

Dear Professor Nelson,

3/15/78

Thanks you for the return of Oswald in New Orleans with the xerox copy of it and for the care you took in making the package. Both came in good condition.

In this you are unique except for a friend at local Hood College. Nobody to whom I've loaned a copy of the book for making a copy has returned it, with or without a xerox I could make available to another scholar. From college faculty to TV nets and including other reporters and ordinary citizens. They have all been ripped off.

I place no restriction on your use of your copy. However, I hope you will not permit copies to be made just for people to have copies. I distinguish here between scholarly uses, as by your students. No restrictions with them. I explain.

The publisher conned me into believing I would be better off with a 50% interest in the net of the book instead of the normal advance and royalties. He then undertook to market the book on the cheap--no ads, no promotions, not even the correction of typographical errors. Even the table of contents was left out. He hoped the attention to my previous work would sell the book. Paperback distribution and sales do not work that way. Unpromoted books are not placed in the mass-market racks by the truck drivers who are the actual distributors. So there was no net and I never received a penny from it.

The book is now a collector's item. It is bringing from \$50 a copy up. I've heard of people paying \$500 for a copy.

I have very few copies. If I have a copy made commercially locally the cost to me is some time and travel expenditure plus about \$35.00. I can have it done for much less elsewhere but that takes much more time which I do not have. So it remains costly.

My wife, who handles this end of our business, believe that we will have to ask \$50 for a xerox. We are down to a very few books, maybe a half dozen.

There is no chance that this book will not forever represent a financial disaster to me. I regret very much not publishing it myself. I've been able to keep all my own books in print and to continue to sell them, even first editions, at nominal cost.

It is the lesson I learned from this book that enables me to have copies of Frame-Up, of which I was not the publisher, and to continue to sell that at the original price.

Where others may want copies, I would appreciate being paid for them. I'll place no figure on this. I will accept what in each case may appear to be reasonable. In turn this can help finance my paying for xeroxes of government records. I have one bill with the CIA for almost \$1500 right now. I'm contesting the charge but if I lose I have to pay it.

Enclosed is a carbon of the index to O in NO. After you have made copies, if you would like copies, please return it to me via Dave Wrone. I do not recall whether I gave him a copy of the index. I do not have a spare copy of the appendix, which the publisher omitted. The only copy I have is marked up for indexing. I let Paul Hock have a xerox of the appendix. I have forgotten what he told me about this but I believe it is that he broke it down and ran it into his filing system. He can let you know. His new address is 1525 Acton St., Berkeley, Ca. 94702.

Readers Digest is certain to make a strenuous effort with Epstein's newest disinformation, Legend. It is possible that in the midwest you may see news and magazine stories that do not appear in the east. Copies could be quite useful, particularly in a current FOIA effort, if you can provide them.

Thanks again and best wishes,