

Dear Dal,

4/18/95

I'm pleased you like Waketh the Watchman as much as you do, ~~xxx~~ especially because you are a historian and because you have read it, as I have not. I suppose this needs a little explanation.

But the real reason I write is to ask you make what notes you can that may be of help to an editor of the future. With my experiences with publishers, particularly the present pair, and little time as remains for me, rather than risk what I've been subjected to in the inexplicable delay in NEVER AGAIN[!] and the gutting of Case Open I'd rather spend what time does remain in perfecting the record for history to the degree possible for me.

I've about 20,000 words on paper for the Mailer part of what has the tentative title, Mailer's Whitewash, subtitle, Of the JFK assassination. When I get a few things caught up I'm looking forward to the Schiller part. What use Mailer had for him is to me a real mystery.

For different reasons, depending on the period of my life and the other work on which I was engaged, I've never taken the time to sit and read any one of my books.

I had four weeks in which to write Whitewash and I did. Then I was fulltime, almost, in trying to place it and then in promoting it without a penny for that. Meanwhile, I'd been asked to do a series for a French agency. When I'd about completed them they changed their minds. So I called those articles a book. It is Whitewash II. And as I continued my work in the Archives first I saw Oswald in New Orleans and then Photographic Whitewash.

I was well into O in NO when Dell came to me for WWII. It was part of the deal on WW, which became its only best-selling work of nonfiction for six months. After they declined WWII I published it myself toward the end of 1966. It was in that Deal that they said they'd like O in NO. That was about 1/67. The only basis for rejecting it was libel. I did not want more of that mind-changing. There is no libel in it, they declined it, and there was no point in trying to make them abide by their contract. Meanwhile their accountings were so crooked they claimed to have 125,000 copies of the first printing on hand while admitting two additional printings with that stock! And if that is not bad enough, I got a copy of the fourth printing from them when I got a box of the book to give out when I addressed the Ohio AP editor's annual convention that May. They never accounted for that printing. It was six months after the first. Later I placed it with a small publisher whose distributor refused to handle it. They were distributed by a major publisher. *Dell paid me for only the 125,000 of the 250,000 first print!*

After I finished that ms. I turned to what I'd collected for PhotoWW. I began it in May had had the first 100 copies with sewed bindings, which take longer and cost much, ~~It was~~ only a month before I started writing ^{after} the book that ^{first} had those copies.

Does this give you an idea of the intensity with which I worked?

When I could I made trips on which I could promote the books. But I was broke and in debt, although that was much relieved by the success of WW, which did well for a private printing, and on those trips I sought more information.

I'd not planned to continue on the assassination after WW. I had in mind and had collected much for a book with the working title, Tiger to Ride, with the subtitle ^{The} ~~untold story of the Cuba Missile Crisis~~ ~~fixed as I recall but centering on what I have always referred to as The Cuba Missile Crisis.~~ Cuba, not Cuban. And this has since been validated in the several conferences between representatives of both side. I'd been an analyst in intelligence and although I was then farming my mind turned to that crisis and I made a correct analysis of it while it was happening that forecast ^{actual} its solution. Dave and Jerry are aware of that work. That tells you how early I had ~~maketh~~ the Watchman in mind and had come to understand what I wrote in it.

In recent years, when I came to believe that the ~~angel~~ ^{angel} who'd been on my shoulder so long might be wearying, I've been rushing to get what I can on paper. Along with the other things that take take, from six surgeries to innumerable trips to the surgeons and others ^{doctors} about them, some monthly and more and in Baltimore and, as a publisher, making packages - many things most writers do not have to cope with.

Then there were those many FOIA lawsuits. They took enormous amount of time. In part this was because of the manner in which I ^{decided} to fight them. I filed many affidavits that are of book length and are thoroughly documented. As Dave laughed ^{about and} he said I was writing history while it was happening. Those ^{cases} ~~cases~~ are supposed to be ^{permanent} on file with the federal courts, at the Department of Justice, and copies are in my files, Jim Lesar's (he was my lawyer) and in Dave's at Wisconsin. They take up more than two file cabinets!

When I saw how I could do NEVER AGAIN! with almost no access to all those pages I got from those lawsuits I had the ^{draft} ~~draft~~ done, large as it is, in ^{about} ~~about~~ four months.

When I saw the possibilities Posner and Random House presented I did Case Open in even less time. When your print is completed you will see that it ^{was} ~~is~~ 792pp and ~~that is~~ ^{that is} not quite complete.

I'm very glad your people figured out how to program it. Please remember when you read it that the insertions were made in New York and may not be where they were intended. So if you notice any of that I'll appreciate notes I can file with my copy.

If as I'm now thinking and if it is possible for me I'll probably be reading it to use the case that exculpates Oswald with the official evidence in this Mailer book, because as he runs off at the mouth and says so many stupid things he actually said that the JFK ^{evidence is} ~~case~~ ^{is} "impenetrable." He also boasts of having studied the Warren material. That is all I need to show that the ^{warren} ~~evidence~~ ^{is} evidence is anything but impenetrable, by using it cited

not only to what Mailer says he studied but to the published sources when I published it!

And Mailer's been hung up on the JFK assassination to my knowledge for more than twodecades. When we met in 1973 I even offered him access to all I have!

