

Dear Bill,

4/13/93

In writing you in haste to ~~that~~ <sup>thank</sup> you and Betsy for the wonderful citrus suddenly I was making full use of the right I've worked 80 year to earn- to forget.

I do not recall ~~what~~ whether I told you that I have a copy of the In Our Defense book that Carolyn Kennedy co-authored. I do. I'm still thinking of trying to write her along the line of the draft of a letter I sent you. While awaiting an overdue callback on a stereo repair and the mail I tell you about the status/monstatus of the new book.

A dear friend of many years, a lawyer with a specialty in publishing, last visited us last summer with one of his sons who is also a lawyer. I discussed the book I then had in mind and may not yet have started. I told him what I expected to evolve and what I believed its potential could be. He said he could be interested. He is counsel for Carroll & Graf and copublishes with them. He knows me and my work well. He once flattered me by telling me I am the most conservative man he'd ever met. In explanation he said that while some things I said might sometimes appear to those who do not know to be exaggerated or extreme, it was always the case that I understated.

My interest was and is for the book to appear, as I told him to begin with, while I can defend it or help it and that this would mean a minimum of editing, mostly elimination of unintended duplication.

My two college historian friends say it is the best assassination book yet. Wrono says it is "unprecedented." McKnight said it "should revolutionize thinking about the JFK assassination." My friend, whose name is Richard Gallen, has had the ms for some time now without a word from him. I asked him for one the end of last week. He's not had time to respond other than by phone.

Meanwhile, Carroll & Graf has been making a fortune, literally, with some of the most atrocious assassination books yet, all the really bad ones of recent years it seems. Including Livingstone's High Trash 1 and 2. He is working on High Trash 3, manuscript due this week for October publication. And he has flipped out, doing crazy and I believe criminally wrong things to hurt a number of us.

Because Gallen is both my friend and their lawyer I've been sending him things I think it is to their interest for him to know and to his interest as their counsel. Not all and not arguing, merely what I can see leading to the need for a legal opinion. Not content, which I've not addressed. Some of what I sent him some time ago caused him to recuse himself in the suit Groden filed against Livingstone and the publisher.

This man, who I believe is really crazy, has been profitable to them. Like all publishers, if they see money there is no intervening principle. If the book is bad it is good if it makes money. I understand that as of the last royalty payment Livingstone had gotten from High Trash 2 about \$180,000.00. The publisher made much more.

So, I can see them imagining that I'm trying to hurt the book. I'd like to, of course,

but that has not been my purpose. As examination of what I've not sent would make clear.

Unless Livingstone is lying, and if he is lying he is doing it with consistency, he has Dallas sources who are clearly using him. He is not well informed on the assassination, only the various theories none of which stacks. ~~What~~ What he told me he is doing is cribbed from a fake book by the French CIA that seems to have been timed to help it with Garrison making all those charges against it. It was cribbed years ago by Mark Lane and Donald Freed for their book, Executive Action, which ended up in a movie. From which they were banned from the set when they could no longer be tolerated.

Unless Livingstone misrepresented what he is doing, he has no book if he names <sup>names</sup> and Carroll & Graf should expect real trouble if he does. I do not see how they can think of publishing it. Quite separate is the part of the book that is outrageous fiction about the conspiracy he alleges against him by the other critics. Only last week I heard that he had appointed me its chief or ringleader. That crazy! All we want is for the monster to leave us alone.

The situation should clarify itself when he turns the ms in and it is read. Unless he has misrepresented what he is doing they'll have to be sick when they see it. They know he is crazy. But heavy-green crazy, as is easy with no principles or responsibility or inhibitions.

Of course I had no way of anticipating any of this. If I had I might have been doing some looking around. If I had fewer years and fewer ill's I'd have started with a major publisher, going from one to another. I'd probably have started looking for an agent first.

My friend, of course, is in the unenviable middle.

It will take some ~~come~~ courage to publish this book but with any effort it should be ~~profitable~~ profitable and enduring. ~~There~~ There is nothing at all like it and it is absolutely solid. As Wrone said, with amazing documentation. Not theories, only facts. With any publisher effort the book should be a sensation.

And if I were younger and without my medical problems I could publish it myself. I can't think of that now for so many reasons other than the obvious.

So, this is the present situation.

The assistant state's attorney I was to have seen yesterday was taken suddenly ill. I'm to be called when she is back and has the time. I have quite a collection by now of Livingstone's accusations of several criminal acts by several of us and his vituperations that seem to me to be encompassed by the article of the Maryland code I sent you. And, of course, there would be provisions of which I do not know. As there can be a negative attitude to begin with. But as an effort at self-protection and in the sick Livingstone's interest I'm trying. Best thing that could happen to him is for a judge to order the medical care he obviously requires.

Best,

