8/15/68

Dear Tom,

Despote the contrary busily propagandized by the crooks who seek cover, and while I am proud of what I think I have done, I have so little vanity that I have no biographical statement and have no press pictures. I can't afford them, anyway, but I have one Matt Herron took of me in shorts, sandals and a t-shirt with the decal, "I've been touched by the Jolly Green Giant".!

The best in on the back of the first printing of WHITEWASH.

The problem is not the amount of publicity Mark gets, but what he does with it and what he does. I think that if my book on him is ever published, you will agree you have never seen such literary surgery. It is factual, despite what one might think, and he makes this easy because he is so totally corrupt. My concern is over our survival, not vengeance, or I'd have ruined his first book of the bat with a plagiarism charge.

It makes no immediate difference, but do you think it is a good idea without publication to mention A CITIZEN'S DESCENT? I think that without the stuff to back it up, it is merely divisive. I'd rather not mention it until it is to be published, which now seems doubtful.

The book missing is the unpublished POST MORTEM: THE SUPPRESSED KENNEDY AUTOPSY. Vince Salandria, Gary Schoener and Hal Verb have read it within the past 10 days, in ~~manuk~~ in i complete form. Some of it is so hot I didn't write it until I feel close to publication. In that form they agree it is the best, the most important, and the most overwhelmingly persuasive destruction of the Report. I expect to finish it up soon.

We haven't farmed in so long. This is the stunt Mark propagates to make himself look like what he is not and in an effort to demean men. We were famous and successful farmers, having won every first prize in our field for the country-even including cookin' 'em-both of us. We are each national cooking champions.

To tell you of my work in New Orleans, in addition to the non-fiction I'll probably never write and what I have given Jim's office, I'd have to write not fewer than two novels. In fact non-fiction, they'll not be credited as fiction. So, there is little than can be said. I go there to investigate, to interview witnesses, to establish fact, and I do. What I do not want you to say is that I also turn people oh as a writer can and fuzz and those who are either too laze or come through as too dishinest cannot. What I get that is safe I turn over. What is not I work on between trips by mail and phone. It is a sizeable volume by now and includes some of the potentially more significant developments. The hazard in talking about what I do in N.O. except in generalities is to make a bad situation (jealousy) worse and to make it seem that I'm either trying to steal Jim's fire or attaching myself to his coattails, neither of which is true. If any comment at all is made of that, I think it should come from him and be unsolicited.

Do me a favor and write Dione Turner (Miss), 320 Ridgeway Drive, Metairie, La., 70001, tell her I have told you she has some short poems and sketches you'd like to consider, send me copies, and judge on merit only. I have seen one or two very short poems that I thought okay, and her sketching (what I've seen is more cartooning), is witty and attractive. She is a young girl, 21, presently ill. She has been both helpful and otherwise to me.

Good luck,