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WA6-2034

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September 18, 1965

Mr. Tom Wicker
New York Times
1701 K. St., nw
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wicker,

It is not my intention to annoy you and intrude into your already busy day by letter. I am writing because of further thoughts about what may result from the Sylwan Fox book.

I do not hide my chagrin that while I have no doubt that I was first and believe I have done a historic thing, another book will appear ahead of mine. But I do not really think that is my controlling concern. You may remember that in discussing my book with you I said I decided to restrict myself to the testimony and evidence of the Commission because I thought no matter how responsible or authoritative, there was little chance of private investigators being credited against the Federal people. I am convinced as ever that this is still true, and I fear the outside data Fox has drawn in may provide a target for those anxious to have the Report unquestioned. This has been the history of the few minor writings I have seen. Either a minor aspect is criticized and thus rebutted or, after a few such cases, the writings are ignored. I fear this may happen with the Fox book.

Also, I now know that the Mark Lane book is scheduled for both hardback and reprint editions in England, where it is scheduled for a big play. It is my information, supported by the samples of Mr. Lane's writings that I have seen, that his book was quite inaccurate. It is, if my information is correct, now undergoing the most extensive corrections and revisions. An entire committee of people headed by the famous historian Trevor-Roper (whose own inaccuracies in this field were rather well publicized six months or so ago) as a prelude to publication.

So, I am quite apprehensive that further inaccurate writing will still further reduce the climate of public acceptability now, I fear as I believe you do, already less than it was last Spring.

I expect to be in or on the way to New York by the time this reaches you. I will be back the end of the week. In the remote event that you or anyone from the Times might be interested in speaking to me, I expect to stay with friends (office: 0X7-9170, home LI4-0896) who have a maid and an answering service. But I would very much like to speak to you after my return. I do feel a little more optimistic based upon nothing tangible or specific, just what I take to be a slightly different attitude when I was in New York two weeks ago. I hope your schedule will permit this.

Again, I apologize for the time I have taken.

Sincerely,

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9/15/65

Mr. Tom Wicker
New York Times
1701 K St., NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wicker,

Here are two brief insertions for my book. Don't bother taking it apart to bind them in place. BUT I'd appreciate it if you could fold them in where they belong.

Hope you are finding time to read it and that you are finding it interesting. There are a few (nonpublishing) developments you might find interesting that I'd like to tell you about if you ever find a minute that isn't busy.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

*Also later sent copy of Pub. Wkly announce-
ment of Fox Book, same day.*

20734

July 26, 1965

Mr. Tom Vicker
New York Times
1701 K St., NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Vicker,

As I recall your parting words Wednesday, they were to the effect that when I decided there was no prospect of American publication of my book, you'd be interested in reading it, although you didn't think there was anything you could do about it.

I will never decide there is no chance of American publication. Perhaps I lack perspective and detachment, but I think I have done an important, possibly historic thing for our country and our principles. On the mercenary side, we have a very considerable investment, including about 7,000 hours of my wife's time and my own.

Yet at this particular moment, outside of those things one cannot anticipate, I see no immediate prospects. Perhaps a contract for European publication, or the appearance of Dwight McDonald's book, or some event will change this. But I see nothing right now.

So, I hope your eyes can tolerate the poor quality of our recently-acquired but ancient Thermo-Fax. The only other copy I have is the ribbon copy, from which my wife is typing an additional copy and I am also Thermo-Faxing. The other copies are in Europe.

As I told you when I saw you, I ask nothing except the preservation of confidence. If, after reading it, you have any suggestions, or see any way in which you might help, I'd certainly appreciate it. And I do thank you for your time and willingness. I have a complete marked set of the 26 volumes if you'd like to see them.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg