

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
9/20/74

Mr. Fred Jordan
Grove Press
53 E.11 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10003

Dear Fred,

The summer has passed and you were not able to come here, as we discussed, to go over what I regard as valuable literary properties with which I, personally, cannot do anything now. I write about one that exists in draft, unread except where I had to go over it to pick up the trend.

To call it merely a Watergate or a Nixon book is not to describe it. The title, long before the event, is The Unimpeachment of Richard Nixon. The purpose was to tell why Nixon would not allow himself to be impeached and what had to be hidden.

As of today there has not been a single expose of Watergate. There have been many books, some of the last selling best. But not one get to the guts of it. Woodward and Bernstein did no investigating and their book is an account of their non-investigation. I know them both. This book includes what they were afraid to use. In confidence except for Barney only, it also tells how the CIA got them the Pulitzer.

It is a CIA book, with disclosures of CIA involvements not known. It traces and establishes Nixon's and Ford's pre-Watergate connections with several Watergaters. Take this literally. For both.

I keep up with these things. The passing of time requires no corrections of which I know. Nor does time date any of the contents except the very beginning, which was, when written, necessary for comprehension but today is not needed. The rest needs editing only. Perhaps some additions, certainly cutting. I think that with good editing it will also read like a personal detective story.

I don't know what you took from what I did for you on McDonald with just a couple of days and without once leaving home. I hope it told you I know my business. Dick should be able to tell you that repeatedly I told him what would happen before it happened. With Nixon he should tell you that at the beginning, the very beginning, I told him that only a coup would keep Nixon in office and that of the means by which he would leave the White House impeachment was least likely. He should remember that when he told me the Bantam special with Clark Mollenhoff that he said would cream the market I said would not and despite Mollenhoff's record would not be a really good work if he in fact did an expose. The second time I saw Dick about this Bantam had cancelled.

Dick first introduced me to a German publisher's rep who was at first excited but then for unexplained reasons backed out. He then introduced me to Harold Ober and Associates, the firm I recently referred to in writing you. Peter Sheppard was the agent. When I sent him rough drafts of two chapters without even reading them to give him an idea of the exciting new evidence that would not be investigated he threw up his hands and said it was not possible. These became the Howard Hughes part of the known part of the story, part of which is not known and were the book not already so long, could be added. Maybe should be. That book, a definitive one, grew too long. There is, for example, a chapter on Pat Gray that could make a separate book but I do not think there is a large market for it without reorganization. It is the length of a short book. It is because of this length that I put that aside and adopted the simpler formula.

I lead what most people might regard as a crazy life. I am into too much but I complete what I think for anyone would be a remarkable percentage of what I start. With all and despite the speed with which I must work, a speed that requires me to publish rough drafts only, in more than a million published words I have yet to receive a single complaint from anyone of whom I've written, and I've published some pretty stiff stuff. When I charge the Department of Justice with suborning perjury by the FBI their response is that I know more about this subject (JFK assassination) than anyone in the FBI. And they do not lay charges on me. Even though I have done this repeatedly under oath.

What I'm trying to say is that with an enormous output and while being my own publisher my work stacks. It also has a considerable following. I must have letters from not less than 5,000 strangers. My work also is new. I have done the pioneering in the fields in which I work.

The problems, aside from what one man can do, are the conditions under which I have to write and my tendency to be over-informative. Not with fact or content or commercial potential. With my last book, for which all production costs had to be borrowed, I have paid them all off and am beginning to get a return without making a single public appearance on it, without doing a single TV show on it, without a single ad or any commercial distribution. It will make money if I do not count the cost of my life's work itself. The same will be true, perhaps more true, of the book I'm preparing to print now. This one may break the JFK case wide open. With any luck at all it will.

So, I'm writing to make a proposal for you to take over The Unimpeachment book under almost any conditions you want with the sole stipulations fidelity to the unedited work and that you deliver the remainders to me free when you decide to remainder.

If you and Barney are willing to do this I will make some suggestions that I think you will find will reduce your production costs considerably and add to the sales potential. I am also willing to take no advance for a 50% share of the net if in turn you will make a serious effort to sell the book in which I will help.

If this can be of interest what would be required would be that I read the manuscript as I had to lay it aside for my work on the Ray case a year ago and then make a xerox so we can both have a copy. I'd also have to rewrite and condense the opening to eliminate what now is not needed. I could not do this until I have the coming book in the hands of the printer. I could complete it before I have to start selling that book and I would then return to other work partly written.

It would also require a patient editor. Not because we'd fight. Because of the conditions under which I did the original writing.

I hope to be able to give the coming book to the printer in about two weeks. The initial cost to you if this can be of interest would be a xeroxing cost only. I would read that which does not have to be eliminated, correct without rewriting what is comprehensible, xerox and then go back and redo the beginning.

Watergate in the fullest sense is a significant part of our history. The CIA's unknown part in it should be exposed. There should be a published record of what has not been put together. This is why I am willing to make an offer that is not the advantageous one for me. I hope it may interest you and Barney.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg