28 November 1967

Dear Ed,

First, my thanks for your telegram, c/o Arnoni. It was thoughtful as well as witty. But I am really sorry that you couldn't be at the party personally. Usually these things are frightful drags; but this was a really enjoyable evening, perhaps because I was so utterly fooled to begin with, and because it was a fairly small group, so that one could converse and not merely chatter.

I was dazzled by Book World, and you must know already how much I value your review, and how grateful I am. I do disagree, though, with some of the CBS evidence you cited. I am writing a letter to the editor--I know it won't offend you, since it is directed mainly against CBS, on factual questions. Please don't think I am an ingrate, but it did seem important to amplify the blurred frames and the acceleration of the car. Again, Ed, my sincere thanks for what you have said about Accessories, both in your review and in your letter, both of which have made me very happy; and if the book receives attention, it will be due in no small part to your review.

I am enclosing a xerox of the O'Brien review, in case you don't get TMO easily at Cambridge. Like you, he compared the book with Lane's book--which will infuriate Lane still more, no doubt. Also enclosed is a xerox of the Max Lerner columns, one on Thompson's book and one on Garrison/Weisberg, which mentions Accessories too. I am sure you have already seen the current NY Review of Books, with my letter and Popkin's reply. (I will not discuss your views on Garrison.)

Re: Playboy page 72, yes, Garrison has cited the titles of the classified documents correctly (I checked against the list I got originally from Tom Bethell). The Rose Cheramie story comes from Penn Jones and is discussed in his new book, Forgive My Grief II. It is undocumented and unconfirmed; it may or may not be reliable. I'm afraid I don't know anything about Donald Norton or "Lt. Denek." (Back to Rose Cheramie: Penn Jones gives the name as "Cherami." He says she had her accident on November 20th, where Garrison says, 18th. Garrison says she was killed "after the assassination;" Penn Jones says, on 10/4/65. Who got the story from whom? and who frivoled it?) Frankly, I have arrived at the point where I regard everything that emanates from Garrison as ridiculous and unfounded, even while I recognize that this is a dangerous assumption because he may accidentally find something significant, or may accidentally be accurate about something, just by the law of averages. About the epileptic seizure case: I think one of the critics who went to Dallas checked him out and found it was a legitimate seizure, that the man had a history of epilepsy; but my memory is not too clear on this, so don't regard it as necessarily reliable. Finally, it is true that the "PE" number in Fort Worth was both in LHO's address book --where it was identified as a TV station's number, a small detail that Garrison likes to leave out--and that Ruby called the number on two occasions, within one or two days, but not subsequently. See XVI page 43 and XXV page 252.

I knew from Tom that Mark Lane is going through (and xeroxing) the files. I quite agree that Garrison is praying for a technicality to disqualify the trial before it takes place and to enter formally into his role of martyr, for which he and his claque have been laying the ground. But I didn't know anything about Lane implying that you were "his agent"--what is going on? Do tell me more about this, in case a situation should arise where it would be helpful to know the facts. I put nothing past that creature. Best regards,