

CHARLES W. COLSON

THE OCTAGON BUILDING
1735 NEW YORK AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

March 11, 1974

Dear Doug:

In response to your letter of March 6, I understand perfectly. I can handle myself in the Watergate mess and take whatever comes along. The only thing that hurts me about it all is that those who have been with me will in one way or another suffer. That is hard for me to take and I, therefore, understand your decision fully and I suppose am relieved by it in one sense.

I intend to proceed on the book because I think in the long view of things I can make some contribution to a more accurate understanding of what really happened. That is, what went right and what went wrong. I don't know when or under what circumstances, but I do think my memoirs have to be printed so, if down the road I haven't made a great deal of progress and if the present cloud is cleared, perhaps we can get together on it again.

I had thought your real objective in writing the book was to help enlighten people, not to become a writer or a lawyer. Nor in fact really to make money, although that would be nice. As to becoming a lawyer, I hope you will keep in mind that Clarence Darrow was indicted twice, if my memory serves me correctly, and for charges far less political than these.

In any event, your decision has no effect on our friendship. I am increasingly confident about the outcome of both of the cases and unless I have found enough time to really finish a manuscript, once the cases are over, perhaps we can work on the book again.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Lucas