7 November 1966

Dear Harold,

I wish this could be a long letter but it will have to be a hurried one because I have several letters to answer tonight plus a constellation of other chores. I lost much of the weekend on peripheral matters like a press release on the Esquire issue to come out on the 15th (with pieces by Epstein and me). I do want to say, though, that all indications are that the autopsy phootograph gambit has backfired and boomeranged and is doing exactly the opposite of what it was intended to do.

I think you are very wise to keep the contents of your new book to yourself; that way, there will be no slip-ups, and no complications. Needless to say, I wish you all good luck in getting a publisher, and quickly. At the risk of sounding "noble" I must still say that I am not at all dismayed at the thought that the effect may be to date my own ms. The only important issue is that the truth must come out--the imprimateur does not matter.

The main reason for this hasty note is to answer your question about Liebeler--the statement that the purpose of his investigation was to prove the WR findings correct was in a news item heard on WINS-radio (NY) on the evening of October 21st, at about 8:20 p.m. and every half-hour thereafter. There was a story in the NY Times of Oct. 23rd (p 36) but it did not use this phrase or any phrase like it; however, the burden of the story as a whole makes it quite clear that this is precisely Liebeler's purpose.

Your letter to Podhoretz was rich; I was quite amused, but I don't suppose he or Bickel will be. (By the way, I think Bickel does mention Whitewash in a footnote?) Oh, yes, almost closed without mentioned this —Barry Gray invited me to be on again, on the 9th, this time with two men I've never met before--Mark Lane and David Welsh--but am scarcely on cordial terms with, as well as Kupferman. Much as I may dislike Lane and/or Welsh, I do not intend to be drawn into any contention or personal exchanges with them—I am there to discuss the evidence and the facts, and no more. At least, I go with those intentions...and hope for the best. With some of our "friends" we don't need anything else, except perhaps divine intervention and strong self-control.

Best, Harold, as always,

Jim