Dear Andy, 9/26/81

Thanks for your 9/23, the story and the Connecticut article on your Murphy.

Re the tape of what the Dallas doctors said: instead of Secret Service, why not start with the LBJ Library? Their press conference is tabulated as the first of the LBJ White House. The transcript of it is available.

On several occasions the Secret Service reported total transfer of records to the Archives. If you ask it, suggest you also ask Archives. Save you time.

I hadn't though of a press release in outline form. It might have made a difference but I doubt it. There were those to whom I'd spoke and who did have an idea of what I'd be saying who had said they'd be there and weren't. They and/or their publications preferred not to know. Three-monkeys journalism.

You did not enclose the AP story. If it is not too much trouble I'd appreciate a copy of it. It did not get used here and I doubt it was on the Maryland wire. I'd have gotten a copy.

I was aware of what Lucien Warren was up to and my alternatives. I chose the wrong one. I feared that if I took care of him I might antagonize the others, almost all of whom were unknown to me.

When the jerusalem artichokes come will be time enough. Thanks for them, in advance.

Our best,

9/23/81

Dear Harold,

Sorry for the delay in sending along the clipping. Work had piled up in the ol' Metro Desk cue, and we had that mobster shot in Bridgeport Saturday that I helped research through countless phone calls. When I called the ntl. desk from the NJTPK, the story was budgeted for page one, but I think the last-minute bumping was understandable. There wasn't quite enough exposition, and some of the sentences toward the end got dense, partly my fault, partly the editors. They were astute enough to include the article in the four national news summaries on pg 2.

I am convinced you have done much to develop a new art form in citizen-investigation of official corruption. Formula: find chink in armor (easy in this case), depose pertinent govt employes, (getting them to perjure themselves into a sinkhole) sue, and then hold the press conference. I find it interesting to note that you, in effect wrote Whitewash V in rough draft. To quote Mrty Waldron, you "don't believe in overkill."

Now I'm at work on the missing autopsy notes story. How tempted I am to sue the SS for the missing tapes of the Dallas doctors' press conference and the missing interviews of the SS with the same doctors. Using the two receipts (one for the notes, the other certifying draft notes destruction) showing the trail ending at the SS door and using Humes's testimony before the WC and the HSCA and Finck's Garrison trial testimony, I'll demonstrate that the best evidence for attempting to resolve the discrepancies in the medical evidence is vanished down the "for reasons of state" memory hole.

I haven't forgotten my promise to keep you supplied with Jerusalem artichokes. We have so many here, that to crate them all for hypothetical shipment would ~~require~~ require a forklift.

The frost hasn't hit yet, the marigolds in our yard are a brilliant red-organge, and because of the dry summer, our huge red maple is a ~~brilliant~~ brilliant burgundy.

Sorry to hear your Orioles have been slumping lately in the pitching ranks and have been losing despite good hitting. Maybe their best strategy is to hoard their energies and look ahead to ~~xxxxx~~ next year. Too bad this was the year Palmer's arm slipped a little. My Red Sox, meanwhile, are laying the stomp-and-whipsong on the strongest teams in the eastern division, socring seven runs against the Yankees with two outs in the bottom of they eighth inning Sat when the Bosox were behind 5-1. The announcer went horse and I nearly drove off the road into a cornfield.

Back to the press conference, I've been mulling over what would have been necessary to provide wider coverage. In the final analysis, I think Jim Lesar was right. Maybe the press release should have beeen pased out in its original form, but a one and-a-half paged triple-spaced release in quasi-outline form would have been a help for the untutored reporter filing on deadline. Underlinings and annotations on about fifteen of the Creme-de-la-creme of the 82 exhibits attached to the press release also would have helped. I know it amounts to holding their little hands, but it's got to be done anyway. Also helpful would be an industrial steel drum filled with MACE with a long hose extending to a nozzle held in your right hand. Next time around we ~~xxxxxxx~~ dose the Warren what's-his-name types into a screeming coma and pull the twitching body out into the lobby and shut the door. That way the disruption lasts only minutes. A sharp crack over the head from a lang-handled polo mallet also would serve and might be a little less noisy.

P.S. The entire Hartford Courant was fractured last Saturday from the Sarte memo. Copies were run off for all, and I put one up on the bulletin board.

P.P.S. Here's something to ponder. There are six Irish Catholics among the Courant's 14 edniors, John McQuiggin, Ron Gallagher, Maureen Gallagher, Brian Meehan, Bill Kennedy and Jack Shea. Ron wrote the news brief on page two. None of them edited my story though.

Greetings to Lillian, sincere thanks for your generous help and hospitality, and I look forward to doing ~~things~~ more with you in the very near future.

PEACE, love and happiness,

Andy