

Dear Vernon,

11/11/74

Thanks to Fred Emery and the Daily Times' bag to London you and Mr. Evans will each soon be receiving a copy of the fourth of the WHITWAS series. I'll get these and a copy to Fred as soon as I can. Release date is 11/22 not really because it is the anniversary but because of the many delays in bringing this newest work out.

Unless I make a deal for world ancillary rights, which seems as improbable as anything can, my purpose in wanting the Sunday Times to have a copy is seeing them what they can use of the book.

I would hope that the content, especially of this once TOP SECRET transcript and its self-disclosures of the specks by the chiefest of them all (this side), Dulles himself, can find a market in Europe. If on reading you want more copies, please let me know.

Now I get this transcript is in itself a story. And one reason for having to release the book before being able to make an effort with the ancillary rights is the possibility of its use in the coming effort to override Ford's vote of the amendments to the Freedom of Information law. Ford is heavy in this book because he quite literally stole this TOP SECRET transcript and sold it for profit after editing out all the embarrassing stuff that is newsworthy and giving no indication of any alteration. This is reduced to a chart, as you will see. Ford thereafter lied under oath about it, direct quotes included, when he was under confirmation proceedings before the Senate Judiciary Committee. And on this FOI law, of the cases cited in Senate debate requiring amendment back to the original Congressional intent, one of mine is the first of I think three give. I have this copy of the Congressional Record. Teddy Kennedy himself saw to it that this case, explicitly, is a reason for the legislative requirement.

The effort to override Ford's vote is to begin in the House about 11/18. Thus we have to make the full messy story and the documentation available to the Congress by then. Unfortunately, when the money to even print the book is borrowed, we have to do this without compensation or subsidy.

The delays are from two major causes. One an endless appearance of gremlins in the printer's. The other is the involvement of my colleague in this book and my own in the recent Ray hearing. He and I have really done all the work.

In the course of it, we set a new legal precedent, the right under habeas corpus to "discovery." That required great effort under the most trying circumstances, not the least of which was resistance to the point of contempt of court, to our getting access to some of the nastiest documentation in any criminal case. We thus had no time for anything else. Now the case will come out will be determined by political not legal considerations. There no longer remains any basis for even trying Ray, our work has been that successful, that thorough. But it will go to the Supreme Court at least twice. This precedent is already under appeal by the State. And however the just-ended hearing goes, it will be appealed.

Now let me update you on the efforts I've made. First of all, I think a mere reading with actors taking the parts will make this transcript fascinating TV material. Last Thursday a representative of The National Star, British owned, was here. Today the representative of Harper's magazine is coming. Each knows there is another submission. Either may want more extensive rights but if either does I will ask that they deal with you on all in Europe. I have no reason to believe this will happen but from those who have seen the material there are indications it can catch on. And if it means you have to do nothing but sign a paper, any commission in years as a matter of right. Let us hope at long last something like this can happen!

It will be easy to deliver a copy to Der Spiegel and others with offices here. If I do it, it will be with the understanding that they deal with you. But I don't know when I can get to Washington.

The printing of this book is possible only because my young lawyer/associate/friend borrowed the money. We are so strapped air postage is a serious problem. Delays have held us up to where his note is due this week and the book isn't out although the negatives had been shot before he borrowed the money! They are to be kept for me in the event there is British interest in the book, in which even we can ship the negatives. The print job is not good. I've asked them to hold the plates in the event, as with

Whitewash, there will be future printings.  
My young associate, Jim Leger, is going to the building in which Der Spiegel has  
its office today. I just phoned him. He will be going there a copy to send to  
Germany, embargoed in any event until 11/22.  
Inge seems to me to be the less predictable of the Feltrinellis. She is so  
anti-CIA she might perhaps go for this.

If nothing else comes of any of this, you will have some reading matter  
for the nights that are now growing longer.

Best regards,

[The remainder of the page contains extremely faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the document.]