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Dear Dal (aka at the moment second-fiddle, to be explained),

That is a beautiful thought with which you began your letter of the 20th and we'd have loved the peace and beauty of South Island. But as I may have indicated, I do no unnecessary travelling because of the hazard to me of even a slight bump.

You are second fiddle because at the moment getting corrections back to my friend Dave Wrone who is retyping the ms on his computer is first priority and my wife is at this moment xeroxing those pages I'll take into town and mail as soon as she finishes it.

I didn't get Jean Hill's book. Your commentx on all the books is on target. People like her tend to substitute what they actually saw and heard, replacing it with what they pick up from the questions asked them. Her story has been growing constantly. And now she will really feel important: that drivvel is being made into a movie! Title, "The Last Dissenting Witness." Which is also quite false.

Donahue is a monster and his Mortal Error is an outrage. He and his wife were here and I told him how he could readily prove for himself that his theory was impossible. He didn't do it so after the book was out a critic did and the book was instantly remaindered. He and the publisher took advantage of Hickey's psychological problems. He won't even answer the phone. So when he did not respondx, as they knew he would not from their investigation they said he did not dispute it and published. Their investigator blabbed to the Jerusalem Post as it happens when a dear friend was there so I have that, their knowledge of his state.

The part that relates to me and the University of Maryland is 100% fabrication. There has never been a time since my first illness when my records did not have a desired home. I never spoke to <sup>The Univ. of</sup> Maryland and nobody there ever spoke to me.

And not questioning that Oswald fired opens publisher doors because they anticipate no trouble from Big Brother.

There is nothing new in the news item except a prof was either ignorant or sought some publicity or both. It was first published by me in 1966, in WW II. After I wrote it I felt that saying the head moved both ways would not be credited so I diminished what I wrote enormously for publication, but that book says his head moved both ways. It is true that the first and almost imperceptible motion is forward, but that does not have to mean the shot was from the rear, Addressing that in a different context the experts for the House committee on assassinations disagreed with the prof on that, What Rahm said didn't even require what he said he used. He knows nothing of the fact of the crime, true of most of those <sup>off</sup> quoted. Almost of 100% of them.

Yes, in printing those flames were reversed, allegedly by <sup>a</sup>ccident, which I do not believe. I think the FBI did it.

There is nothing I can add to what I've published about the damage to the original Z

film or its patching.

For the most part the best assumption on what Stone used and was on the various shows is that they originate with a first-generation copy Groden was in a position to steal. Made from it, with Zapruder's estate being paid. Or provided by the Archives with the approval of the estate made from a ~~see~~ copy made from the original. I have one Groden made from his copy. I had a better one he gave me that French TV stole some years ago. He did his original work for me and it was one of those with the slowing down of JFK and the killing that was stolen. Groden had changed much and I have nothing to do with him now. Even though <sup>my</sup> the godfather of his firstborn.

As you may have gathered, the original is in the National Archives. Zapruder's son was somewhat embarrassed, TIME/LIFE was enormously embarrassed, so it reverted to Z's mercenary son and reserving all rights he gave it to the Archives, from which he still sells prints at a great price!

They let nobody look at the original, ordinarily, not to risk damage to it. I do not know the condition it is in but have no reason to believe it is other than any film of that era and age.

We do not know how many copies were made at Eastman in Dallas. I heard years ago that copies were then pirated and recently that HL Hunt has one. It is a mystery how the CIA got one. (reprint third book, addition, but see footnote in text.) Zapruder had one. I don't know what happened to it. The Secret Service got two and loaned one to the FBI. The copy Garrison had and showed and leaked was created by LIFE to be able to spot copies made from it by making them very obvious. Like abrupt changes in color. <sup>N</sup> Many copies were made from a copy or copies of that version and were sold for \$25.00.

I have no knowledge of the patch on the original but presume it is as it was. To the best of my knowledge, no frames were reversed in the original or in official prints made from it. LIFE made the slides for the Commission.

I think your analysis of the assassination is excellent and probable. I do go into that a bit in the new book. I wish I had a deal on it but I've left it entirely to a friend connected with a small publisher who has printed some of the most terrible assassination books. When he sees it all I'll know.

While it would be comforting to know <sup>W</sup> who did the job and have them punished, I see no chance of that and my work soon became a study of how the basic institutions of our society worked in that time of great stress and since then. It not only represented a danger to our society and its system, it has had terrible consequences in our government and in the radicalization from the right of our centrist basic laws and the Constitution itself. Without the JFK assassination we'd never have had the presidents who succeeded him and certainly not the <sup>R</sup>agan and Bush anti-democrats and the extremists of the right with whom they loaded all the courts.

There will undoubtedly be the outpouring you expect for the 30th anniversary. The only contact with me was from the Washington Post. Its expert, George Lardner, has been a friend for 25 years. He has been coming up for a month but he and the national desk report to come with him can't both get free at the same time. Each is a specialist in major areas. Lardner is to speak to me about the Post's commemoration and his ~~assistant~~ national-desk associate spoke to CBS-TV. There was an announcement I did not see stating the CBS will use the crew it used on Watergate.

