

14 July 1967

Dear Bob,

I am back, broiled like a lobster...As you know by now, Miss Thompson did reach me at Swan Lake and we have an appointment on Monday the 17th at 4 p.m. I had no idea until she called that the radio spots advertising the book would utilize the author's voice...Didn't Mailer write a book once, "Advertisements for Myself"....? Has this technique been used before? Isn't it a little indelicate?

Thanks for your handwritten note of the 11th and the news that Max Lerner will try to read the galleys...Miss Thompson will have told you about my conversation with Dick Billings of Life (a magazine that I regard as an accessory before the fact in the murder of Oswald)...I wanted you to know about it in case Billings tried to contact you...not because there is any need to contact him.

You might like to know about another telephone conversation this week. Just before I left, I had a call from James Phelan, who wrote the attack on Garrison which appeared recently in the Saturday Evening Post. Phelan said that he had just read "Oswald and the State Department" in TMO and that he was very impressed with it. He said that although he had heard my name mentioned frequently, this was the first thing of mine he had read...and he asked me to mail him copies of all my other published articles (I did send most of them, to his California address)...It seemed to me that Phelan would not have called me and discussed, as he did, his collaboration with NBC on its anti-Garrison program unless he already knew that I was not a member of the Garrison clique...I made it a point early in the conversation to make it clear also that I was critical of the NBC program as well, and considered that its complacency about the Warren Report scarcely testified to any impartiality or zeal for fact-finding. Naturally, I do not want to be identified in any way with persons or organizations which are attacking Garrison for the wrong reasons and by unacceptable methods; and I was therefore rather noncommittal when Phelan expressed his eagerness to see Accessories. I am explaining this just in case he should decide to contact you directly.

Next subject: I learned early this week that Joe Lobenthal (the lawyer who taught the WR course at the New School and who is now my personal attorney, and who sometimes appears on radio as an advocate of the WR) was a classmate of Marcus Raskin and considers him something of a genius and a great guy. And today I had a letter from Raskin, very cordial indeed, which I will read to you on the phone if you like as I am too rushed to matype a copy. I still think that you might wish to consider inviting him to read the galleys.

(more)

Finally, I have received the copy of Kupferman's letter of the 11th to you, which expresses his concern about the references to Gerald Ford in the foreword. (X) Obviously Ted does not wish to be associated with criticism of his colleague and leader in Congress, whether or not the criticism is responsible. I can understand his position. Perhaps I will send him copies of my exchange of letters with Ford, in which he first evaded the issue by passing the buck to Rankin; and then, knowing that Rankin had refused to accept the buck and had failed to respond to the questions which arose from Ford's own book, also resorted to non-reply. The taxpayers have paid the bill for the expenses incurred by the Warren Commission (they have never even given a public accounting, even though Senator Cooper reportedly requested Warren to reconvene the Commission for this purpose and Warren reportedly consented). Ford did publish a book commercially, based on his service on the Commission; and he did fail to answer legitimate questions arising from disclosures in his book. Moreover, I have not singled out Ford, but elsewhere in the ms. have made it clear that other members of the Commission, and the Commission as a body, have declined to explain contradictions and omissions in the WR.

Much as I value Kupferman's friendship and much as I sincerely respect his courage in taking the public position on the WR that he has taken, I cannot in conscience alter the reference to Ford of which he complains. To do so would be to subordinate principle to expediency, diluting the honesty of the book—which ultimately will be its strongest attribute, I think. In any case, I am not willing to change an expression of view unless Ted can really show me that I am being "unfair" to Ford.

I hope that you will find this position reasonable, Bob.

As ever,

P.S. I might mention one other item, although it is not definite information: I had a call from Los Angeles a few days ago in which I learned that Mark Lane apparently is planning to move to New Orleans, to stay, in order to work closely and continuously with Garrison. If Lane makes this move, it would certainly add to the reasons which have already led me (and Sauvage) to regret the prospect of seeing his name on the jacket.

(X) Ted overlooked insert on p. 73A of details  
his correspondence Burke Marshall et al.  
I will call this to his attention.