

Mr. Richard Gallen
7 W 81, 4C
New York, N.Y.

1/20/76

Dear Dick,

This is primarily because of the TIME piece I've not seen but will, so it will neither intimidate nor discourage you. I'm sending you these things at home so you will not feel, when in the office and behind schedule, under pressure or need to be distracted. (And maybe Jill will be interested.)

Also, at some point there is going to have to be a policy decision on the media. I will want your advice and may want you to do the deciding. This is not because I am uncertain about what the doctrine will and should be. Rather it is because unlike one I publish myself, this one will have to achieve commercial acceptability, there is more than can be included, and omissions do not represent unconscionable compromises.

The story is so horrendous that a lawyer who is a real expert in the field can make one hell of a fee by representing Ray in a civil action. What I have for him already is incredible, in fact and in content. I have all the letters McMillan has written all the Rays, including his acknowledgement of one from Brother Jerry in which Jerry says he was putting him on, making up stories to tease him, and McMillan says he knows better. I have the contract every Ray refused to sign and it should send the ACLU looking for ceilings to cross after climbing all the walls. He tried to bribe James Earl Ray and I have the letter of offer and the letter of refusal. I even have (confidential) tapes some of the Rays made of conversations with McMillan. I knew him when he was young, before he started marrying rich women. I understand he is separated from the last one, Priscilla Johnson McMillan. On her I have an FBI report saying that when she was in Moscow as a reporter for NANA and interviewed Lee Harvey Oswald she was also an employee of the State Department. Source: State's director of security. She has been doing a book on Marina since 1965. I have FBI reports on this plus I was asked by the project director at Harpers in 1966, at ABA, how I could help him kill a dead book into which they had already plured more than \$100,000. The timing on this story is remarkable. It coincides with the right interval before oral arguments before 6th circuit (2/3) and the calendar call in my own Freedom of Information suit, scheduled for tomorrow but yesterday delayed by the judge until 2/5.

While TIME can and does get considerable attention, the story, while on the wires, seems to have not caught on. I've had no call about it. Lesar hasn't. I was told about it by a reporter friend who saw a wire-service advance story.

I have developed a good relationship with Les Whitten. He visited me at the hospital so I could help him (and did). He then lamented that for years he has been unable to do any real investigative reporting and called me one of the last of a dying breed, heaping incredible and unnecessary praises on my own practise of it. It was unnecessary. He knew I'd tell him by phone. You may or may not have seen the columns that followed, beginning with the one I put him onto, an FBI back-channel of information denied to the Warren Commission and misrepresented to it by the FBI. Now he and Anderson, both of whom have been hungup with the official accounts of the assassinations, have put two reporters to work. They are working with Lesar and me, at Les' direction. The one working with me, through a long conversation last night, is now prepared to go after the Department of Justice. And anxious to. I didn't tell him I know who he is and knew both grandfathers, Drew Pearson and Thurman Arnold. But with this background I think the kid will dig.

Or, the signs are good, not bad. So, don't be influenced by an actionable story. Unless you know an expert not in a position to suffer by suing Time and Little, Brown, with McMillan, who has nothing with the separation from millions, joined. Lesar needs co-counsel, civil suits can break the case, which would give the book a second life at paperback time, and I got Ray's OK to explore this 11/20/75 and again last Friday.

There is no possibility that Ray fired the shot. I need no more proof but expect more. I have never said any more and this book will not. It need not on this.

TIME did not speak to me on this story. If it went largely unused and remains generally unknown, I made the content of this proof public in a filmed and taped press conference in the House Office Building 12/11/75. It was notified of the conference and its purpose.

I'm writing this now because this is the time of the day interruptions normally begin. I've had one since beginning this.

Because of the delay in the calendar call Lesar does not have to come here today and is postponing it because of bad weather. I took my walk before it began, got an idea, and drafted the opening (tentative for the first chapter. Lunch time, when interruptions taper off. I'm going to type the disconnected notes I made on the train back. I hope. I'll include a carbon of that and of the part of the intro but I'll not mail until I can give both a hasty reading. Again the question is direction and doctrine. I'll not mail until I can include both.

I've had to take much time doing the essential that accumulated and making arrangements for Herman. There has been one major setback. The friend who was to have come Friday and deliver from my cellar to a pickup point for the truck Herman is sending first was involved in a wreck and then got a strep throat. I have started other efforts. The commercial cost is prohibitive, about \$100.

My own belief is that the more controversy the better the prospect of the kind of book I'll do, thoroughly (I'd prefer excessively) documented, in facsimiles.

Please when you can think of the exceptional in the trade, an instant hardback. One not launched by the three-month lag of reviews. Reviewers can get galley. I know where and how the book can be printed fast and economically and warehoused free. With a commercial imprint the prospects of news attention are fine. This will sell more books than reviews. Meanwhile, Jim's efforts behind mine of the past and my current ones are turning top blacks on.

Lesar can't come now before Friday, so I hope to mail this without benefit of his advice and judgement and without me having time to organize the rough notes on content & do hope to type before then. If you want details I'll take time to supply them later when at some point I'm going to have to put down a formal construction. Even xeroxes of the documents.

I'm delighted with the delay in this case because I can't safely work at the pace of the past. This means delay in delivering other evidence, if I get it, and a more thorough case against the FBI if I do not.

Meanwhile, until I clear up the accumulation and can get back on a more normal schedule I may draft snatches.

Metromedia decided to delay its special, also good news. If you did not see it, they are syndicating what they did to other Metromedia stations. It was aired in DC last night. The treatment of me and my new evidence was a major part of your Channel 5's news last Thursday and in Washington last night. The delay means that maybe we can make a deal of some kind.

Best,