

8/3/67

Dear both,

Al Chapman, who qualified himself by offering the opinion you do not trust him, phoned me reverse today. After Mrs. L.'s call, I'm inclined to accept reverse calls from Dallas, even if I cannot really afford to.

Chapman says he has the Jean Valjean poop, complete with most of the sewers officially charted. I asked him to send me whatever it is he would not talk about by phone, by registered mail.

He knows what I think of Penn. For he says he heard it on WBEM one night. So it is certainly a strange approach to say the guy you like doesn't like me. He gave his address as 2920 Perryton Drive, FE9-3993. It seems to be among his beliefs that a weapon can be found, that a shot may have come from the closed-up drain, and that the north side of Dealey Plaza is right from Hugo, including the TSRD. He claims his official charts show this.

He also says he knows where there is a picture of a deputy sheriff and another man looking at several fragments of JFK's skull on the south side of Elm, and that the picture is not available. This just happens to coincide with other evidence I do have, not quite the same as that but along the same line. Mine is irrefutable, on grass not gravel as he said, and real official. I'll be using it soon, so if his picture really exists, it could be of interest to me and to LIFE.

My message to Billings did not reach him until Monday. I cannot explain why nor did he. I phoned him as soon as we finished Thursday and left a message then. He was very busy, getting ready to leave and he has since left. I spoke to him in DC this morning. He was leaving for Dallas ~~today~~ N.O. today, I think to go to Dallas from there. He is sending a woman to see you about Mrs. L. or may, perhaps, approach her where she works (Houghton, Mifflin) If LIFE does not pay the kind of money they want and need, I think the thing to do is to call public attention to their situation, I think it is possible to raise more than they want for them, if they'll cooperate. But for our protection on this, we'd need a sworn statement and the medical dope, the statement that the FBI did not ask him to wear the shirt he wore that day and a description of the shirt he was wearing. One of the problems is that there exists a picture of him in that shirt that not they but another would have to be paid for. Can you find time to give me a medical run-down and see if the idea of drawing public attention to their plight satisfies them. I think that if the critics of the Commission, those opposed to his role and performance, were to spring to his assistance, it would be a real twist that could go and could succeed. I know of one place I can pull this on TV with a very big audience and of several other possibilities. I know I can do quite a bit on radio. Would you be willing to be treasurer, handle the funds if we can do it and it works? Do you think it is wise? We could say, quite honestly, that we do not want him to become another statistic and that, as a human being, he is entitled to the best treatment modern medicine can get him. If these people could cough up close to a million for the Tippits, maybe a little can be done for him and his kids;

All you told me was cancer. From Bill, who I gether learned from Maggie who learned from Sylvia, I hear it is massive rectal cancer. What are the prospects, whether it can be used or not.

I know enough from what she told me and from what Sprague has discovered in the pictures, as I suspected he would - I sent him one of the first copies of PW so he could check it out -, I have enough without their permission. I'd just rather have their permission. It is in the Martin film, one of those I discovered in the DCA file. I think Sprague has clips from it. Jones Harris, who knows Billy, has also seen it. LIFE is also pretty well satisfied it is he.

If we were to ask LIFE for special treatment, they'd resist or say "no". However, the special treatment can be made attractive, and you and I can do it. The simple, direct approach is the best. All we need do is be satisfied of the fact and start a "Lovely Lady Fund". I think also the NYTimes could be interested.

If we do it, I'd like very much to do it as fast as possible because soon my New Orleans book will be out, and I'll have to give that some attention. The effort to suppress me is stronger than ever. Somebody has reached Metro-media. I've been banking on the promises Mel and Paul made me. They kept none, costing me a real fortune. They have behaved very shabbily. There was no need for them to make undemanded promises and then break them without a word in advance. I can understand that they were under pressure, but I cannot understand their personal unmanly conduct to be necessary. All they need have done was tell me the truth.

Had to go to our new place today to accept quite a large return of WWII 'because of appearance of Dell edition. They were to have sold these before their edition appeared. Instead, they made premature announcement of their edition, killing my sale for about three months. The carpenter has begun work. I hope we'll be in it in a month. Getting moved will drag along. We'll be camping for a while, but the environment will be better. We have no decent furniture and will have to be accumulating that, among other things. But we do have a very nice swimming pool and several extra rooms. There is a extra bedroom that divides into two. That will be Lil's office, and we'll have a studio couch there. The recreation room is rather nice. We'll use half of it for the publishing-shipping dept and may still have room for a bed there. The living room is large and we may have a couch there also. The setting is beautiful, which is most important of all. So, perhaps before long you'll be able to visit us, if you have a printer. On the negative side, we owe the bank \$29,000, have enough put aside for the modernization of the kitchen and the other repairs, owe the printer for all of PW and will soon owe him much more for the complete edition of the New Orleans book, and sales are slow for a number of reasons, those you know and some you can guess. But this has to be done, and without help, if necessary, we'll do it. I had hoped there might be a fund that would help with the publication of evidence. Everybody is yellow.

As you knew, all the windmills are not in Texas.

Best from us both,

PS Garrison is calling Liebel as a witness in the Andrews trial. Lovely! We have a new "buff" coming soon to help Lil for a while. She is bright and can type.