

23 October 1969

Dear George,

So Uncle Chester came through! Good-O. I await your findings after you locate a 3-track tape recorder, and of course you know that if you could manage to make a transcript for sale, you would have quite a market for copies. If the contents warrant, of course.

And if Mary Ferrell has a set of the DPD tapes, all the critics and researchers would be greatly indebted to her for an analysis of the discrepancies between the sound record and the several transcripts. I have never heard from Mrs. Ferrell or been in touch with her, although I have heard about her at times from several different people. I imagine that if she ever considered contacting me, she was discouraged by my political complexion, which I hope is clear from Accessories and my other published work. I must admit that I have become disillusioned in recent years with some of the apostles of the liberal and leftist persuasion, discovering that they can be just as corrupt, debased, and ding-dong absurd as the ultra-trite right. So I tend to ignore political labels altogether, and react to the individual as an individual.

Do not apologize for underestimating Joesten, I have just done the same thing and I am furious with myself for my folly. As I wrote you recently, I have been ordering selected CDs from the Archives, and I made quite a thrilling find (to save time, I enclose a copy of my letter of 19 October to the NY Times, which on that date ran an obscenely sympathetic interview with Earl Warren, and which describes the find in question). When I received this document, on a point which Joesten had been the first to raise, I decided against my worse instincts to send him a copy, as an act of courtesy. Joesten then proceeded to publish it in extenso, with lengthy commentary in the course of which he wrote that, as was evident from the section "A Strange Arraignment," in Accessories, I had in writing my book accepted the account of the arraignment given in the Warren Report. This really burned me, because I just don't see how anyone could possibly fail to recognize that the whole burden of that section of the book was that I did not accept the WR fiction on this score. But even if Joesten somehow managed to find the section ambiguous, I had written him in February 1969 on this same question, stating that my study of the testimony and documents had convinced me that—as Joesten had first charged in 1964—Oswald had NOT been arraigned for the JFK murder and that the account given in the WR was a fiction.

Mind you, I do not think that Joesten wrote what he did in any malice. He probably forgot my letter, read the section in the book carelessly, and came away with a cockeyed stupid conclusion. But if he can be so utterly unreliable in understanding the written word, toward someone he considers as more or less a friend, just imagine what he must do with evidence on the case per se. Anyhow, I wrote him an icy letter, giving chapter and verse and requesting a retraction or clarification in his next issue. (And I have to pay to get his lousy newsletter and read a total misrepresentation of my views, to add injury to insult.)

Coleman is assigned to the First Committee (Political and Security Affairs), which is outside my bounds, but he is getting some digs here and there from his fellow-delegates for the USA position on disarmament, Pax Americana, etc. which he articulates on behalf of Massah. But all is not lost: Shirley Dimples has introduced herself to me, saying, I am Mrs. Black, to which I replied, How do you do, after which we had a most unmemorable conversation on some WHO matters. A nice little woman, but more suited to play with the Baltimore Orioles than sit at the UN. And how do you like my Mets???

Best,