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7/24/66

Dear Miss Castellano,

I've had a few minutes, hardly enough for the deserved careful study, of the excellent photographic materials you sent me. In the continuing futility of trying to plan what I'll do so I can get the most of what I want done, I'd set today aside in my mind for this. I hadn't, however, reckoned on the impact of the WNEW-TV show that was aired beginning 11:40 NY time last night. My first call came at 3 a.m./ We'd just gotten into bed at 2:30. Off and on all day thereafter, the phone had been ringing with calls from the N.Y. area. Wonderful people and an encouraging, exciting reaction. But it loused up the work schedule and I didn't really get to analyze your important work and compare it with mine of the past and the more recent past. I'm doing a sequel and about 3 or 4 weeks ago had to suspend because of the demands of WHITEWASH. I was on the photographs, with one long chapter done and another well started. You can anticipate much of what I'm working on by projecting yourself forward from the elliptical things in the book. I'm now doing what I couldn't then. Well, the thing I do want to get into the mail when I am in DC in the a.m. is this: The reenactment of the first shot from the Zapruder position in the SS reenactment, Commission Document 81.1, does show the Stemmons sign that does appear to be missing in the view in your page 8 of the first things you sent me. The tree hides it in the shot you have, from the window. I have this picture for an entirely different reason. From that position, and as this picture was taken, the easternmost sign is almost invisible under the tree, the second, east of the sign lamp post, is in the clear. But the tree in your picture, as I have seen it in other pictures, fascinates me. It is quite barren compared to pictures I recall having seen taken at the time of the crimes. Dave L has mentioned something similar and I have been looking forward to seeing these pictures and an untouched Willis set he offered, but they haven't arrived. Have you any theory why the Thornton end of the picture was cropped? I now have the complete Zap Altgens picture. I am glad, very glad, to know which is Willis in the LIFE pix. I saw, as I from my present befuddlement recall, two men who could have been Willis.

If I can do the rest of this week as I plan, I shall again be writing and I shall again get my mind focused, I hope, back on the pictures, and I shall then go over yours and Marcus' carefully. I have dropped him a note saying his chart mislocates Altgens (who must be in Zapruder, but which one) as examination of the more complete Aktgens picture in WHITEWASH shows.

Possibly you will get some reaction to the WNEW show out there, I'd like very much to hear of it, if so. I made a short tape for the Educational TV network Thursday night that was used Friday night, as was Epstein, live but in his continual apologies. I have an incomplete audio tape my wife made when it was aired Friday. I was then in Phila. to be on the Zack McKinney show with Salendria and Curtis Crawford. I'd never met Vince before, he is a really fine character, and kind. But the show was dead because of the format, and Crawford filibustered, and because Vince is not used to non-intellectuals and what people listening to this kind of program want to hear. But, they re-aired all four hours as soon as it ended and were to air it again soon. I've been promised the tape and I think Vince, who has facilities I do not, also will have access to it. The only thing I can say for Crawford is that he aired his belief (which is also mine) that Popkin virtually plagiarized WHITEWASH and especially Chapter 11 in his NY Review long piece that castigates it and me.

*Dear David of the Law Review piece on Bush to Judge.*

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I'd like to know about him and why he has taken this intense dislike to me and my book and to explain his great love for Epstein.

While my wife and I were working late yesterday p.m. and trying to get a few things cleaned up prior to leaving for an unexpected (but worthwhile) meeting in DC with people we had never earlier heard of, the tape I made more than a month ago for the Mike Wallace show was aired. We didn't hear of it in advance and didn't hear it when aired. A friend later phoned to report it. Perhaps it was aired out there. If so, again, I'd appreciate a reaction, for I anticipate more of these things and the opinions of those familiar with the subject could be quite helpful.

So, on the fourth of my appearances on this, my electronic weekend, apparently it was just as exciting as I had thought after the show was over. I wish they didn't leave me so exhausted. I cannot sleep when they are done. After taping the NY thing I tried to sleep but gave up and drive home beginning about 4 a.m. I didn't even try and sleep after Long John. Yesterday a.m., after McKinney, it was four a.m. before I even tried to sleep, and I was up before 7. My three a.m. call today was from some one in the book field, experienced in public relations, who spent 40 costly minutes telling me that against the claue of lawyers, tipped off in advance of the taping session and in the audience, it was like the Marines landing. This appears to be the less pungently expressed belief of the others who have called. I had a note from Sylvia, who I had informed about the probable taping date. Today I found out that the station had been plugging this show all week and that it was listed in TV guide. Anyway, Sylvia was to be out of range of the station but said she'd try and be home for the 11 p.m. beginning. If she was late she still made it and I hope she taped it. The station has promised me the audie of the tape. I also want her opinion, for in heat and anger one can err and tend toward incoherence on the fact.

If any of you hear any rumors of who organized that claue or who they represent it could be important for me to know. My first suspicion was the station, but I have decided against that. Simultaneously, I thought one of my Big Brothers, and that is perhaps also possible. But now I'm beginning to wonder if it could have been Lane or Holt, Reinhart....Whoever it was, I do not think they'll do it again! I had heard rumors that Holt people had said they were laying for me, and Lane has made his own kind of threat. I also hear Wold is holding Sauvage in suspense. O'Connell may be interested in this. I regret it. By indirection, I think I got word to two different vice-presidents that Sauvage was a fine writer whose work that I had seen is sound.

One of my today's callers was a fine young lawyer who also wants to help establish a foundation to carry on my work. A New York business man has the same idea. I gave the lawyer his phone and I hope they get together. The first idea was to make it possible for me to work, for we have been without income for 2 1/2 years, and to arrange for the deposit of all the work in a major university. If this happens, I'd like to be able to broaden it to include all the work of all of us, when the case is finally cleaned up. Some of mine, on the non-publishing, might have to be "classified" for a while to protect the jobs of some wonderful editors, as WHITEWASH shows. I think, however, the publishing attitude is a major part of the story...Though money has come in from the distributors for us to pay the printer \$2,000 on our debt to him in the morning. I have sold serialization rights to Arriba in Madrid for \$500.00. Of this my agent gets ten percent (he's in England), and if he had had no great expenses I'll be able to pay back \$450 of the \$500 I borrowed from the down payment to the printer, who has, to date, gotten nothing else. He's been wonderful, too, going ahead with the reprinting without any cash. The first 500 copies of the next 5,000 are due Tuesday a.m....I picked up a while distributor but need distribution in the central part of the country, if any of you have any suggestions....I've tried to tell you what news I have and if you can tell others who might be interested, I'd appreciate it.