

10 January 1966

Dear Penn,

Tonight I made a perfect score in frustration...first thumbing rides and dragging home in the unbelievable crush of traffic, sitting dead still ten minutes for every five of motion...Then found package from Shirley Martin, tape recording I am busting to hear, but the wrong speed for my tape recorder ...called nearby friend with two-speed recorder, no answer...Opened your letter, and, Boy, you amaze me no less than I may amaze you...What is "the connection on Phillip Graham, Washington Post owner..."????? Never heard a whisper...

So to the phone, in the usual impatience to find out, but the kind lady (Mrs Jones?) who answered said you would not be back for a few hours--by which time I may be at my friend's apartment listening to the tape recording...So I'd better write, and send you the enclosed copy of the now-defunct Mark Lane Committee publication. I have marked in red the item on "Teresa Norton"...I was never able to get any confirmation of her status as a Ruby stripper, nor any further details of her alleged suicide in August 1964 in a Houston motel ...but she is certainly not the same dame as the one who got picked up during the Ruby trial, is she? I think that was Karen Bennett Carlin alias Little Lynne. That is why I had the question mark next to her name on the list.

The same enclosed publication has a piece on Robert Ruark, also marked in red ink, reproducing his column on the lunatic ballistics findings. He was found dead sometime in the spring 1965 in London, just before he was to marry for the umpteenth time, and an autopsy was done. There is no reason to link his death with the case, no known reason, but...I'd still like to know, as with Kilgallen, whether he was working on anything before he shook this mortal coil...

Alfred McClaine, when mentioned by Ruby in volume V, brought forth the immediate comment by Warren that "Alfred was killed in a taxi in New York." I have been gnashing my teeth with curiosity about the prompt commentary by the Chief ever since I read that testimony but every attempt I made to learn more about the mysterious Alfred mysteriously expired ran into dead end or dead silence.

That clears up the puzzlements in my letter. Now, you must clear up yours --i.e., what's the story on Phillip Graham? And who were the interesting people from California who came to see you? And how come they were frightened? (Hadn't they been reading the papers since 1962?) By the way, someone called my attention to your reward offer in the issue with the first Warren Report editorial re the fire-bombing of your establishment. What was THAT about? Listen, take care, Penn, will you? You are indispensable to a lot of us.

If I get time to thermofax a couple of short chapters from my manuscript dealing with the Carcano or parts thereof I will send them to you to look at and print, if you feel the material is suitable, as excerpts from a yet-unpublished comparative study of the WR vs the H&E...Okay? By the way, I haven't had a copy of MM for about two weeks now, I hope you are getting some well-earned relaxation from the deadlines.