

dick j. reavis

Oct. 23, 1995

DEAR MR. McVEIGH:

I am writing at the suggestion of your attorney, Mr. Jones. I'm the guy who wrote the book, *The Ashes of Waco*. I sent you a letter about a month ago, asking for an interview. In early October, I drove up to Enid for a talk with Jones about my request.

I want to interview you with two things in mind. First of all, I have landed a contract with Simon & Schuster, the publisher of *Ashes*, to write a book about the Oklahoma City bombing. As with *Waco*, mine will probably be the "book of record", the book that libraries will buy and that other journalists will consult. That means that, whatever happens, I'll be present at your trial, every day. An interview would both prepare me and add to my knowledge.

The other thing that I've got in mind is that the political editor of *Rolling Stone* (circulation: 1.2 million) assures me that if I can get an interview, they'll give me a contract to write a story about you. The story would be published during the trial. I think that *Stone's* particular interest in you, as opposed to, say, Nichols, is that you are the same age as its core readers. You're a part of the generation that it tries to speak for, and from what we know of them, some of your ideas are pretty widely-held. I'm the man to assess that, but I can't do it without you.

In regards to both writing assignments, I have not yet put myself in touch with any of the other principals or attorneys in the case, because I'm wanting to know where I'm heading before I head out to do it, and I'm hoping that you will help orient me. I'd like to know who else, besides you, I should talk to, and there may be books or other materials that you'd want me to read.

Maybe the best way to proceed is this: why don't we have a meeting where we can shake hands and more or less get to know each other? That way, you can decide whether or not, at some later point, you want to grant me an interview, or even more than one. Nothing said at this first meeting need go into print: you set the ground rules and whatever rules you set, I'll abide by. We can talk about other things as well, whatever you might have in mind. I will not bring a tape recorder to this interview, and won't bring one to any subsequent interview(s) if that's what you'd like.

Mr. McVeigh, I think you are going to see three kinds of articles and/or books come out of this situation. 1. Commemoratives. These will focus on the horror of the deaths and the innocence of the victims. A couple of books of this kind are already in print. These newspapers will return to this theme on April 19, 1996. 2. True Crime Accounts. These will focus on how the accused did whatever they did, if anything, and how the police tracked them down. They are cops-and-robbers stories, westerns in a modern setting. Newspaper reporters will probably write a couple of these. 3. Analytical works. These--and I think I'll have the only book of the kind--will focus on

who the accused and accusers are, and what motivates them. Whether you are innocent or guilty, you're not simply a Wild West rider in a Pontiac, and the feds are not simply Matt Dillons on a video game screen.

Yours is going to be a political trial. What that means is that whether you are innocent or guilty, the government is going to use its case against you to assail the Constitutionalist movement. The press, believing as it does, that the movement is made up of lunatics and hatemongers, will fall into the trap. My own belief is that the movement is made up of ordinary Americans and, at this point, speaks for their interests. There will be other writers who share my views, and the biggest difference between me and them is this: I can get into the mainstream press, they are confined to movement organs.

Please let me know if I can arrange a visit with you.

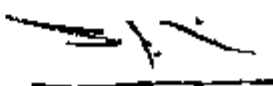
I don't know how much news you get from the outside, but here's my report on a couple of things that might interest you. The two Mt. Carmel survivors who were at El Reno before you came, Jaime Castillo and Livingstone Fagan, are now in different prisons. Jaime is working and seems to be doing okay. Fagan spends most of his time in lockdown, because he won't work; the money would only go to the ATF/FBI. The letters that I get from him show distress. Another of the prisoners calls me from time to time, for help on researching his case. Several people are still poking at the holes in the government's Waco evidence—especially the four-minute gap in the FLIR tape—but it's too early to evaluate what they are finding. Everybody agrees that the House hearings didn't resolve anything, though the Senate has brought some light to the Ruby Ridge events. Waco will continue to smolder until/unless the government and press change their ways.

In the Constitutionalist movement, tax protest is the big thing again, but it looks to me like in 1996, a lot of people are going to be sucked into political campaigns for candidates who are only nominally different. Because they got a scare thrown into them after the Oklahoma bombing, a lot of the militias are turning away from a strictly-military orientation and more towards protest group tactics. (This will help with recruiting, but what it will mean in the long run remains to be seen.) Dr. Eugene Schroder's book on the Emergency War Powers Acts, which argues that the government declared war on the people way back in 1933, is the hottest item on the Common Law Court circuit. If you want to read it, let me know and I'll have its publisher send you a copy.

Right after my Waco book came out, the ATF issued some 15 pages of propaganda, attempting to rebut it. I'm enclosing a press release that kicked off its campaign.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Mr. Reavis has my
permission to conduct
a preliminary meeting/visit.



Yours,
