

11 January 1972

Dear Howard,

A great deal has happened since we spoke on Saturday. Lattimer was all over the radio and TV on Sunday/Monday but was not asked one single perceptive or challenging question by any interviewer, as we expected. Last night, however, Cyril Wecht did a half-hour radio interview via telephone from Pittsburgh, on NBC, which was magisterial and exhilarating and left Lattimer in shreds, both as to competence and as to his so-called "findings" on the autopsy photos and X-Rays. Jerry Peliceff taped the interview and will transcribe it, I hope, so that you can at least read it in due course.

I have had several conversations with Wecht as well as with many other critics, mini-critics, and even a Garrisonite or two who called in excitement and wrath. There are some reliable indications that Burke Marshall will now virtually be compelled to okay the requests made by Wecht, Nichols, and Chapman. If that proves to be the case, Wecht wants to prepare himself in advance as intensively and comprehensively as possible, and to consult Harold Weisberg especially as well as others of us.

Obviously, it is a question of mutual benefit for you and Wecht if he is sufficiently briefed on your autopsy/medical chapters to give special attention to those features of the photos and X-Rays which are pivotal to your thesis as to the number and nature of the wounds and the character of the ammunition used. I am still not clear as to whether Cyril has seen or has a copy of the relevant parts of your manuscript. If not, I hope that you will feel that you wish to make the material available to him. Needless to say, we have a great deal riding on his examination of the autopsy materials, if it does come to pass--it may be an unparalleled opportunity to establish conclusively these data which are still surrounded by uncertainty or incomplete knowledge.

If we arrange some kind of meeting in New York or Washington with Cyril and others, hopefully Harold included, or perhaps a series of consultations between Cyril and individual critics, I hope that you can join in. In any case, you might want to be in touch with Cyril now about the material in your ms., if my impression is correct that you want him to be in the picture and to some extent have already shared your findings with him.

I continue to feel elated by the prospect of publication of your book by the U of P Press and will look forward to further news after your meeting with the editors. All the best,

Hurriedly,