

Dear, Dear Ray and Buck,

5/20/95

Only a letter like your's of the 17th could get me to interrupt what I am enjoying ever so much than what I really enjoyed doing, Case Open, of which at most a quarter was published. It has the tentative title Mailer's Tales, subtitle, Of the JFK assassination. I've about 65-70,000 words on paper and I keep at it every day until I get tired. It is not tiredness that stops me then. It is the fear that I may not recall as much or as clearly then.

And, of course we are so pleased that you are ^{making} progress. We both also know what the hip ^{current} problme can mean, from personal experience.

I am embarrassed that I did not have NEVER AGAIN! until about two weeks after it was in the stores, and then I ^{got} have very few copies. Because there were so few that I have to give out I asked a few in different areas, including your's, to please let me know who had the book and to ask those who did not if they would care to wait until I could send one. I have had no responses. When I got a copy of the index that was omitted by accident, I did the same. With the same response, none. So I do enclose the index. If you know anyone else who would like a copy ask them please to send me an addressed and stamped envelope, three stamps if they do not mind it foldered into what I think is a No. 10 envelope, four if they want it in a manilla envelope, not folded but flat. For those who have no such larger envelope, an address will do. I have ^{some larger envelopes} some of them. I have more difficulty in moving, ^{now} for about 20 years I've been supposed to keep my legs elevated when I'm not on them, and what seems like nothing to those who do not have to live this way can be something, as you've learned your own painful way. Please understand if and when you use it and please tell others if and when you can the index is unedited. I did not see it with the proofs. That is because the production ^{lulu} ninny forgot about it that early on. I'd ^{now} assumed it had not yet been made because changes in the pages in the proofs could alter it. I've been told that early on it is off by a page and later is off by two pages. The friend who told me that said he found it useful anyway.

I'd finished the draft of the book, and I tell you this for when you see it, before Xmas 1992. I'd expected it to be out by the middle of 1993. I've no acceptable explanation of why it was sat on, as I never did for the butchery of Case Open.

Before returning to you letter, because friends are ~~at~~ here workin, in the files (to which is a practical matter I've not had access in years because they are in the basement and neither of us can use the stairs safely) are about to come up so we can go for lunch, I've ever so much more on paper. After my 1989 heart operation I decided to use what time remains for me to making as much of a record as I can for our history. There is an amount on paper my historian friends young enough to be my son find incredible. Except for the epilogue and the afterword you can see how rapidly I

I was ~~able~~ to do that. But, unfortunately, it was not possible for me to get onto paper what I wanted if I took time to do the outlines that should always be done. This may account for some of what may ~~at~~ take your attention when you ~~read~~ read the book.

We were both disturbed by your saying you do not have ^{aid} Medicare. We assume you meant Medicare. I'll think if you do not have it you can still qualify. She thinks also that you can still get private insurance. We have our supplement to Medicare with a Dallas company we have never had any trouble with, North American. May we suggest that you inquire about it and whether it includes medicines? I know ~~not~~ what they can come to. I take enough of them. One, the smallest pill I have ever seen that I have taken ~~in~~ daily for ~~yr~~s costs \$1.75 per pill.

We'd have been ruined without medical insurance. I've had six operations and one of them had me in the ~~st~~ hospital for about six weeks at one time.

You are so fortunate to have Carol Anne and that wonderful food availability!

Neither one of us is able to do much and we have no help. I just lost the man who mows the grass for me for six weeks. Can you imagine what will happen in six weeks if I can find nobody?

Your's is not by any ^{means the only} ~~means~~ ~~the~~ incredible reports I'm getting about the book not being available. Most are from Walden stores. And as of last month it was in their computer here. A friend who went there to get it two weeks ago was told not only that they do not have ~~it~~ they'd not heard of it. But they did order it for him.

I'd hope to be able to do as I did with Case Open, get a supply and just package and mail them when and ~~as~~ ^{as} I could. I got about a third of what I'd asked for and they were late. But someone who checked with the Borders chain three weeks ago was told they had placed an order in advance for 800, which was promising. I can't explain it and if the publisher can't he won't take the time to tell me.

What you say about Mailer with your permission I'd like to use. You see, I offered him access to all I have in 1973, he said he'd think it over and of course he had no interest. He has been saying that Oswald was guilty since not more recently than 1973 because I have records of it people sent me going th at far back. His refusal of records is what I'm laying out with his statement that the evidence is "impenetrable." I've done two long chapters on his unconscionable abuse of Marina and in addition to other things did a number of chapters on his past and on Schiller's. To him I use "scavengers" but ~~to~~ say that calling him that demeans hyenas and vultures. I'm in the "evidence" and and is it great fun! The man is a subject-matter ignoramus

I saw no reference to anything you sent him in his notes. Nor do I recall reading anything that could have come from ~~them~~ ^{you}. And of course you are not in his appreciations. Could you estimate the number of pages and on what?

