

4/3/69

Dear Mr. Faversner,

In order to save your time, Dick's and that of your secretary, here is a duplicate of the complete Meredith file except for my letters to Dick (of which my copies are indistinct) and that which is on tape and not transcribed. It is stapled together in reverse chronological order, newest on top.

First item in it is the letter of agreement from Capitol Records, which relates to the reprinting of what wound up as a scurrilous book, "The Scavengers" (Dell), by Meredith. I believe it is libellous and had this intent. If you desire, I can send you a copy of my correspondence with Capitol. I withdrew the rights for violation of agreement well in advance of any book, simply from the record, which was entirely different than represented. I have never had meaningful reply from Capitol, never gotten a cent under the agreement (they had never made any arrangement with the Kennedy Library and never gave it a cent). Although I was unaware of it at the time of agreement (for an historical document-for universities!), Schiller had been Jack Ruby's agent. The Warren Commission records I first saw had him getting a total of 35% rather than the customary 10%. Later, in the testimony of Jack's sister, I found that they got less than half of the gross from Schiller. Obviously, in making the agreement with Adler (David), I had no idea they were going to use my word to validate the libels against me in the same volume. I will be sending you, separately, a copy of "Scavengers" and a commentary, as you asked.

Next, the two 11/13/67 contracts from Bill Adler and my letters to him of 11/23 and 30/67.

11/27/68, Meredith (Ripley) to me and my 10/4 response.

Copies of pages ix, 94, 223, 278 of the Meredith book, "The Weight of the Evidence" (of which there is comment in the subsequent letters).

10/8/68, to Meredith (Ripley) and memo of conversations. (Note that Ralph Woodward has since resigned as President of Meredith. His successor, Charles Byrne, did not return my 3/27/69 phone call when I was in New York. His secretary was Woodward's. She told me they had not heard from Paris Flemonde, author of a second Meredith book, subject of later correspondence.)

10/9/68, to Meredith (Woodward).

10/22/68, from Meredith (Woodward's secretary).

1/8/69, to Meredith.

1/15/69, from Meredith (Woodward). Note his statement he had put Dick "in touch with our attorneys". I have never heard about this from Dick.

2/8/69, to Meredith.

2/9/69, to Meredith, two letters.

2/14/69, from Meredith (Woodward).

2/10/69, to Meredith (stapled in wrong place).

2/18/69, ~~from~~ to Meredith (Woodward).

To date, there has been no payment of any kind or offer of payment of any kind. Woodward acknowledged violation of agreement, unauthorized use of copyrighted material and damage to me in phone conversation (taped) by their Adler book, where he used the pen-name "David".

Whether it has meaning of any kind, I don't know, but the Dell "Scavengers" was still on sale at the Baltimore airport 1/19/69. You have copies of Dell's statement my books are out of print and the Dell contract provides they will treat mine no less favorably than others. WHITWASH II and "Scavengers" were advertised and announced simultaneously.

I have done this before the larger job of giving you a list of the Dell file because it will be almost two weeks before time for Dell to perform on paying the uncontested sums to me. Also, Woodward had indicated a willingness to settle amicably for the "David" damage, which he acknowledged. Whatever Dick knows about this he has not communicated to me. If there has been any comment by Flammonde, I'd like to see and analyze it for you. There is no doubt of the plagiarism. I am getting letters from readers about it, one just yesterday from California. If non-expert readers can detect it, I think it is indeed obvious.

If there is anything further you require on this aspect, please let me know and I will undertake to supply it.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg