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June 11, 1966

Mr. James Aronson
The National Guardian
197 E. 4th. St.,
New York, N.Y. 10009

Dear Mr. Aronson,

As you may have perhaps noticed, my book has been ignored by the liberal press. I do hope you can do something expeditiously for all the usual reasons plus one: the printing bills. Perhaps Sally Belfrage would write an immediate review for you. She was well through the book when I got a very kind letter from her. Perhaps by now she has finished it. She also sent a copy to her dad, for Guardian review.

The Epstein book is important. There is much of it with which I cannot agree, hence its greater acceptability to Viking. But it is, without doubt, an important contribution despite its defects. Lane's book, and Sauvage's, which you didn't mention, are not close.

WHITEWASH does have normal commercial distribution now. Besides these copies we are mailing out daily - fifteen today - there are 2751 in commercial channels or already sold. Washington sales have been very good. The major distributors on both coasts have ordered and by the time you get this, their books should have arrived.

The reception of the book at the American Booksellers' Assn. convention was especially heartening. Here I had anticipated that both its non-commercial publication and its unusual form would handicap it. The contrary was true. It and I were very well treated, by the press, the distributors and sellers, even by the competition. With any kind of luck now this thing will go - and it will blow the top off. I do hope that aside from review purposes you will find the time to read it, and not hastily. You will find many things not obvious in a hasty reading. And it is not a short book - about 110,000 words. Nor is it the end.

Speak to Sally before you decide this is conceit, but there is nothing else like this one, and it has been fighting its bankrupt way since February 1965. A quick review would help, could make a difference in many ways. There is no anti-Commission, especially not an anti-Warren line, and it is important, I believe, that the ultimate unravelling not be reweven into a Warren snare. ...Muriel Rukaysar also has a copy...I also hope you can do something before the special Ramparts issue, due to go to press in about 10 days, comes out. Please, do believe me, until you read the book yourself. This is not jealousy. It is I who launched Inquest with my own PR for WHITEWASH (of which you'll be seeing more), and I have been plugging that book. Thanks for anything you can do. Hastily,

Harold Weisberg