

27 December 1968

Dear Maxwell,

Thanks for your notes of the 25th and the 26th. To answer your question about Joesten: I think he writes the most lurid nonsense, with an occasional moment of insight and occasional perceptiveness on evidenciary matters. But, like too many of those who are obsessed with Dallas and the later assassinations, he does not discriminate between fact, inference, and hypothesis, and that makes his work virtually valueless as history, detection, or political analysis. He had invited me to contribute an occasional item to his newsletter in exchange for a subscription; and I sent him a much-abbreviated version of a much longer review which I had intended for TMO, partly to save the cost of a subscription and partly to give at least that much publicity to the Document Appendix.

I frankly doubt that Joesten needs your financial support, as he has produced one book after another, some published commercially in England and a few self-published, and seems to be doing quite well on the royalties. I don't think Joesten is a "phoney" in the sense of a con artist or a cynical opportunist: his first book on the assassination was a valuable contribution for its time (1964) but his subsequent work is not really serious.

Turning to your second question, about Sweezy and his very thoughtful offer to fill out TMO subscriptions with MR: truly, I have no idea at all how Arnoni would react. I feel sure that he is sensitive to unfulfilled obligations to subscribers and others, and I am trying to be helpful by handling replies to letters, orders for his book, and the like. But it is hard to predict how Menahem would react to the offer and I can only suggest that you and/or Sweezy might write to him direct, c/o Albert Kaplan, El-Al Building, 32 Ben-Jehuda Road, Tel Aviv, Israel.

Yes, I am rather depressed by the way TMO expired and by the departure of the Arnonis, and by things in general. I know it has been a blow to you, in the same compound sense. But I hope that the New Year will lift our spirits and wish you happiness, health, and all success with your Mark Twain book. We will keep inttouch, of course. All affection,

Sincerely,

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