

11/28/66

Dear Miss Meagher:

Thanks for the acknowledgment, but it was really unnecessary. All of us are doing our work on the case after working hours, with our eyes bruised by other cares, and our minds always jumping for a short-cut. Even now I'm wondering what I said in a recent article (Shirley Martin has my copy) about Cliff Carter's appropriation of Governor Connally's clothing. Did I say that he did or arranged for the actual laundering? I may have, although the last "Life" contains Mrs. Connally's statement that she found her husband's shirt and jacket in a Washington office a long time after and that she did the washing.

Yes, the last months have been grand and I feel very much as you do. But I still doubt that we are going to change much history. The power of truth is really shown only when its enemies are being ruined for other reasons. The Commission case was foul in a hundred places from the beginning. Connally's statement in Life showed that when the time came, the official case could be destroyed at almost any point. Then Salandria's articles appeared, and they, I think, struck the decisive blows intellectually, - but a year passed and nothing happened. Mark Lane's work from the start was an adequate demolition job.

What was lacking was a receptive state of mind on the part of the public and parts of the Establishment. We didn't create this state of mind. The Civil Rights disenchantment did, the Viet Cong did, the end of the War on Poverty did, the steep decline in the popularity of President Johnson, the soar in the cost of living. The thieves have begun to fall out, and we may yet get our due.

But even so, it's too early to sing victory. I think we're going to take a few more beatings, some perhaps very serious, and some from great liberals. Because in this case, we may not be opposing the government or meaning to but the government is opposing us, and that is no small-potatoes opposition. Still it is a good feeling to see the powers wonder what hit them and to know what we have spoiled Arlen Specter's chances to be mayor or governor.

Greetings again.

*Harold Feldman*