

2/9/70

Dear Nick,

Glad you made a mistake and first sent your letter of the 21st to our old address. I hope it put me in a position to straighten out the P.O. where I used to live. They are supposed to deliver all mail addressed to me at Hyattstown to my mother-in-law, who lives there. She forwards first-class mail, which rarely reaches me, and hangs on to all the junk until she is here or we are there. She forwarded a letter a week ago. It hasn't travelled the 20 miles since. I know it was returned. However, I also know who sent it, so I'll have to take time to write him. It is simply incredible, they do more work to violate the regulations- and they don't throw a single scrap of the junk mail away. I get all of that!

Thanks for the check. Boy, do we need it!

Until recently I was not aware of George's many problems. His family is still unaware of some and I have decided he is a grown man and I shouldn't be the means of their learning. I learned he and W had separated from Bradley. (Incidentally, let me know if he drops the suit against you. He promised me he would.) So I didn't realize George would commit you people to what he hadn't arranged for in advance. There is no doubt about this, for it is impossible for me to travel under other circumstances. We have a slight income for the first three months of the year, when my wife works as a tax consultant for Black (guaranteed only the minimum wage). Then we had no income. And I do owe \$40,000, with my property as security. Just raising the interest and a nominal payment on principle is a great burden. The deal was that all of my travel expenses would be paid, and in advance. I told George I'd go by way of Frisco and LA, to update the people there, and return by N.C. It also included the cost of getting to the airport and the parking of the car there. No accommodations or food, for in most cases I had no such expenses, but all travel. He told me there would be a small honorarium at one college and a collection at the other. Not until I was there did he learn he could not make the collection. I am certain if he says he got and gave me the \$80 check that he did. I believe he also sent me \$100 in advance. My travel agent is an old friend, so he advanced me the ticket. I had to arrange to pay for it after I got home. The total fare was about \$350, as I recall, plus close to another \$50 for other transportation, chiefly to and from airport(s) and parking, which is high. In fact, with that \$2.00 a day and the trip lasting a month, you can see it was probably more than \$50.00. You know, I didn't expect any of this, and when George told me you'd make it up, I never dreamed you wouldn't, so I also didn't keep separate records. I've too much to do without that.

But if you do not see how George could possibly have thought you could afford to pay my travel costs, can you see how much less I could have considered this without it? The others, all of whom dealt with the pest and that irresponsibly, all got very high fees. Lane's ran about \$1,500. I did this usually for nothing, and in California, on every trip friends arranged, I got stuck for my actual costs.

I think you miscast Craig, possibly Penn. I think neither is motivated by what would ordinarily be considered "gain". I am without doubt Penn is paranoid, from my own experiences. Ask him what you will, but how will you be able to judge? Again, while there may be doubts about motive, there is none about fact, but you'll not get that from either Roger or Penn. What Penn prints is shockingly irresponsible. He has taken me off his list, but I hear from others and I did see his "new" (ugh) book. This sort of thing cannot help and doesn't.

After writing you, it occurred to me that Roger might not have been in uniform. And the question, with me, never has been did he speak to Fritz. I have never had any doubt that the essence of what he testified to did happen. It is what he has since added that troubles me, especially because I have checked the history

of the transcript thoroughly, and because I know court reports are not in a position to do the kind of editing he now claims. There was no time to make the changes he claims were made before that transcript was shipped to DC and I have the transcript as it was sent to the printer, and there are no such changes on it. Do you believe they had a reporter with in tent knowledge of the required doctoring of his testimony? I do not. I got this for Bradley, on his word he'd drop the action against you and Penn. And I kept a copy. I have seen his annotation. That is what troubled me. I have handled millions of words of official testimony so I know something about reporters. I also know the firm with the contract, and they are the best. Roger's story cannot be true and, typically, Penn didn't do any checking.

Markot is not a pen name. It is a plagiarist. I have seen his first book. It is frightful and wholesale thievery. I have not even seen the second. This is a theft of both the concept and the title. I have written Kunkin, who has not responded. One of the real problems is that even informed buffs lack the factual knowledge to judge. I do not believe you have any idea how much time I wasted on George trying to keep you people from making some of the mist he's did. He paid no attention. Need I repeat history? So, these literary thieves can sensationalize the work of others and how many have the slightest idea what they are up to and how wrong they are?

One thing that might help would be if I had a lawyer out there who might put a stop to this before it happens. Judging by the other monsters, this will be another thalidomide book. I might also be able to collect other moneys due me by Californians. A wholesaler, \$2,500! for books. Another guy got 5,000 Oswald in New Orleans, not a cent paid. Kunkin owes me about \$150 for two years and will not even answer a letter. He has yet to mention my name in any context of which I am aware. He is in bed with Lane. These guys are their own, also-corrupt, establishment. So, to answer the rest of your question, I think it would be tragic to make any mention of that work until someone who knows something about it can give you an appraisal. I know no one in the LA area who can. There are several in the bay area. Or I could. For you and because of my selfish interests, in this case I would. But please accept a serious caution: his first book, which I've never been able to obtain, was really terrible. And Kunkin has steadfastly refused to print anything responsible, favoring his own kind of cheap sensation. He is no less commercial than the worst, and he trades on these troubled kids in a sickening way. I suspect Marks or "Marko" wrote the Freeep story. So did Earl Hoch, who sent it to me. Kunkin, owing me money, also cut me off his mailing list.

