

Dear Dick,

7/2/74

Your candor, which I appreciate, confronts me with a problem and a choice I did not realize when we were talking. Particularly because I do not question your judgment in these matters.

Basically, your view has changed since my original proposal and what has changed it is your concept of commercial success. I have no complaint with this. To a degree I has some subliminal realization of it when you referred to initial mass market, to which the format I had in mind is, of course, not at all suited. And I think the format is an important part of the original ~~format~~ ^{concept}. To this end I got the official copies of all the official Nixon texts quoted aside from the tapes transcripts. The last of these came by mail today. I arranged for it in Washington last week.

I had expected shortening of the quotes. We had them longer to permit this by someone less close to the subject because this should result in a better selection. But I find myself wondering if in making them more punchy the result also will be to eliminate some of the meaning, some of the impact as a political document. I did believe that in this form it could have an impact because it would say what has not been said and would have meaning the transcripts as printer does not have.

It may well be that I put too much store in the (continuing) reaction I get to my own work. That subject may well be unique. Other than as a publishers' shibboleth. Your judgement here should be better than mine and I don't question it.

Perhaps I will understand this better after Bill Martin calls tomorrow.

Probably what is most in my mind is the feeling that you are not at all enthusiastic about the result if Bill does what you described.

And the feeling that an original paperback unless put out by someone with some influence on what gets onto the racks or well promoted has a short and not promising life.

The timing is truly bad for my thinking. I am well through my part of what should be a truly sensational book that I suppose most will regard as a non-book. I have written not more than and probably less than 10,000 introductory words for a once-suppressed top secret transcripts in which I believe I am being used. Hence the length of this introduction, ^{is} to frustrate the misuse and perhaps make it kick back. It is a consequence of one of a series of Freedom of Information suits I filed. If I can get it out in time it can figure in the debate on amending the law back to its original intent. The Senate has amended it that way. Teddy Kennedy asked in the debate if the purpose of the amendment was to nullify the decision in Weissberg v Department of Justice. I told yes he expressed approval. This, however, is a collateral value. This book will be largely facsimile reproduction of official documents all formerly official secrets and all related and relevant, not just for sensation. Except for misuse in Watergate trials it has no relationship to them. Or what Nixon did. He also can misuse it. Which, of course, also gives it potential. ^{us} I had to lay the Watergate book itself aside to rush this...It interferes with my concentration, but I will be thinking more after speaking to Bill.

Today's "news" on the CIA involvement is not news. There is nothing in it except dishonesty by Baker that I have not already written and I have written what he will not use or misuse. It may sound cryptic, but this also can kick the Pulitzer Post hard. Those boys suppressed this stuff, to my personal knowledge, and I am confident that one of their major sources, who they protected, was CIA...I told you more than a year ago that this was largely a CIA story but not the way it appeared. I was right.

The cash I have out that we discussed comes to \$107.16. There are other costs we did not discuss that I do not include. Xeroxing, including the juxtaposition material which I have not sent, is \$68.41. The original transcripts are \$36.25. Postage was \$3.50. (I lost one receipt but this is close, a few pennies less than I remember and includes both special deliveries.) Best to everyone,

Dicta Postage	1.68
Xerox	47.39
Transcripts	36.25
Postage	1.85
Xerox	17.02
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64.41
3.54
36.25
4.60
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