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HAROLD,  
for your  
interest &  
information

Feh 6, 1975

Ian MacFarlane  
Book Distributors  
59 Talbot Cres  
Kooyong...3144  
Victoria, Australia

Dear Sir,

Your most interesting letter of Jan 22 has just been forwarded to me. I'm sorry the magazine batches my letters and I get them late.

I believe there can be little point in writing on this subject for book publication unless both of us are assured of adequate compensation. I have regular work each day and then write at night. I already have a big backlog of work for which I am guaranteed a fee.

I shall be honored to write for you on the agreement that you put a down payment of \$500 US in escrow here under care of your Embassy to be released upon acceptance of my article by you. Then I want a share in the proceeds equal to 50% per book after the sales of the first 1,000 books.

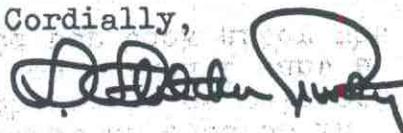
If you agree, I shall write a chapter or perhaps two which I am sure will go well with whatever you are doing yourself. I shall choose my own subject and manner of doing it.

Failing the above, I might be able to get the rights to my Genesis article for you for a fixed rate of \$250 US.

I write for Genesis each month and shall be back on the ~~assizant~~ assassination subject again soon. The March 1975 magazine has a Martin Luther King story.

Thank you for your interest and I look forward to an opportunity to work with you.

Cordially,



# B Book Distributors

Dear Fletcher,

12 February 1975

Thank you for your prompt reply to my letter. I'm afraid, though, that you have misconstrued my financial position and, perhaps, the basis of my proposition. In addition to you, for example, I have approached a dozen others for contributions - four of whom have already replied in the affirmative, and only one has refused.

To let you understand my problem better: Below is the financial background to my first book, "The Assassination of John F Kennedy: A New Review (1974)". This slim book had a print run of only 500 and sold at \$ 1.00 a copy. It cost \$ 340 to produce - although I did the layout, paste-up and negative/platemaking myself. The typesetting was done at 15% discount. I have sold all but 40 copies, the profit to me? - less than \$ 120, because I gave many copies to the media. It was, therefore, hardly an exercise in sound commercial enterprise. However, and this was the whole point of the venture extracts of the book were printed in newspapers in Australia and New Zealand and I was able to discuss the issues on radio and television. My total audience, then, was in the region of a million people. Not bad going, perhaps you'll agree, for such a small initial stake!

I, too, am fully employed during the week. I paid for the last book out of my wages - and will do so again for the forthcoming work. This time, I do aim to profit from the book since I have spent more than \$ 900 in establishing a library on the subject and hope to finance further acquisitions so that this collection (perhaps already the largest outside America) can be finally handed over to a University or State Library for the future...

For the forthcoming book, I must come up with about \$ 3000 from somewhere. I will need to borrow this sum to make the project possible. Once again, I'll be doing the layout/paste-up myself - and in addition will be also doing the typesetting on a borrowed machine.

The people I've approached so far for articles have agreed to contribute for nothing except the promise of some copies to sell among their friends and colleagues later. Because I have not explained my financial background to them (as I have to you, above), I am doubly stunned by their generous and moving idealism.

If I had the money, I would have given advances to them all (and would to you). For many of them, the quest for truth has brought only heartbreak, financial hardship, scorn and defamation. I had hoped, if the book was a financial success, to share this success in the form of checks later - but this was to be a surprise and, given the vagaries of the publishing business, it would have been irresponsible to have promised this beforehand.

Judging by your letter, you are a practical man. I applaud your success with Genesis, and your other projects, and sincerely wish you continued financial success. You will readily understand from the above, though, that I cannot comply with any of the proposals in your letter - even the rights to the Genesis article...

In the circumstances, then, it might be impudent to re-extend my previous offer: But I will. Full by-line credits, copies of the book to sell, and the vague hope of sharing in the success or otherwise of a book published on the other side of the world are all I can offer. More importantly, in my view, I offer the opportunity of your joining

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VICTORIA...3144 AUSTRALIA

with a fine group of people in helping disseminate the most important story of our times. My new book, to my knowledge, will be the first to present a forum of debate among the critics (of all persuasions) under "one roof".

Personally, I hope you will reconsider your proposals in the light of the foregoing, and agree to contribute for the same return as all the others who will write for the book's anthology section. I believe you have something valuable to contribute, facts that perhaps you cannot communicate through vehicles like Genesis...

One last explanation: "Book Distributors" is only a plural noun, not a registered company. It is me alone, although I hope to register the name soon.

Finally, if you have the stomach for naive idealism, I would welcome you aboard for this adventure in 'little man' publishing. By joining us I believe that you will reap profits greater than money. Who knows? - perhaps the book will force a re-investigation in America...

Meanwhile, I apologise if my previous letter raised your expectations unduly. It was dashed off in a hurry, and obviously gave the wrong impression.

Nevertheless, now that all has been explained, I hope to hear from you again in the form of your best article yet! - (2000/3000 words) with supporting illustrative material and a personal photo. The deadline is the first week in April...

Sincere wishes for you continued success,  
Kind regards,

*Ian MacFarlane*

Ian MacFarlane

Harold,

Won't you re-consider?

In view of your comments, I have "seen the light" about commercializers like Prouty et al - but, let's face it, it's a fact of life. Maybe we're the fools for not cashing-in...

Have you received the clippings and transcripts, regarding the showing of the Zapouder film here on two national networks, yet? (I don't know if I put enough stamps on it) If not, write and I'll send further copies)

Kind regards,

*Ian MacFarlane*