"We" are a strange bunch, if we include all those credited us!

I have not seen that Confidential, presumes Joel Palmer did this, and I do not trust him, from my own investigations of what he was doing in N.O. He fled there right after I left you, after I tumbled to it and questioned him in Fensterwald's presence. He would not permit taping, as I asked for me. He would be (openly) tape in his own interest, no copy to me. He has stolen a reel of the Alyea film from me. He refused to do any legit investigating in N.O., when I asked him. But I'd like to see that story, if you have it.

Always haste! I do hope you can unravel this mess, for our needs are urgent. I did incur this added debt at no prospect of profit, to try and help in the work upon which you were engaged, especially because it gave me a chance to update others at his same time. Without George's assurances, I'd never have done this. By the way, I believe Hal Verb also knew about this. So, if it is rough on you people, it is more so on us. Thanks for anything you can do and my best to everyone.

Sincerely,

Feb. 21, 1970

Dear Harold,

First, my apologies for not replying some time ago. I don't want to become a Silent George. I can't even communicate with the latter myself. I've tried calling him both at his home and at the hospital and am never able to get him. As for Malvina, her phone is disconnected, and I don't have the slightest idea where she is (as you know, she and George ~~was~~ were living apart). What I intend to do now is write George care of the hospital (I am told he still works there) and include a copy of your letter of 11/8/69 and ask him a few questions.

Now, money. To try to simplify the problem in my own mind, I am breaking it into three parts: (1) honorarium, (2) travel expenses, (3) book sales.

1. honorarium. The Experimental College at San Diego State College tells me that ~~xxx~~ they wrote you a check for \$80. If you have no record of this, I'll try to get them to check on exactly when this was written, the number of the check, whether it cleared the bank, etc. As for any ~~honorarium~~ ^{honorarium} ~~xxxxxxx~~ for your appearance at UCSD, this is something I'll try to find out from George.
2. travel expenses. This is the part that is an utter and complete mystery to me. I have absolutely no recollection of ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~x~~ a promise to pay your air fare, etc. I don't see how George could have possibly thought that we could ~~xxxx~~ afford that kind of money. Another thing that I have to try to find out from him.
3. books. Here is where I see a clear obligation, as I told you before, the main reason being that we have sold most of your books, although I think a few of them were given to people. Out of the 64 Whitewash books we have only 12 remaining, and out of the 50 Oswald in N.O. books, we have only 2. I believe, by the way, that you made a mistake on the consignment record that you sent me: the total for the 64 Whitewash books actually comes to \$158.40 rather than 153.40. Thus the over-all total is also \$5 more or 186.65. Of this I have paid you \$25, and I intend to pay the full amount even if it has to come out of my own pocket, which apparently it will. Enclosed is \$25 more, which is all that I can afford at the moment.

Your criticisms of our last newsletter (2:4) are probably valid. Being an amateur in this business and not having the first-hand information that you do, I have no way of checking your allegations against Jones, Craig, and Joesten, but I assume that there is some truth to them. However, in the case of Jones and Craig, I can't help asking myself the old question of what are they to gain by misrepresenting things and I answer nothing, except maybe the dubious pleasure of leading a life that is constantly full of risk and danger. I realize that in the case of Jones you believe that he is "sick" and you offer me evidence. I don't think I want to see it. What I plan to do is write Jones and ask to get on his mailing list--we've never been on it--and maybe ask him some questions

about Craig and the photograph, and possibly I can form my own conclusions about his mental health. This is not a slam against you; it's just that on questions of this sort I think that one has to find out for himself.

I see in the L.A. Free Press (2/13/70, p. 20) that the book Coup d'Etat!, written by Stanley J. Marks, "one of the nation's leading authorities on the Kennedy-King-Kennedy Conspiracy," is due to come out ~~xxxx~~ this April. May I assume that Stanley J. Marks is none other than Harold Weisberg? When you have a free moment, I wonder if you could answer some questions for me. First, ~~why~~ why the nom de plume? Do you have any objection to our mentioning the forthcoming publication in our newsletter and mentioning you by your real name? Will portions of your book be serialized by the Free Press? Was this Free Press article actually written by you? Is there any chance that we could serialize a few pieces, too, perhaps advertizing your book for those who would like to send for pre-publication copies? I imagine that out of our list of about 1500 maybe 1000 would be interested enough to do this (if it's not too expensive).

By the way, is that Ferrie letter that we quoted from Confidential for real?

Yours for Truth,

