

30 October 1966

Dear Vince,

I guess Penn did not get to call you before the broadcast on WCAU. I managed to tape most of it. It only reinforced my impression that the RAMPARTS story (leaving aside the filthy "book review") was a piece of mischief, focusing attention where it does the least good. Jack McKinney was, as usual, impressive in his great intelligence and perspective. I have the greatest admiration for him and for his exceptionally fine, well-informed audience.

Last night I tried WCAU, just automatically, and was lucky enough to catch the reply of most of the Mark Lane broadcast in August, which I had not heard at the time. That was a very good discussion and covered a lot of important items of evidence.

I had a phone call yesterday evening from—of all places—Victoria, British Columbia—a spokesman for the University of Victoria wanted to know if I could give a lecture on the WR in January or February, on the basis of my TMO articles. Isn't that SOMETHING? If it works out, maybe I can detour to California and Texas on the way back.

Vince—I had a thought which no one finds particularly relevant, but just the same want to mention it to you. During the on-site reenactments in May 1964, CEs 886-902, there was no substitute for the follow-up car—the one with 4 Secret Service agents standing on the running-boards and some of the occupants sitting in raised position. Is it possible that in the actual event, those standing agents some 5 feet or so behind the JFK car would have obstructed a view of JFK or Connally to anyone in the 6th floor window? Obstructed, not in the sense of complete concealment, as in the case of the tree, but getting in the way at times or partially. What do you think? Does the height of the 6th floor window above the car eliminate such a difficulty?

I had a serious bronchitis with slight asthma for a few days but I am just about back to normal now. Arnoni has been having trouble with his back (which I am sure he would not want me to mention to anyone) and is still having severe pain. He works too hard, has no mercy on himself.

I enjoyed meeting Ray Marcus—didn't you? He is solid and has done great work within the area he marked out for himself. Sometimes he is pig-headed but he is very fair and loyal.

Did I tell you lately how much I love you and Livvie and how warmly I appreciate you? How is our Ira? Yes—I almost forgot what is maybe the most important item of the moment—I spoke to Ira's friend at Bobbs-Merrill on Friday. He thinks my manuscript is the best of all the books so far on the WR and he is going to make a fight of it with his higher-ups, who will be hard to convince. He may approach you to "read" the ms. and give a professional appraisal, to strengthen his hand with his people. I am not going to get my hopes up too high—I am sure there will be as many rejections as poor Weisberg got before there is any success. Again, I am greatly indebted to you and Ira for this referral and a very welcome encouragement, even if it comes to nothing. I like Ira's friend very much—he is half-demented by Vietnam—his avocation is scrawling in the subways "A. Hidell Lives!" Isn't that MARVELOUS?

Love,

P.D. See CEs 1442-1443
to Rube Havana trip