

12/24/66

Dear Mr. Meeker,

I have just returned, exhausted, from the trip of which my wife told you and in addition to the great amount of work that lay ahead I have accumulation of the trip and of two weeks of unanswered mail. With the third book due in February, the research for another book laid aside so I could do it, and a foreign publisher waiting for this incomplete work, I have little time for correspondence, much as I might want to help you.

Mr. Gallen, who is a lawyer, is quite interested in your book. If he finds it a viable work, he will make you an offer for it. If you haven't sent him a copy, this, in my opinion, is the first thing you should do. He is looking for controversy.

Our costs are higher than the figures you quote and they are for offset. The more you can stay out of the big cities, the cheaper your costs. Around here, for example, printing can be done much cheaper in Baltimore than in Washington. I had no choice. New York, despite the competition, costs even more.

I strongly encourage you to exhaust the possibilities of normal printing, beginning with Mr. Gallen, who I know is interested.

There are no such things as standard arrangements with publishers, most of whom are so crooked they steal from themselves. I wound up contracting almost twice what they originally offered me, and that may mean nothing if they are real crooked. The royalty on paperback can range from six percent upward. I'm beginning with 10%.

Hardcover does not follow paper. The reverse is true. I have no arrangement for the second book. I am its publisher. Having established a market with the first, I'll not contract for it without a sizeable advance.

With offset, there was little extra cost for photographs, because the entire job is photographed.

Please believe me, I am so busy I do not know what a night's sleep is and haven't read a paper in two months. I hope you will understand it is not because I do not want to be helpful that I do not write more. I have neither the time nor the additional information you request. I do strongly urge you to get together with Gallen, who I believe to be an honorable man (else I'd not have discussed your ms with him). If he believes you have a good thing but that it needs rewriting, he'll tell you. If he believes you have nothing, he'll tell you that, too. I trust him enough to have given him the raw material for another book I planned to write, all researched, but for which I do not now have time. He wanted to reprint WHITEWASH, but I had contracted it, and he wanted to do WHITEWASH II but I would not wait. If I get any hard-back offer for it, I'll not accept until I have talked to him, even though he is a very small publisher. So, you can see what I think of him.

Good luck,

Harold Weisberg

2605 Virginia Street, N.E.,
Albuquerque, New Mexico,
December 19, 1966

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I am addressing this to you wife in view of the fact that I learned from her that you were in California, and wanted her to tell you to stop by here on your way back. We have a large home, and there is plenty of room to stop over. Please do, for there is much that I would like to discuss with you.

When you first wrote, I started looking for your book "WHITEWASH", and could not locate it. I discovered that you were coming out in a paperback. One of my son in laws is a university student and during the summer works for a book distributor. Through that connection I got a copy, and also got your book in every outlet, (dozens of them) in this city. If you can give me the dope on your newest book, maybe I can do the same thing for it. However, if it is a hard-back, I will have to start cold, for have no connection for har-back books. Let me know as soon as you can.

I am rather dumb about this book business. You see I retired from business and to keep from going nuts took this writing bitup recently. For this reason I sure would like to talk with you. I would of course prefer meeting you, but if this can not be arranged, then I will try to do it by telephone. In this I will want to discuss something about the following questions. I believe that if you look over these ahead of time that we can get it done by telephone at not too much costs.

1. When one sells these re-print rights, what percentages of the retail price do you get on all books sold? What did you get on first book?
2. Where some other company prints the book in hard-cover, does the percentage for paperback remain the same? Has this been true with your second book?
3. Please give me the name and address of the firm that printed the limited edition of your first book, "WHITEWASH". (NOTE: I have been trying to locate printers to publish my book, if I do not sell it. The best prices I have found so far has been the Adams Printers, 30 West Washington St., Chicago, 60602, Ill. For a book of 6"x 9" size printed with around 500 words per page, their charge is \$5.60 per page. This is for printing, and sewing, with no covers of any class on the book. For cartoons or pictures, if you furnish the copy ready for photographing, they charge \$10 per page.)

4. I would appreciate it very much if you would advise me what your printer charged you and give me the number of copies printed. The above prices for Adams printers was on # 50 paper and for 1000 copies, set on lynotype. Costs are 10% extra on 60lb paper. As I said they are the best prices I have had quoted to me. Please furnish details as it will help.
5. In furnishing the dope under (5) above, be sure and let me know the extra cost per illustration given in your book. Give as complete a breakdown as possible including size of page, paper-type, cost per putting on hard covers, and cost for printing only, (per-page if you can) otherwise total pages, and total cost. (I can have harcovers put on locally for around 75¢ each.

COMMENT OF "WHITEWASH"

I am astounded at the amount of work you obviously have done. I thought that I in reading 3,000 cases had worked, but imagine you may have exceeded my effort. And you appear clearly to have the subject matter in hand, and are undoubtedly the best authority on this subject matter in the U.S.

Your English is splendid, work reads smoothly, and it keeps one on his toes and with no desire whatever to put the book down until it is finished.

Your story is very interesting and I quickly was convinced that you were doing the public a great favor in writing this. It introduces an intelligent high level and quite sincere approach, and the theme is significant.

Your story has high suspense, produces great emotional effect, deeply touches the reader, and seems very genuine, and utterly believable. Your approach was esthetically satisfying, and in no way appears to be an exploitation by the author.

I think the work is timely, although it is very unfortunate that it did not appear two years ago when you first wrote it. Even now I think it may well be a best seller even though in paperback.

Mr. Weisberg, I think this work will live for hundreds of years and eventually will be incorporated in the actual 26 volumes which I now think are literally an effort at "WHITEWASH".

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I do not have a copy of "SHYSTERISM, U.S.A.", (extra) or I would send it to you. If however, you write to the Clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court, and ask for a copy of the manuscript filed with case NO 704, October 1966 Term of the Supreme Court of the U.S. I think they might send you one. I had to file 40 copies, (this is the law), and sometimes they will send out a few of these if asked for, as they do not need them all. But please, do not tell them I suggested this. I hope your friend publishes the book.

Sincerely, 
C.A. Meeker.