

4 January 1968

Dear Max,

And my good wishes to you and Anne, if I have been too distracted to express them earlier, for the "horrible year of 1968," as you (so aptly, I suspect) put it. Certainly it has started horribly for me, in purely family terms, overshadowing what otherwise might have been a fairly happy period, in personal terms. Where the World is concerned--no, more properly where the USA is concerned--I have lapsed into permanent despair.

You have presented me with a mystery: what could I contribute to the files of the Boston University Library? All my material on the case (notes, drafts, correspondence, clippings, magazines, books, my own manuscripts, etc., etc.) is material that I use, actively, now and expect to be using for a considerable time to come. I cannot think of anything with which I could possibly part, nor, offhand, can I think of anything "confidential" (other than materials designated as such by the senders, not by myself) which I could "declassify" now or later.

No library has tried to snatch me up, nor had it ever occurred to me that I had anything to offer a library--so I have no commitments. What really mystifies me is your suggestion that I would get "income tax deductions"---to say nothing of the possibility you mention of "selling this material" (WHAT material?) to other libraries.

Remember, Max, I am both a novice and a non-academic type; so you will have to clarify all this. I must learn to walk before I can run, so I leave aside for the time being your suggestion that I should be a "chief adviser on the collection" of all the WR critics.

You ask, what news of the book? Well, it has received some unbelievably lavish reviews (see enclosed excerpts). Also, some snide, sneering, and totally disparaging reviews, by such as the Jesuit, John Sparrow (sparrow-brain?), Alexander Bickel (whom I singled in a letter to the editor of Commentary in 1966 for his pro-Commission bias and nastiness toward the critics even while he was forced to join them in calling for a new look at the Dallas events), and another reviewer whose name is unfamiliar and escapes me at the moment. A review in the February Playboy calls Accessories, I am told, "a modern J'Accuse." That cannot go to my head, since the same Playboy reviewer also rapturizes about Whisberg's latest (fourth) book, Oswald in New Orleans---one of the most incoherent, hysterical, and irrelevant of his Works. Which brings me to Garrison and your question about the latest Ramparts effort on his behalf. You will realize just what I think of the article when you look at the enclosed excerpts from it---they speak for themselves. All the information which reaches me about Garrison (and from unimpeachable sources) suggests that he has progressed from mere capricious irresponsibility and organized nonsense to calculated evil and flagrant ruthlessness which is doing irreparable damage, both to individuals he has named and to the whole serious critical effort against the Warren Report. Must close now, Max, with best affection, always,