11/5/66

Dear Bill,

Glad to get your letter this a.m. and to know that both the biblio and ms arrived. Penn certainly does hide his discouragement very well. I've not detected it. We all get that way once in a while, but do not let the feeling linger. We are going to do this thing! I get letters, like the one Sylvia sent the SR, full of excuses, exaggerations and apologies for Epstein and with no mention of what they did to me. It makes me feel badly, and many other things like that have happened. They are also costly, especially whrre they deny me reviews or even mention, as only too much of the work of so many has done, and I feel badly and consider that a few more drops of blood are gone and then I say what the hell, there is more where that came from, eat some liver and let's get going. Last night I was sick when I saw how they edited the Metromedia tape. It is converted into a Lane show, Penn and Sauvage got little, and what I did to Jerry Cohen was edited out almost entirely, leaving me looking like an ill-tempered and insulting guy. I was really cut up. Aside from equality of treatment with the (like) Lane, who pulled enough dirty stuff on camera that others do not know about (like what I was supposed to do) the one thing I was supposed to get was mention of how my book could be obtained. That, too, was cut out. I arranged for a press conference, the only one ever for me, and went to a lot of trouble and expense, even giving over $500 worth of books for it, taking much time I do not have, and getting people there. When I showed up I was told, in exactly this word, that there was a "surprise" for me. ASauvage was to share it with me. What others do not know is that when WCAU was considering him andnwas worried about his accent and facility with the language, I persuaded them to take him and offered to tape an introduction. Not knowing the day he was to appear, I just happened to be in Philadelphia that day and was invited by my friends on the station to join him after the speech. I again offered to tape a laudatory introduction and declinéd to appear. When they pressed me (it is their show) I finally agreed to call up after my speech and to come only if Sauvage said he wanted me. He was so blunt the mc was embarrassed in saying I wasn't wanted. I had gone even further and said that all I would do if I did appear would be to say a few friendly words and sit in silence unless Sauvage asked me to talk (he didn't know this). But he has no qualms about horning in on my show, in my home town, and at my expense. I have also declined appearances that would cut Lane's time as unfair to him (like flying down and back from NYC for 40 minutes on radio, which would have given but 20 minutes). A week ago, when he was in the studio and I on the phone to WBBM, he could and did take things away from me and cut me off. So, I think about it, and say what the hell, there are constructive things to do. On the way back from the preview last night, having already been up for 20 hours, I thought it over and got on the phone to Philadelphia where I had something arranged and with their permission gave about a quarter of my time over to plugging this show, which will do me little good and competitively hurts me. I hope I can continue this way, for it is hurting me and I have big bills and problems, but unless they get worse I think I shall. I sh shall address myself to Lane in the book, as you see, and not on this miserable commercial level. The press reaction to me on this TV thing, as a consequence of the editing, will be hurtful. I'll survive it, and that is what, as much as we can, we must do. I'm trying to get Penn's book introduced into England and Italy. The TV show will also be in Kansas City and St. Louis and possibly another city. There are indications of a Majority Report program, the commission and its protagonists apparently having a change of mind, and I have already asked to have the courtesy extended the Commission extended to me to appear in opposition. There is little liklihood of it happening, but if too many of us ask it it cannot happen. Therefore, please say nothing of this and see if I can pull it off. I can qualify at least as well as Cohen, as you will see when you finish the new book and understand what I believe and I think prove. I'll risk the cutting-room floor again.

I've been working on the new stuff and think I have something terrific. Thanks for the clipping from the LA Times, in which I find information not in those clippings I have (I may do another broadcast on this by phone tonight). I'm so tired and with so many other things to do I wrote it too fast and fear for the writing. The content is tops. It tears the whole fakery of the transfer of evidence, a fancy designation for trash, junk and trivia, entirely apart and proves what it serves as the mechanism

for suppressing. I'm planning a similar one on the photos. I'm sending a copy to my agent in England and may submit it to the NYTimes magazine. I have a good lead on the protection of the radical right in Texas that I decided to spend some money on, hoping that when Penn (who doesn't know I've volunteered his service to me on it) has a chance to go over it. I have spotted enough to make it seem probable. You'll see the whole thing eventually, and it is, if it works out as I think, very good on Hoover, who is being very bad, as he has been. I've already analyzed the list of stuff transferred accross the street, applied for admission to the pictures and Xrays, and have spotted a number of things that should be on the list and are not. I can if there is any interest and after WHITEWASH II is out do a further piece on the property that should have been seized or asked for and wasn't. The entire thing now depends on getting a press or an audience, and this again is where the rotten behavior hurts....Got an inadequate reply from the Chancellor of UCLA, properly ignoring what was not addressed to him)(that I included for other reasons) and not responsive to what refers to him and the Univ. When I answer I'll send you a copy.

