

24 November 1971

Dear Mary,

This is the story on the interview: I was at home with a bad case of bronchial asthma during the week of October 18th, and received several phone calls from a man named Nobile who said he was with the International Press Service and had a syndicated column in a number of major newspapers--none of which are in New York. Despite breathing difficulties, I finally spent about two hours with him, by phone, in an interview that we both found unsatisfactory. He wanted to concentrate on highly sensational questions, to which only very speculative replies were possible, the sort of titillating irrelevancies I have always shunned. So when I insisted on discussing factual evidence and refused to make sweeping unsupported allegations ala Garrison, he was unhappy. For my part, I was surprised by Nobile's vast ignorance of the case and his lack of interest in the evidence as such. Also, I had found him somewhat unreliable about calling at the designated hour and the like. So I doubted if the interview would be any good by the time he wrote it up, and doubted that it would even get published.

Your letter of the 22nd is the first indication I have received that it was published, and needless to say I have not received a copy from Nobile or any other source. It is really a shame that the Houston Chronicle was sold out, I would have liked to see the column. However, if I get a copy from any other source, I will send it on to you.

The Philadelphia man is only a boy, all of 18 years old! He is a college student, a protege of Harold Weisberg's, and amazingly mature in his knowledge and judgment of the case. He has written what I regard as a very fine book-length manuscript, which he was good enough to let me read, but it is not published. It has been turned down, after much soul-searching, by one major publisher, I forget the name, and so far as I know is being read now in a smaller house of which I had never heard. I met the young man only once and briefly, and we have exchanged letters a few times, but I do not really know him at all well. However, his ms. is extremely well written, deals largely with the autopsy and the Fisher panel report, and I do hope that it gets a publisher.

Well, you certainly have family news! Congratulations on Jimmy Lee's marriage and approaching paternity. I certainly hope we will be able to see each other when you stop at New York but it will be at the time of the peak of the General Assembly, when I have night meetings and Saturday meetings on top of all-day meetings. As the 15th of December is a Monday, I know that it will be impossible for me to get any time off. But let's wait and see. My number at the office is Plaza 4-1234 ext 2024, be sure to call there if no answer at home (Chelsea 2-4293). I have to rush off now, but do write again before you leave Dallas and let me know your exact travel dates. All my love,

Hastily,