But to get to Waketh, I do not recall when I began it. I was then also working on Inside the JFK Assassination Industry, now grown in the several years of odds and ends of time I've worked on it, to about 55 chapters. And my chapters are never short. ^{It} I then also wrote Senator Russell Dissents, about 20,000 words as I recall. Then I decided to enlarge that into a book, meaning a record in the form of a book. I've done about 100,000 words on that. To explain, the only part of his dissent I used at all ~~in this article~~ ~~or~~ early, very briefly, in WW IV, was his refusal to agree with the single bullet theory. Without which, obviously, there could not have been the issued Warren Report. Not only did ~~it~~ tell me he was satisfied they'd not been told all the agencies knew about Oswald, I now have and use his prepared statement on that, what ^{was} ~~we~~ memory-holed by Rankin and Warren, as you may recall ⁱⁿ from WWIV. From his archive. Also from Cooper's.

I started ^{Waketh} ~~it~~ probably about 6/94. I then had a student retyping Inside. So I got another one. She is married, going to college, and works fulltime. A fine young woman who finally had to say it was too much for her. Thus the draft of the epilogue is not retyped. I not only have no plans for including it now, I have nobody to retype it. ~~The~~

The first student graduated and got a fulltime job. She wants to continue with this retyping but has little time for it and needs a new computer she cannot yet afford. She's retyped little since about Thanksgiving.

As I finished the drafts of chapters of Waketh that young woman got them and as she ~~could~~ she retyped them. The only reading I took time for was when I finished each rough (and are they rough) of a chapter, I read and corrected it. When she returned that chapter, which was always some time later, I then read it again. I made corrections, she made them, and all I did then was check the corrections. So the only reading I've done is by the chapters, separated by weeks, as she returned them over a period of quit some time. And I may have begun it earlier because I am clear that I had ~~tax~~ it done well before the election in November.

And now I cannot justify the time it would take to read it away from writing I cannot expect to live long enough to complete.

I could have used more sources in it. I decided, I hope correctly, that I did not need them. ^d In the little time I have now for readings ^{of the books I did not use and have had} I'm nibbling at two books I've had since then appeared, Schlesinger's excellent The Bitter Heritage of 1966 and Halberstam's later The Best and the Brightest.

Meanwhile, How McNamara has confirmed ^{part of} what I had written long before he went public!

See while I'll very much appreciate any suggestions you may have to file with each manuscript! ☺

Dave is too tied up with his teaching and his special project for the Menominee Indians, for whom he has been a blessing (what he's done should make a fine book) and Jerry is not only department head but is trying to complete his fine job of a book on King's The Poor Peoples Campaign. They can't find time for any reading now.

If you think your former PI would like to read Waketh, would you make a copy for him? I'll gladly pay for it. You'd get this before you both speak to the teachers' convention. Ditto for Case Open if you think that would interest him. You said he has an interest in the JFK assassination.

Because Waketh is in a sense the sequel to the part of NEVER AGAIN! that asked, "Was There a Military Conspiracy?" I'll send you two copies of it when I get them. No, one, you've already ordered one from The Last Hurrah. They'll probably have it before I do anyway. And I have many to wrap and send.

I've already suggested to Dave that when he retires, which he is negotiating, he may want to go over these manuscripts, and Jerry, who can speak for Hood on it (and Hood gets all my rights and work and property) likes the idea.

I'll lose a little more time today, pleasantly. It is Lil's 83rd birthday and I'm taking her to lunch. With a little shopping and picking up your fax at the paper. I've spoken to them, they were prepared for it, and if possible I'll let all else go when we are home and will go over it.

Please believe me, the adversity you expect at the teachers convention you can turn to your advantage if you do what I learned by experience on the first TV show I ever did in New York. The thing I decided in advance those four erudite lawyers could not face was Humes' certification of his destroying his autopsy draft. That show was such a smash Metromedia, then big and now bigger as Fox, decided to do a show The Minority Report. When I was no less vigorous than the Commission lawyers, who had declined to appear on it, asked for their own majority report—six of them. When I asked the station to return the compliment and invite me as they had those lawyers and the station agreed, all six of those Commission lawyers backed out, having seen what I was prepared to do with them. To them. They gave their show up.

Don't defend. Put them on the defensive. They don't know nearly what you do, they will be limited to what they know of the official mythology and more likely the frauds like Posner's and they'll be child's play for you.

I did not expect to take this long but I did want you to understand that if you have time for any suggestions they can be useful. And why.

Love,

Harold

In reading and correcting this I was reminded of what may interest if not amuse you. That first TV show was late in 1966. In 1978 I found in the records I got from the FBI that its New York office had tried to prepare those four able and articulate lawyers on that show to do me in.

In my reference to my trips, the last one I made to California was in October, 1968.

In San Francisco I was the house guest of one of JFK's lady friends, a fine and a wealthy woman. We got along very well, liked each other, and she agreed that when I was next there we'd do an oral history she'd put the tapes of away until after her children were grown. *And JFK's,*

But I never had the need to go back to California on work, did not have the money to do it to promote books, and then she died rather young.

That would not have been for my writing. It would have been to have that portrait of the man from one who knew him well and intimately.

He was quite explicit with her on his love of Jackie. And he shared with her his belief that Jackie also had men friend several of whom he named.

Not including Onasis.

That was a fine woman and she felt for him so much she wept many times as we talked.

The two of us alone. All the time I was not promoting books on radio and TV, for almost a week, when I had to leave for other speaking engagements.