but on the occasion of our interview I detected neither indecisiveness or lack of conviction. As an agent, before he went to Fleet, he had represented both Mark Lane and Marguerite Oswald (neither association being of the kind to encourage further connections with the subject) and seemed quite willing to believe what we know to be the truth.

Meanwhile, I am exploring other possibilities, with nothing now justifying any optimism. I will keep you posted. And again, thanks.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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17 February 1966

Dear Mr Weisberg,

Just a postscript to my long letter of the 15th...After mailing it, I returned the ms personally to Oscar Collier and told him at some length my views on the desirability of publishing your book. I've never been able to "sell" on my own behalf and I guess I don't do much better for third parties, because I don't think I succeeded in changing his views very much. Actually, Collier seems rather an indecisive person, without strong convictions about the assassination in the first place. He disappointed me by raising the usual irrelevant questions--why would Warren, why would Robert Kennedy, etc. I have the impression that he would go ahead with the book if there was no financial risk--but who wouldn't? It doesn't take much courage to decide on a sure thing.

I hope I prove to be wrong, but I thought I should give you my impression after talking to Collier (he's very nice personally, and was very cordial).

Let me hear from you.

Hastily,

  
Sylvia Meagher