

<sup>b</sup>ear Mrs. Meagher,

Your great kindness and kind expressions make me feel much better then I think you can imagine. I do appreciate you letter very much, and I thank you for it. I am writing in haste chiefly to do this, for I have to hurry to the next town to get another letter into the mail before our only collection for the day ( that left here more than an hours ago) leaves the area. Such is life in the country.

If in your conversation (s) with Mr. Collier anything that might interest me developed, I would like to know as soon as you can tell me. Meanwhile, I have heard from the other publisher only that they find the book good and are having it read still enother time.

Also, let me thank you for your errat@, I shall go over all of them. Some I recognize from just reading your letter, for I have found them. I am happy you found no more, for what you read, all 110,000 words, I wrote in four weeks to meet the contracted deadline. This is, really, my but slightly edited first draft. So, you make me even more proud, and I make no effort to hide that I had this feeling without your generous compliments.

I shall write Mr. Welch as soon as I return. But I shall write him a general letter, for I have much too much invested in this to give it away. Also, because I have not given up hope of book publication, I would be reluctant to make any committment without the publisher agreeing with it. In addition, there is a magor magazine with a vast circulation thatkwas interested in a 20,000 word summary. It found the book too tightly drafted to summarize in less than 40,000. While at first I thought this was just another excuse, I thereafter asked several editors immediately after they had read my book if this were really true and they agreed it was. However, there is a different approach that I built into the book that, when  $\perp$  have news of publication or forget about it I intend to suggest to this magazine. The chapters on the Tippit through the Oswald murders stand by themselves and, besides telling that part of the story, very much address themselves into a current legislative interest in the rights of those accused of crime once int them hands of public authority. The legislative assistants to the two Senators who have read this book have an interest in those chapters because they do bear on the legislation.

Although I shall be writing to Mr. Welsh generally, asking, among other things, how much they pay, I would appreciate your writing him also. I shall send you a copy of my letter. and I shall make a decision soon. If the decisions is for private publication, of which I should know more shortly, it will be then.

Sincerely,

I hope my haste has not impaired comprehensibility. Again, many, many thanks.

I opened envelope to remove serbon? CC my litter of 2/15/66 pent to Welle 2/19/16