

10/4/71

Dear Sylvia,

This morning I permitted myself the luxury of a little more than six hours of sleep, which means that there is no time for any work until after breakfast, and the first thing I do after breakfast is to take a brisk walk, if it isn't raining. This gives me time for a note, if not much more.

I have been concentrating on editing the two earlier-written parts of POST MORTEM while my wife completes the typing of the last. She is, I believe, in the last chapter. After she reads what she has done and either corrects the typos or prepares the correction for me to post, she will start on marking the corrections I have been making and am making for the two earlier parts and then I will incorporate them in the master set. We hope that it may be possible, somehow, to arrange a private printing. Ned Crosby is preparing a popularization/condensation of the three parts, hopefully to be not much longer than Inquest when he is done.

We will soon have major interruptions. I have again gotten a promise from the government that it will, after two years of stalling, negotiate in good faith on our long-delayed suit for the ruin of our farming by aviation. We won the first suit and established precedent for us and for everyone. If they keep their word this time, the federal attorney will come here the end of the week and start again. If they do not, I suppose I'll have little alternative to forcing the case to trial and that means an enormous amount of preparation. So, I'm hoping to complete the editing of the panel part this week, before Friday.

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I presume your own heavy commitments have not permitted you the time to defang the panel part. To a degree (I'm up to page 49 this a.m.) I have done it and will be doing more. In part, with a couple of large hunks and isolated words, I have already done some with the first part. Apparently it is not required with the last part, for that passed Howard's severe scrutiny. So, my immediate purpose is to tell you that there is no need to respond to my question, could you find time for a blue pencil. Should it later turn out that your pressures reduce and you could find time, it will be academic. I have to flog the usually literary niceties in order to get more on paper. I feel the accumulating years and the severe personal problems too much and I must complete what I have started or it may not get done.

While I am always into many things at one time, I also always have a focus. It has to change from time to time, and it does, in response to situations that change and in reaction to assorted stimuli. However, of the work I have commenced, as soon as I have completed the posting of corrections on the master of the unified POST MORTEM, it is my present plan to return to AGENT OSWALD. Here again my extra problem will be too much material and it will, with the overall objective of making the best possible record, be a too-long book. Nonetheless, it could be quite helpful if, as you think of them, you could make a note of those things that come to mind that bear on whether or not LHO was or could have been some kind of informant and the opposite. In his own way PH will address the same question, with different focus. Mine will include a personal investigation that finances have prevented completing. I have witnesses who have been turning on and off, and when it is not possible for me to be with them when they are on, I lose much. One of these, and please keep this in strictest confidence, claims to have seen LHO regularly with one federal agent in particular. I have much independent of this witness that bears on precisely this point. PH's will center on the FBI, if, as now seems likely, he will follow my suggestion. He is excellent at pursuing the path of the papers and with the scholar's conservative approach may evolve a definitive study, as I expect him to. I have suggested that he come here before he starts writing and go over everything I have... Anyway, as of now this is the writing I will resume with, and as of now I can't predict when I'll have completed the unification of PM. As soon as the last part is completed, I will copyright the limited edition and then, to a much smaller number of us, will undertake to make copies available. As I think has become more clear since the last time we discussed it, there are, today, very few doing serious work and worthy of trust. Best regards,

JW