

8.19.67

Dear Sylvia,

If you do not get the New Orleans papers, tell me and I'll send you a Thermofax of the important States-Item story of 8/16. It is not at all as indicated by the headline, but a considerable victory for Garrison and tells me that a great amount of the material I am publishing would be admissible in court.

I suspect the west-coast city is San Francisco and the date 11/22/63. I know what the other item is. I am not impressed by it and the source and did not use it or the source.

The balance of Joesten's Oswald The Truth I reserve for the appropriate environment, so I read it slowly. However, I am not convinced that he doesn't have the 26 volumes, for I detect a clear pattern. He quotes testimony not in the other books from public sources, like 'Donnell's from the 12/5/64 TIME. If we meet Tuesday and you are interested, remind me to give you more details. Too bad, about the book and the man and the conthing outpouring from nothing but sources no closer than second hand when closest.

I had a brief conversation with Mitchell Krause Ch 13 yesterday p.m. Make a note to get in touch with him or his producer, Miss Delaney, LFL-6000. He is without rancor about your inability to appear opposite Ross and seems to be about my call the next day to his vice-president in charge of news and public affairs. He did not reject my offer to answer this with the documentation when the N.O. book is out and if he then does I will invoke the fairness doctrine. In November (after your book has had a chance to get in the stores) he should be able to offer you a dispassionate chance to present some of your material. The New York audience is the most important one, and early is best, but only when they can get what you want them to have. You can also reach individual important people this way, people you otherwise might not. Knowing your general disposition to avoid these things, I ask you to consider whether it is not part of what you sought in writing the book and doing all the great work you have.

By Labor day I should have the complete CBS legal-department table of organization. Today's mail tells me they also have a Deputy General Counsel, for he is the third to respond to the same letter (addressed to a fourth). Shades of DOD! How appropriate the postage-meter blurb: CBS News give you more than just the top of the news. Q.E.D.

Stern is perhaps part of the problem at the Post. It is he they sent to Dallas at the time of the assassination, and their prize-winning police reporter. Collective, they laid the smallest egg. Ben Bradlee told him to read WHITEWASH. In about 10 weeks he read perhaps 10% of the ms, judging from his marker. Ultimately he assigned Dan Kurzman to it. In my presence, Kurzman raved in perhaps the most exciting endorsement I ever got from the press. He was then sent to cover the Dominican election and Dick Harwood assigned to the story. He never did read WHITEWASH before he wrote the 5/66 piece. Kurzman and Stern bearded Willens, in whom Stern had confidence and knows well, with a one-page sheet of questions I gave them. Stern was shaken when he returned. Kurzman told me, "You're in. He had no answer for anything, bothing but evasions and not good ones." Stern was then in Bradlee's office. They had just returned from Willens. Stern then told me, "you should get the Pulitzer Prize", in effect, and the indications were they'd use my archives stuff, which I had then begun to gather. This is to make more comprehensible my enclosed letter to Wiggins, who invited me to see him after the shabby thing they then did to me (after Louis Heren of the Times of London told him about it). Wiggins said he'd look into it and if he found what I said to be said he'd be in touch. He then phoned me and asked ~~me~~ me to write him a column. I did, and very gently said nothing adverse about the Post. He never printed it. Two months later I released him from his promise, in writing, telling him I was not looking for a pound of flesh. This also explains the Donovan LA Times story.