

20734

9/7/66

Dear Rev. Warford,

If I only had time to write the kind of letters I'd like and that are owed for the wonderful expressions we get by mail and phone! People have been wonderful. But while performing all the chores of a publishing house, save for secretarial, mail clerking and bookkeeping, with the first two of which I'm the junior assistant, I am continuing my researches and have almost completed a sequel, which I'd like you not to mention, thus increasing my chances of surviving it. So, with never a full night's sleep, I'm never able to do what I'd like. With this explanation, I hope you'll excuse my brevity.

First of all, you may use whatever you desire for the various review purpose you have in mind. I'm quite happy you so intend. I regret I have been unable to arrange for any distribution in the midwest. Here I have distribution, it is unenthusiastic, rather surprising because this is a profitable book to all handlers.

If the biographical material on the cover is insufficient, ask me whatever else you want to know.

Should the PX of bookstore or library at your home desire copies to sell, the discounts are 40% on 5 copies or more.

Perhaps you'll be interested in knowing that the printer has been unusually kind. He did the book with nothing besides the \$500 I borrowed as a down payment and my assurance that I'd pay the balance, without even a note, and with his only check at my bank. We have finally finished paying him for the first run, have made a token payment on the second, and he is now completing the third without the second paid for. He did the second when we hadn't paid him anything additional on the first. He knew of the sales, of course. This is truly the old American Tradition. About 9,800 copies have been sold. We have taken not a cent out of the gross, and until three or four weeks ago, were even advancing the postage from borrowed funds.

It is not the competitive instinct or vanity that impels me to suggest you read the others with as critical an eye as you can, I haven't read the Savage book, The Oswald Affair (World) but Inquest and Rush to Judgement focus on Earl Warren in a not accidentally dishonest and quite inaccurate way. I called the factual inaccuracy in the Trevoe-Roper introduction to Holt's attention before publication. It is uncorrected. Warren did not a) do the bulk of the work or b) attend most of those meetings at which a member was present. These meetings were only a sixth of the hearings held! The staff, as my introduction says, is the real work, and to me the staff includes the FBI and Secret Service, for these agencies so functional. You will hear more of this. In some cases, the thrust is subtle, but it is there. I hope you'll detect it and not help lay more of the kindling for what could become a Reichstag fire. This will be more clear when you see WHITEWASH II.

Penn Jones Jr., Midlothian Mirror, Midlothian, Texas, has written a book (\$1 in paper) that I think you'd like to have. He is a courageous, old-time country weekly editor. If there are any others you cannot get, I'll get them for

you through Washington bookstores. Inquest will be out in paper (Bantam, \$1.95) September 20.

This is no simple subject, nor are the various wrongs done by the too many people who did them readily understood. Until we know more, until more of the washing is done and less of the whitewashing remains, I hope we can suspend judgement on some of those most prominently associated with the entire phoney inquest, including, of course, those with whom, as you will find in WHITEWASH, I dealt severely without finding it necessary to twist things to do so.

My experience with this book, with all the efforts to suppress and subliminate it, to ignore it when nothing else was possible, and the degree to which they have failed and the book succeeded, makes me feel good about the fundamental decency and understanding of so many of our people. I can only estimate how many if the book had half a chance. The letters we received, from housewives to Judges, were a comfort and an inspiration. A lawyer, outraged at the effort of a panel of lawyers to destroy me, has volunteered legal work, and I have asked him to prepare a brief covering part 2 of WHITEWASH, Oswald in the hands of public authority. I'm dismayed that the other books almost entirely ignore this. This brief is now half done and the bad guys were publicly frustrated. In fact, their indecency turned the tables on them and perhaps more than any other single thing at least in the New York area is responsible for the beginning of the turning around. The TV station that aired that show has taped a two-hour special that will be syndicated. Little by little, the truth will out.

Many thanks for your good wishes and any help you can offer. If there is anything I can do, to the degree I can I will try.

Sincerely,

Harold Reisberg