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Miss Barbara Epstein, Editor
The New York Review
250 West 47 Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Epstein,

If you have never seen a book in this form before, I hope it will not prejudice you against mine. After 15 months I felt I had no alternative. I still hope for normal publication and pray that a moderate success in this unorthodox presentation will attract it.

Possibly the preface may hold some additional interest for you. During this long period in which I drove something over 15,000 miles between my home and New York, I gave much thought to what the history of this book reflected of the freedom of the press we now enjoy. A year ago, when a major magazine indicated an interest in a 20,000 condensation and even got me an agent, I roughed out a magazine piece on this subject, but have done nothing with it except to allow a British correspondent whose paper had expressed an interest in socialization to send it along.

This work was done in mid-February 1965. By then I had about a third of a million words of typed notes, 22 reels of tape each with six hours on it and I cannot begin to estimate how much from other sources that I did not use. As you can see, this book is restricted entirely to the official information of the Commission. My wife was my only assistant. Besides help with the research, etc., she has typed close to three quarters of a million words on this subject alone.

We have no facilities for advertising or promotion. If you can properly offer any help or suggestions, we certainly will appreciate it. I hope you find the book warrants it. A Washington bookstore is going to try and interest a New York distributor. Even if we sell the entire 3,000 printing, which is not possible for there are quite a few we must give away, we cannot even approach a break-even point. Can you suggest where I may place ads on a per inquiry basis or anything else that can help with distribution?

The book has not had the benefit of a professional editor's touch. There are things I intended doing had I the time.

Should you or whoever else reads it have any questions, I will, as promptly as I can, answer them.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg