

Oct. 11, 1993

DEAR MRS. HALDEMAN:

Last week when you declined to talk to me, one of the reasons you gave was that "lots of people are doing books". I know that's true, and what I have to say about it cannot easily be said by telephone; therefore, this letter.

Most people don't know how books are written today. We have in our minds the picture of a person who writes a book, and then finds a publisher, or pays for its publication himself. Important books are rarely written that way anymore.

Attached is a letter from Simon & Schuster, a New York publisher, saying that I am "under contract" to write a book for them. What this means is that S&S has already paid me to write a book. Or more precisely, it's paid me "advance money", half of what it will pay; the rest will be paid when I finish. (If you want to see my contract, or to know the terms of my contract, that's fine with me. There's no way I'm going to get rich--I've already discussed all of that with DeGuerin--but if I'm lucky, I've got enough money to finance the research costs of the book.)

What all of this means is that I don't have to publish the book myself, or worry about finding a publisher. It also means that, even though the book is not due to be finished until about this time next year, I've got to work until I complete the project. I am living on the "advance money" right now. I quit my job at the Observer, a Dallas weekly newspaper, to write the book. If I don't finish it, I owe Simon and Schuster the money that it has advanced to me.

As far as I can determine, nobody else is under contract to write a book about what happened at Waco.

Of course, there still are people who have enough money to keep themselves alive, write a book and then pay to have it published. Publishing houses charge about \$20,000 to print a book. But if even if they can do all of that, not many people ever see such books once they are published. This is a very big country, with hundreds of thousands of bookstores and libraries. Publishing companies already have distribution networks. The rest of us don't.

My book is going to be the most serious and is likely to be the most widely-read book about Waco. I can't blame

anybody for not talking to the press--but if you're going to talk to someone, I wish that you'd talk to me. I won't waste your time.

Enclosed a copies of stories that I wrote for the Observer after the dust had begun to settle in Waco. If you read them, I think that you'll find that my object is not to exploit David's followers.

Please reconsider your decision not to talk to me, and let me hear from you.