FORD MOTOR CO. DEARBORN

326 West Fourth St.
New York, N.Y.
Oct. 6, 1926

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Mr. F.L. Black
Dearborn Independent
Dearborn, Mich.

Dear Mr. Black:-

Your interesting letter received, and I thank you for it.

What certain editors tell you about the marketing possibilities of your book do not impress me. I have sold books--as many as 38 single copies in a single day at $2.50 per copy, or $95--and I would not be afraid to peddle a Lincoln book at that price on the chance of cleaning up at least $100 weekly for myself.

I believe you could count on a fair steady sale of such a book after the press notices had appeared. But it would be a matter of salesmanship thru an organization such as Collier's flying squadron. It would be beyond me to so offend a high-pressure book man as to tell him he couldn't sell anything between two covers. The jacket and the personal magnetism of the salesman are the qualities that sell books. If this much is not known to editors who sit in their easy chairs, it ought to be.

Let me suggest that the reason this Lincoln story has hard sledding is that the secret forces of the Rosicrucian Order have long since passed the word to lay off this subject. First, they don't want Booth's name mentioned with Mr. Lincoln's; second, they fear that to rattle this skeleton will awake others, revealing one of the most startling unpublished stories in American history.

I will stand up and fight with you as long as I have ammunition if you want to pursue your ideal further. It was a long time before I cracked the ide of the inner shrine and beheld the wonders of the cave of Ali Baba.

The assassination of Mr. Lincoln is the key to the Great Conspiracy of which the Booth outburst was a local manifestation. Perhaps you have seen that kind of a light yourself. Shall we wait for the papers of Robert Todd Lincoln--that is, his father's papers deposited by him at the Library of Congress--to reveal the secret, or will you and I anticipate it with what we already know? Twenty-one years in the life of a writer is a long time to wait!

I don't want to be beaten by some snooper who gets my tip from an editor and sells the story back to him without giving me any credit. Yet this is just what is apt to happen.

Unless my plans change I shall not visit Dearborn in the near future. Be sure to look me up when you come here. If we can put our stuff together and sell the idea to a sales organization it may be possible to make an impression deep enough on an editor to insure publication.

Very truly,

Geo. M. Battey, Jr.

Geo.M.Battey,jr.