

Dear Howard and Jim,

8/7/75

If I had money I'd be excited by what the combination of a new printing process and a new paper can mean. I don't know what will be feasible but to the degree each of you now can give thought to anything else, I present the situation: given the space what else would you like to see in the appendix to Post Mortem?

While the number of plants with this new process is small, there appears to be real competition for the business and prices much lower than I'd ever paid.

Quality in paper is not a function of thickness, it seems.

The earlier estimate, which I regard as practical, means that a 660-page book is not impossible and the extra cost, in printing, to go to 672, is relatively little. There may be a question about whether 672 pages would tip the scale at over the 2-lb postal rate. It is close. That is with a 45-lb paper on which that particularly printer has a monopoly deal with the sole manufacturer, owner of the process.

Today there was another printer's representative. That company has a 30-lb paper he recommends and says had the opacity of a 50-lb paper. He represents it as a quality and not inexpensive paper. This is not to say that it is as opaque as the paper in all the Whitewash books except II. It is to say that it is as opaque as II. I regard that as an acceptable compromise for today. After that experience with II I returned to the more expensive paper with III and IV.

I'll be getting more precise estimates and prices, but mechanically this company can manufacture a book of more pages with this new process (newer press) and with the 30-lb paper. Theoretically but not practically I could have an enormous appendix, of close to 300 pages. However, aside from the awkwardness of a book that thick, cost will prevent it. Thick here means number of pages, not bulk.

Of course the more pages the more the printing costs. This 30-lb paper is no less costly than the 45 and is more costly than some 50s of lower quality. However, each page represents extra cost.

On the other hand, I think that with the content of this book and with the new documents I have and with the political situations (national vs nuts and self-seekers) this is the time to have a big appendix if the documents are worth it. And to get your opinions of what ought to be included is the real purpose of this letter. It is about dark and the first time I've had to write since morning.

If you don't remember it, the sweep of the book is vast. This means that any number of documents having no direct relationship to the medical evidence is not irrelevant. The 1/22 transcript I do plan to include. I believe I have already made up for the appendix the entire panel(s) reports, both. I'll include all the Burkley documents, the originals never used anywhere. These will take many pages but there will still be many. I want to use all this space to the maximum. Maximum here meaning money.

The text and index will run about 500 pages. This means that with good choice and good luck something like the Church committee can ignore the text entirely and with a good appendix of documents find basis for recommending a separate investigation. I consider it not impossible. (It is also the one way we can undo the damage by these a wful people who are so ruinous.)

For Jim this means what he considers relevant, at least the minimum of the 226-75 court papers. That suit is relevant, of course. My instinct is to include the entire first affidavit and selections addressing FBI and DJ integrity on the others, with selections from Alty's and the Kelley letter in the text itself.

Howard, I do hope you can make it up here at the end of school. The way things are going I'm far behind what I'd hope to be able to do. And I'd want judgement on this as well as the mechanical help you can now offer.

I'll be getting estimates in units of 12 pages (the size of the signatures in this new process for this size page) beginning with 660 pages. This means, I'm pretty sure, that I'll be able to have more than 150 pages of documentary reproduction. I'd like to use more and I'm sure I have more that should be used NOW.

The estimate from the first printer, from recollection, means about \$2000 more than we have put aside in escrow from the sale of the earlier books for 660 pages. Running over 660 pages means an extra mail charge per book. So, if the 30-lb paper is okay, this means that for the price of that extra postage I can have more documents. Mechanically many more. Financially not.

There is another advantage to this second printer. He is close enough so that I can get overnight delivery and he can produce in a week less time without special pressure, which is not impossible. It means that once I'm ready I can have the book much faster. If there are political developments this can be an important factor.

I'm really into too much, too tired and now too much of this is too far in the past to be content with my own judgement on selection.

Don't be scared by this too tired bit. I'm trying to rest more although there is often what amounts to a conspiracy against it. I tried to get to bed early last night, was delayed and then, as I was about to fall asleep, got a call. It was after midnight when I could get to sleep. I made almost six hours of it. But that cut down on the morning editing I could do. I did enough to know that when I finish going over the additions relating to 226-75 and the national situation in which it came I'll have very much reorganizing to do before Ed can start typing it. There would then still be time for more editing as long as the tail end of the appendix is flexible.

On the other hand, I know from my physical reaction to my efforts to straighten up a cedar I'd like to save that I do not have last year's physical stamina. I got it half-upright with a block and tackle and have figured out how I can do better. I elected to do this today because the air was washed some, I need the exercise and I was kind of excited over the prospects of this thinner paper being satisfactory and enabling a much larger appendix if I can dare that much more debt.

I have mail from the CIA and DJ that I've not paid attention to yet. I'll save that for after tomorrow's interruptions begin and edit in the early a.m. This prospect has left me a bit edgy so I'm not tackling it tonight. Besides, I want you both to know of this possibility and again to entice Howard against his personal interest once classes are over.

Jim, I heard from Sether again today, on the tests as they relate to MLK. If any.

Mark Allen phoned late last night about returning the transcripts. I suggested that if he now knew how to get to you to leave them with you, closer for him. He has no suggestions on students to do more indexing. I sent word to Floyd today to see if he can come up with others. I'd like to have all of this done to the extent possible for you now. You can use it now and in the future. I think Mark get some personal satisfaction from it. On this, if I can find others, can we have more xeroxes made? Would Bud go for this? If not I'll again use those of which I have copies... My hunch is that the CBS whores will be fairly glad to make up for their JFK atrocities with goodness on MLK and RFK. I want to box them in on JFK as one by-product of getting Post Harten out. They have one hell of an audience and if they have to live with this... I think it is worth some risk.

Hopefully,