

Dear Dick,

later 4/12/91

George Lardner just phoned and he is still excited about doing the book. He also is still tied up but he thinks he can get up early next week. I'll lend him the script and anything else he wants.

I suggested that he speak to the editor, Ben Bradlee to see if he can get the time.

This is because Bradlee was JFK's friend. As I recall, he introduced JFK to Jackie. He was with her and the other Kennedys at the Navy hospital during the autopsy. He also, I am confident, has no use for Garrison. Thus I believe he will agree with my opinion, that retitling such drek is an obscenity. *As is The movie, inevitably.*

Lardner is a friend of Osnos.

He is also the grand-nephew of Ring Lardner. Which I suspected from his writing.

The PW copy came in the mail after I wrote you earlier.

You did not share my <sup>NY</sup> enthusiasm but with George to write it and with the material that is in hand and with the indecency of it all and with Oliver Stone doing it all and with all the puffery already and yet to be for that \$35-\$40 million plus the reprint, I really do believe that this has such best-seller potential it can be the very best, or the best best-seller.

Plus being a very, very worthwhile book.

I didn't ask him but I suppose he'll ask Osnos to be his agent.

He should because one of his reporting assignments is on SDI and that also can make a remarkable important book.

So, I hope you get a chance soon to talk to your friend at S & S. I think this should be kept as quiet as possible until it is done. <sup>me</sup> I have so much that it will not be necessary for Lardner to speak to anyone for any information.

Excitedly,

*Harold*