Dear Walter,

12/15/72

One of the unhappier realizations of my work on the assassinations is that the criminal acts is not right, and the more one is right, the more he becomes the object of opposition and dislike, with the consequence of both, of those who are not right, that attention increases with the frequency with which the errors are made. At least that's what well-educated people with high self-esteem seem committed to the subject.

So, I am neglectful of the consequences of your record. It does not include being right about it.

I've just begun on the tapes but have not seen the printed accounts of the official report on the Southern University murders. It has all the knowledge of the evidence of the victims but the same voids that existed in all other cases, again needlessly.

You can't recall the circumstances of only a year or two ago to see to it that the questioned evidence was first collected and then preserved. Clearly that has not happened again, and from the first it was clear first what was essential and second that it could not. Criminals just don't preserve evidence against themselves, and in this case with the police were the criminals.

I recall my cable and letter to Clay, for example.

The one difference is that in this case I learned and did not take the time to try to do something. A lesson that nobody will pay attention. The feeling of futility is not comfortable, and it is also the success of repression, besides individual suffering.

I know you can't do nothin' about this, and I have really been intending to write you about other things, for one of which I have time before breakfast.

One last word on Baton Rouge: I can show you an "instant analysis" written on seeing the first tapes to take the first time that from the official report can have but a single error, identification of the kind of police firing. (I am not yet persuaded there was but a single shell fired or that one caused both deaths--I have some familiarity with shotguns and from the film the distance was too great.)

I have not yet heard from any of the lawyers, and my hand for one is sore from the interviews with the deputation of our financial condition. I went to borrow from a friend yesterday to meet immediate emergencies, but I have no idea how or when I can pay.

As the cost of consumable time and aggravation, I have gotten David to work on the financial re-allocations of time that you will recall my discussing with you, to repay those sums, and to credit him on the reminders which I am to get with the interest from the time the sums were due. Other problems remain. One is my distaste, more than once, of having to be any example in the one area open upon on submission. Here too a thing like $5,000 is involved. And there are others having to do with non-performance.

However, compared to the Bell situation, this is peanuts. I have a think I do have an open-and-shut case on several points. The evidence I had from the affidavits by Lane and Meyer accounting for greater dollar than he claims for to be the total cost of the edition never to be claimed for.

It is pretty cheap to live in such poverty with the amounts of money involved. It is the more ugly that criminal not to be able to get a lawyer, as it has been not to be able to get one for you who took the case years ago to do anything.

So, when you have time to do a bit of thinking, I hope you can devote a little of it to counseling me with a lawyer I might ask.

Otherwise, I'm doing well. I'm expecting to hear from Lynn that she has heard from Jean. I was a couple of blocks from Jerry's sister Saturday with a correspondent from Sri Lanka but never time to stop off.

Have a good holiday!