

Route 12 - Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701

April 30, 1977

Mr. Walter Zacharius
Kensington Publishing Corp. - Zebra Books
521 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York, 10017

Dear Walter:

In your belated letter of April 27 you refer to only one of our meetings and discussions and to none of the agreements we reached.

You now cut by a third more the advance you have previously halved. You withdraw your offer of an assistant and an editor. You make no reference to the promotional efforts we discussed. We both know how indispensable they are to the success of any book.

You now say "as we explained to you, we are distinctly interested in the Martin Luther King assassination book ..." Is this why you tried to switch it to a different work to which some of my King work would be appended?

I have no way of knowing what is in your mind or heart. I do know that your letter does not reflect any of our discussions and agreements. It is not a serious offer.

Your transition on this subject from the obscene and the fraudulent to bullshit and the irrelevant may thrill you but it does not reflect any significant change to me. Especially when I compare this letter with what you have invested in crap. Inaccurate crap at that, from the check made with me.

It is a disappointment to me that publishers seem to be attracted to unworthy works only. I know of more trash than I mentioned and of more dubious characters.

You will find, as I've told you, that major-media attitudes on this subject are changing. The Keystone Kops and their Gong Show of the House committee have educated them.

The work I do means much to me. I believe it is important to any kind of decent society. If it requires that I address the disinformation, that I will do.

Publishing success requires that a publisher be more than a printer. For the author what he might expect of the publisher is expressed in the commitment with which the publisher begins.

There is no encouragement for me in your long period of stalling and shifting. For what I have this newest of your sliding offers is insulting. By comparison, it is even more insulting. It is not serious and it is not what you could expect me to accept.

I keep my word. I have gone to some cost and trouble to be able to keep my word to you. I did take you at your word. After your call on Tuesday I did start work on an outline.

If you decide to get serious I will accept your initial offer, in writing. I will not accept any of the subsequent reductions. They do not represent the kind of insurance I believe I need and they are not commensurate with the cost or the value of the work.

Sincerely,



KENSINGTON PUBLISHING CORP. ZEBRA BOOKS 521 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017 (212) 697-6511

April 27, 1977.

Mr. Harold Weissberg
Route 12
Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Harold:

In reference to the meeting that we had in Washington, D.C. with Roberta Grossman, as we explained to you, we are distinctly interested in the Martin Luther King assassination book and would advance \$6,500 against one half of the profits. However, before we make a final decision we need to see an outline and a sample chapter.

As we further indicated, we are interested in a three book contract which would total \$20,000, but are only prepared to work on the first book before a final determination is made on whether we will do the three books.

Hopefully you are hard at work on the outline and the sample chapter; we will be able to move quickly on a decision once these are in our hands.

Sincerely,


Walter Zacharius

WZ/dp
