

6/6/87

Dear John,

I suppose from time to time those who want and try to help me sometimes wonder. When I got home from the American Booksellers's Association Annual Convention last night and found your letter I was going to phone you. However, the file is with John Starr so he could call you, etc., and I couldn't. I did phone Judy, thinking Harve would be home at supper, and asked her to have you phone me reverse last night.

Your letter of May 23rd mailed 31, rec'd 5, mixed blended with my exhaustion into a confusion for Harve, I am sure, for I forgot the dates in talking to Judy and told her to tell Harve not to phone me Fri or Sat when this is past and he has no intention.

I hope to return this evening before John leaves the office, if he ever gets back there and I'll phone him. I can guess how busy he has been because I do not yet have the accounting from Doll due in April or the advance on II due a month ago. This costs him money, too, and I am confident he does not throw it away.

My Dell experience with CIA WHITEWASH, which amounts to the writing of history before it happens, has taught me what I should earlier have learned, that at least on this subject I'll have to make a success of my books myself. So, I've almost finished spinning the second book out of WHITEWASH III. I call it PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH: SUPPRESSED KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PICTURES. I'll have it out in a month. If by that time John has done nothing with the New Orleans book, I shall. I can have it out six weeks after that, with any kind of a break. I have enough initial sale, I think, on any book I now do on this subject to pay the printing costs. My wholesalers have given me the orders they think will hold them for the first month only, so I can have time to put an index in PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH, to more than pay the printing cost of it.

My big problem is that I cannot quite stretch the working day to the full 24 hours. It is that I am not a Mormon. If I had two more wives like the wonderful one I have or five of the general run I could do almost everything I plan.

In the past two days I have gotten feelers from five hardback publishers for the NO book. I have told them all to speak to John but not to unless they can guarantee to go outside their normal channels to get the book out as fast as mechanically possible. If they are willing to do this they must also be willing to make a deal whereby when it is time for a hardback set, well edited, they will do it or give me back the right rights to what they print so I can get it done elsewhere. And then I said I hold all collateral rights. I expect none to phone John.

If there is a publisher out there who would be interested, I can be, but only under these circumstances. Remember, I'll have six books done by the end of this year, and I have to think of all six.

The last things I want are to be a publisher and to have my wife work and live the way she does. That ultimately this will be worth something to her (and we are not out of debt and have a few bucks-very few) is not the important thing. We have serious purposes and intend to accomplish them. We will.

I am going to DC again this a.m. I'll copy your letter and mail it to John from there. If he gets to his office tomorrow it will be there. He was in the hospital for a while, I just learned. Jim Carrison phoned me Sat night and said he had not reached him.

I think you have the NBC and CBS positions reversed. It is NBC that will clobber. They have a former MI and DJ man to whom they have turned over the entire thing. I suspect he had a New Orleans man take advantage of my trusting nature and the fact I will not lead a conspiratorial life. We'll see. CBS will be milder than I'd like but, I'm told by a man working on it, on balance I'll be more for than against what they'll do.

ITEK is nonsense, makes me wonder where they get their dough. I tee of on this Sat night before the Ohio AP Editors or news directors org. where I'm main speaker at their annual convention. They have and like the speech in which I take them apart.

I wonder if KLAC dumped Sahl because of his attitude on the subject alone. He is Lane's partisan, saying little about the rest of us or our work. This made his position even less tenable.

I am interested in the movie possibilities. I'll try and jog John if I can get through to him this pm. But there is only so much I can do, and we are 250 miles apart. I thought he'd have been in touch with you by now. I left the file with him for this purpose. But he had not been in touch ~~xxxx~~ with me on the NO book, either. Busy as he stays, ~~me~~ even a short hospitalization can set him deep under.

How you can read the typos right. I've got to get some copy read before I get to town so Lil can type today.

Sincerely,