I have to qualify my willingness to read what you'll write because at the moment I'm awaiting a call from the hematologist at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore on my being admitted. Checking on an iron deficiency that showed on blood test led to a ~~refer~~ referral there for a polyp examination/removal. It can ordinarily be outpatient but it means five days for me while they reduce the anticoagulation of my blood that keeps me alive and then restores it so rapidly as is safe. I also fear the prostate operation will soon have to be repeated. No big deal but anything that causes bleeding can be a danger to me. I am on the new supposedly wonder-drug proscar but it is not working, as best I can tell. However, the six months it is said to sometimes take are not yet up.

Never Again with a descriptive subtitle. Never Again is the slogan of those who do not want the holocaust forgotten.

I agree with you in the Naval Intelligence possibility but there is no ~~proof~~ proof of any kind. A case of reasonable presumption can be made and the story itself is exciting, I think, particularly what relates to the central idea and to suspicions. Like the KGB's.

The CIA has released relatively little. How much more is a question. Most of the paper I've gotten by far is the FBI's.

What <sup>wallet</sup> souvenirs I kept I gave to young men and boys. When I get a chance I'll see if anything other than my helmet remains. If I find anything in the basement I'll send it. I do not <sup>with</sup> ~~of~~ one thing I can't promise.

On principle I did not initiate any deals with the Nazi prisoners. I did respond to them. And I did not bargain. I agreed or didn't. I got what I'd never heard of, a Tunisian Longines woman's lapel watch. I gave it to my wife, of course, and she never wears it. If I did not tell you the story and you are interested, let me know. The Nazis stole it from a Brit and I'll wait on how the Brit got it! Gotta go. I'll read and correct later.

With hopes for a better year than we can reasonably expect, Hal

While I unwind a bit still thinking of your enjoying some of your summer and the locale, on this cold winter's day better than most we've had recently because of the wan sun we did not have most recent days, we live at the base of a mountain, part of the first ridge of the Appalachians going from the ocean. This ridge is known as the Catoctins. Across the Potomac River only a few miles away the same ridge is known as The Blue Ridge. Just heard a couple of choppers that usually indicate a party to what Eisenhower renamed Camp David.

I preferred <sup>F</sup>ORD's name for it, Shangri-La. It was then a slightly improved former camp for boys in the Civilian Conservation Corps of the Depression days. It is close by. And the mountains are beautiful most of the time. Deer and small animals come up to the house. I have sleep apnea and it gets me up early. When I got out for the papers, usually about 3 a.m., I have to be careful not to flush a skunk. And to keep an eye for racoons, some of whom have carried rabies around here for years. Most of ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> five plus acres are in woods and most of them near the house are long-needled white pines. On both sides of the lane behind me and in my eye as I look to the left out of my office window. We are isolated yet close in. Fifteen minutes and I'm in the heart of Frederick. We are outside the city limits. But there are farms within the city limits. Less than 10 minutes and I'm at the shopping center where I walk early mornings. (Cold weather inside an almost empty supermarket. "hose deceased founder, a friend, began with a mom's pop corner grocery that another friend turned into a modern supermarket in the heart of town. With success he expanded into the suburbs. The area is attractive and is rapidly being converted into bedrooms for those who work in Baltimore and Washington. New neighbors at the end of our lane go both ways. The wife works in Baltimore, the husband in Washington. Each arranged a four-day week by working extra hours the four days they work. Or, the rural area is undergoing changes All those who come <sup>here</sup> ~~her~~ are impressed with our setting, especially the view from the almost 30 feet of living room window - over a small pond we ~~have~~ have in the woods. Soon a pair of mallards who nest here will be returning. There are many who live in the area, do not migrate. There is a large pond in the center of town and aside from people and their kids feeding them, the city does. It also stocks the pond so it is a pleasant place except in bitter weather. When we drove into town earlier there were two couples feeding the mallards and there must have been 40-50 around each couple. Besides those not hungry in the pond. It means that fathers and grandfathers, city people can take the sons and grandsons fishing almost any day- and walk there. With the Washington subway now ending only 20 minutes away if there is no accident on the superhighway, local people can park there and take it into downtown Washington for work or cultural enjoyments. Or the finest library and museums. <sup>Some go</sup> by morning and evening commuter train a half-hour away. For that there is city bus service only 50¢ each way! It is also a fine area for history buffs. Two major civil war battles near here, one on the eastern edge of town, and Gettysburg is only an hour or less by road. A stone barracks used by Hessian troops in our revolutionary war is in use in a school for the deaf and dumb. There are still log houses in use in the city, some with the logs not covered. And the Washington paper is usually here about 2 a.m. The sleep apnea has given me the uninterrupted <sup>very</sup> early hours for work and for reading and I've gotten to where I do not mind it. I don't miss the TV junk for which I'm abed. This lack of interruption is the chief reason I could write so large a book so rapidly. Some mornings I was working on it not much after midnight! We are only 350 feet from the country road on which we live but except in summertime with the doors and windows open we hear no traffic. All in all, a very nice place. We love it and withall it is convenient. Best wishes, Hal