

3/27/77

Mr. Walter Zacharias
Zebra Books
521 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Walter,

There may have been a change in my schedule. Because you did not phone me back when you said you would I write because unless it is on the morning of a day on which I expect to go to Dallas it will be inconvenient for me to be in Washington any day this coming week.

My going to Dallas is not set. If I go it will be to come back with affidavits in an FOIA case relating to JFK. I have been promised two and they can make a difference.

This will be no more than reducing to sworn form and including in a court record a small part of what is in Post Mortem. I do not think you have considered the potential of a condensation of this work. No condensation could survive without the full work. However, for what my opinion is worth to you, a combination of an effective condensation effectively promoted and what Jim and I are doing and have done in this litigation does have the possibility of breaking the JFK case open, committee or no committee.

Jim is to be away the week of April 10th. That would be a better time for me to meet you at National Airport or in Washington because with developments in the litigation, the kinds of "unpredictable" that caused me not to accept your acceptable offer of three more books because it required their production in a year.

Unless we can arrange it for ~~xxxx~~ the morning of my leaving for Dallas.

I'll be gone all day tomorrow if you call then and I'll not be available by phone. We may or may not be in court but we are deposing two FBI agents who took early retirements to avoid this discovery. If we are in court the depositions may run into Tuesday. Each day I'll leave home about 6 a.m. and will not get home until 6 p.m. or later, if the depositions run into ^{Thursday}.

The ^{ives} ~~Arches~~ is all hung up because I've subpoenaed the JFK tie to use in the depositions of the FBI's photographer and spectrographer. They are more hung up because the evidentiary value of the tie was destroyed, as set forth in Post Mortem, after I prevailed in an earlier FOIA suit in which I was my own lawyer. They have moved to quash the subpoena. Jim thinks the judge will duck it. In that event he'll probably depose me after the agents. After I finish this I have to prepare that testimony. If course it is quite scandalous that such quintessential evidence was destroyed after its examination by the Warren Commission. But I have also obtained from the most arrogant of the stonewalling FBI agents an admission of the existence of tests the results of which I have not been given - and this suit is for the results of those tests - and what I am certain would be perjury for a mere mortal, not an FBI agent. Of course I pursue this.

What you said and offered when you were here does interest me even though I will not promise to do what I may not be able to do. If you stop to think I can't produce three books in 12 months and really do a job of promoting any one. However, I have taken steps to be more efficient and to be as productive as possible. These range from looking for a faster copying machine to finding an assistant and an editor.

Les will help as much as he can. He'll go over what I write as I write it. If we need further editing I have a friend who use to be a sub-editor of the Washington Post who is willing once he ~~finishes~~ finishes the editing of a book he has written. He estimates this will take 4-6 weeks. Another friend is going to speak to the professor of journalism at American University. I have the name of this person at George Washington if AU does not have an assistant. And with an advance that makes these things possible I'll start writing.
Best,