Meanwhile it is his pretense that the KGB "invited" them. I'm sure Schiller paid

That has been his MO most of his life. While I have no prospect of publication for here, in addition to the prejudice against factual writing about the assassination there is, I believe, a fear of the vast publishing empire of which Random House is its own empire with books. There can be the added fear of that and what reaction can mean and cost. But at least I'll have a record for the future.

Please remember on the index that it was not edited and there are mistakes in it. I've not taken time to read it or the book because I'm spending all the time I can on Mailer's sad Tales. But I've been told that early in the book the pages of the index get to be off by one and that develops into two pages. I know nothing about it and cannot explain it. Except that it is abnormal. We're so because Case Open did well and from the advance indications the publisher told me when he phoned to apologize for the omission of the index that he believed he would have to reprint and would include the index in any reprint.

I'm so glad your state of mind has improved so much! I was deeply disturbed when Art Wohl phoned with his concerns, as he was. Hang in there kid, both of you, and be and do as well as you can.

With our love,

I hope you did not mind my urging you to deed your records to The Sixth Floor. I hope you do it. If you do, get it in writing that they will assume full responsibility for taking possession.

Mary McHughes Ferrell
4406 Holland Ave.
Dallas, TX 75219-2133
(214) 528-0716

May 17, 1995

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Weisberg
Route 12
Frederick, MD 21701

Dearest Harold and Lil,

I guess I'm getting better. I'm still having trouble walking and my hip and back hurt all the time, but I'm not as depressed as I was. So many people have been so wonderful and caring (among the most important are you and Lil) and I realized that it really doesn't matter what a few people think. Most of those people haven't really contributed anything toward our work except confusion.

Of course, I was disappointed in Norman Mailer's book. When he first approached me about three years ago and asked if I would help him, I asked what he was going to write. I asked if he was going to do it in a novel or in non-fiction. I asked if he was going to say that Oswald acted alone or that he was not certain and, at least, point to the many contradictions in the official record. To every question, Norman answered that he did not know. He said he had an open mind and wanted to really examine all the documents. He did say that he was going to have access to KGB documents in Russia. I agreed to help him if I could.

I sent him everything he asked for over the next couple of years. Considering the documentation I sent him, I felt that he could do nothing but conclude that President Kennedy was assassinated as the result of a conspiracy. You've seen the results.

Oh, well! John Newman told me night-before-last that his book would be in my hands next week. I haven't done anything to help him since the first of February. I guess that is my last hope that any of my work will have been used properly.

Poor little Carol Anne has been here five times since February 1st. She has been here every three or four weeks and she does the laundry, stocks the refrigerator and pantry, gets all our prescriptions refilled (about \$1,400.00 every month -- and we are not eligible for Medicaid). Buck has one glass of red wine a day and I have one glass of white wine. Carol Anne has more wine stored in my back room than they have in many small liquor stores. They do have me on a strict diet. After I got to the point where I couldn't walk, I just seemed to eat, sleep and sit. I gained up to 185 pounds. I looked like a blimp. Carol Anne arranged with some doctors who own a diet gourmet place out near

Presbyterian Hospital to send three meals a day to me. They bring Monday through Thursday's food on Monday morning at about 7:30 and, on Friday morning at about 7:30, they bring food for Friday through Sunday. The first week, I lost seven pounds. And, I feel stuffed all the time. It's just that it is mostly fresh fruit, vegetables, chicken or turkey -- all prepared beautifully and deliciously.

Harold, I haven't been to a book store in so long I will go wild once I get into one again. Carol Anne went to buy me a copy of The Hot Zone and Silicon Snake Oil, two books I wanted to read. She has promised that if I will get just a bit better, she will take me to a book store when she comes back in three weeks. When I got your letter, I called about seven or eight bookstores and asked if they had Never Again by Harold Weisberg. Nobody could even find it in their computers. They asked for the publisher and I said I wasn't certain. Is it Carroll and Graf? Anyway, I have asked all of those book stores to try to locate it and order me a copy. They won't order just one copy -- at least three copies and I'll have Carol Anne pick the copies up from all the bookstores where I ordered them - B. Dalton, Border's, Taylor's, Bookstop, and three small independent stores where I do occasionally buy books. All of them know me. I'll keep two copies and give the extras for birthday gifts, etc.

And, of course, I really want the index. I told Norman Mailer after Random House sent me an inscribed copy of Oswald's Tale, that, if I were buying the book, I'd have put it back on the shelf when I realized it didn't have an index. \$30.00 is too much to pay for a non-fiction book that doesn't have an index.

My love to you both,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary".

P. S. I was so very relieved when they assured me that my memory and speech loss were temporary and not Alzheimer's Disease. When I "blanked out" on February 1st, I thought my mind was gone (after I got a bit of my brain working again and realized that something terrible had happened to me).