

1/10/69

Dear Paul,

The enclosed memo is, I think, self-explanatory. If you think it a good idea to share it with Bill and Jim, okay. But I do not want it getting around if it is possible to avoid it. It might be right; and if it is wrong and the wrong people learn it believe this, then can arrange things that might lead me astray, at least waste time.

The letter to Maggie and Barton will tell you what I ask of them. I do not know if they will do the research I ask of them, and I do not suggest you do it. But, knowing what I ask, perhaps you may also know someone with the time who might do it in case they do not.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter to Gery with part of a paragraph marked in red. I think that part may interest you.

I believe I sent you a copy of the typed copy of 3075.301. That is not the only thing that recently has flagged my interest in O'Sullivan. I was able to get to the Archives briefly today after my medical appointments and before another appointment. Mike was all alone and having troubles finding things, so I went around to try and help him out. He could not find the typescripts of testimony, including this man's. He did, however, find an uncancelled charge-out slip for it reading, "Transcript of testimony" in the appropriate column and this in the next, "Archives for conference (not absolutely certain of this word) with chief justice 6/14/66". Johnson was off on leave. I am confident that when next I am there they will have it. I wanted to check that typescript for several reasons and have for a while. I am interested in the deletion at the end. The card was in "Johnson's writing". There are two reports in his name file. I ordered both, without reading. No time. Trouble in both Xerox rooms, so it may be slow coming.

In speaking to Mac tonight I learned they will not need me quite as early as he had indicated. Naturally, they didn't tell me, so I got my tickets today. They will argue the pictures and Xerxes case in Washington. They will send a member of the staff who knows nothing of the case. Fensterwald had told me earlier and repeated today he thinks it indispensable that I be there, so I suppose I'll not leave until after 1/17 anyway.

The trial may take longer than expected. Dymond told them he expects to call 40 witnesses. Mac thinks they'll call about 50. He told me to figure on perhaps as much as two months. In his own work Mac has found that both Ayresworth and Curvich are travelling the state, apparently with a tentative list of witnesses, and speaking to them all. The inference here is that someone once in the office had this information and passed it on to others. In one case there was a partial description of a man who could have been Boxley. I am inclined to believe that Boxley has Xeroxed a fair part of the files. This should not be spread about, but I think it may give you an idea of the situation.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

BOOK ON KENNEDY SEES A WIDE PLOT

**Origin of French Bestseller
Remains a Mystery**

By JOHN L. HOSS

Special to the New York Times

PARIS, Dec. 31.—A book of mysterious origin accusing the economic sources of both historic and recent social strife in America powerfully critical of leaders of labor, Negroes and liberals, and of the public in general, but they assassination of John F. Kennedy by the press was actually his spread through the United States and Europe and is now crossing the Atlantic.

The book, called "Farewell to America," is being sold as having been written by a kind of professional American" in Paris, physician-musician, by a pseudonym, Dr. Bruce" ("America Burns") in Dallas police. No new evidence is offered that it was written by a single author, but it is suspected that it was written by a number of people, including some Americans, who know about it and are publishing it under the name of Bruce." It is published in English and is available in bookstores throughout Europe and in America.

"Farewell to America," which has aroused considerable interest here, was printed in Belgium, at a cost of \$100,000. A check of major New York news papers for the last year shows a steady increase in sales for that purpose. It book is not yet available in France, where it has been marketed in England, with limited success, for a number of years. Its author claims that it is not aimed at Americans, but is intended to be referred to Americans outside the United States by trade book firms by a series of British publishers, Montreal dealers. The author is listed as James and that is all that is known of him. He is described as an author from England, but it is known that a year ago he was writing new material for the book, but it is not clear if he is still working on it or if he has given up. The author's name does not appear on the title page. The book was printed in England. But several publishers here in France and in Belgium were asked if they had ever heard of "Farewell to America" and they said they had not. One publisher, who was interviewed last fall in the United States, said he had never heard of the book, but Mr. Kennedy that year.

Pretty Much a Pseudonym In fact, René Lévy, head of Editions Nouvelles, Paris, and a well-known member of the French publishing firm, the firm that published "Farewell to America," said in an interview that "James and the author" was actually "Bruce" and that he was a pseudonym. The author of the book, "Farewell to America," was not named, but it was known that he was a man who had been living in the United States in 1963 and two years before that.

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English edition had been printed.

An apparent reason for its rejection by American publishers was the fear of libel action. A number of prominent citizens are accused in the book, either directly or by implication, of having had guilty knowledge of the plot to kill the President.

The book is written in a clear, educated prose, heavily peppered with quotations from both historic and recent sources. The authors, Negroes and liberals, and of the public in general, but they

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