If we cannot arrange anything by phone with Sahl (and I have in mind the camera on the appropriate stuff while I talk) on Liebeler, is there any chance of getting one of your local talk shows to do me by phone? For example, the Metromedia station, which would plug the TV show.

Next time you are in Sam Fransisco, why not try Stanley of the Examiner?

I am pleased that Sahl plugged. Ray Marcus also told me.

You are right about the trap in the release of new stuff approach. You will see that I anticipated this on the pictures and Xrays and addressed it. This is why I risked my own interest at the taping to take care of Cohen (never anticipating the editing would take care of me!). We must avoid all this fancy stuff, stick resolutely to the Commission's own record, and that they cannot take. I fear every time I see that crazy and unnecessary Lane stuff that mixes up indubitable inaccuracy with good, Eventually we will have to face the effective running off of a list of this stuff by people who will be able to command an audience and it will damage us. They are keeping close tabs and tapes, you can be sure. You will soon know how totally dead the lone assassin theory is anyway, when you read that part of the new book dealing with the fakery. I've got the real poop on the camer and the Lovelady picture, too, since I wrote that. ..Further bearing on your trap argument, which you may recall I have been warning against, is the major play the government gets with this kind of move. That story was the lead story in the NYTines that day and on the front page everywhere I know of.

Do not worry about the Altgens picture. I had to lend mine and four of the volumes. I will not do it again. Gotta have what you work with. The sustitute will do until I get mine back. Do you want me to return Maggie's when I get mine?

Now I gotta get to work. Do not be discouraged. We are really getting ahead. We are unanswerable when we stick to solid stuff and little by little we are making progress.

Best to you all,

Wednesday morning

My dear Harold:

Your letters and the Index (xeroxed) from the National Archives were awaiting me when I walked in the door last night at midnight. I had just flown in from San Francisco with Maggie Field. The two of us went there the afternoon of Monday to meet with Keating of Ramparts and a reporter from the San Francisco Chronicle who was to do a story of the case, or so we were told. I also had a meeting with the staff of the American Conservatory Theatre which is to give a subsidized season of repertory in San Francisco sometime next year. Then Penn Jones arrived yesterday morning from Dallas and we lunched with him, spent the afternoon gabbing and had dinner before returning to L.A. Penn and Bill Turner, the ex F.B.I. sleuth, were to make a joint appearance on television or radio last night on one of the local talk-phone in shows and then today Penn has a press conference. I liked Turner immediately and his knowledge of the Dallas scene, gleaned of course largely from Penn, was quite good. I would like to see him again. (May I send you the Ramparts issue on Penn with the Turner article?)

Our meeting with the Chronicle reporter was abortive. A complete disaster. He wasn't really interested in "who killed Kennedy". "Does it really matter?" he asked. Inasmuch as that was our main purpose in coming (we had prepared a brief, certain exhibits etc., for our presentation and they were never used) we were saved from total despair only by Penn's arrival. And then he, too, was gloomy about our prospects. Very gloomy indeed. And yet he keeps whirling from place to place that one would never know. At least his gloom is of a private kind and shared only with close friends. Richard Stark, who was at Penn's when I visited them in Midlothian, joined us for dinner last night. Penn will do the Mort Sahl show taping on Sunday flying directly here from Michigan for the appointment and returning to Dallas on Monday. You will be pleased to hear that Sahl held up your book to the camera on last Friday's show and gave it a good boost. If only you could come here in person sales would become as meaningful as they are in the east.

The only thing we had wanted to see Keating about was the statement attributed to him and to Bishop Pike in New York on Saturday to the effect they would accept the lone assassin theory if the unreleased documents in the archives were released and "so proved". Well that's an awful trap to my way of thinking. The lone-assassin theory has been killed by what's in the 26 volumes and the Report itself irrespective of anything else. A call for the release of this or that classified document should be made only in conjunction with a demand for a new investigation. The trap they fall into was perfectly illustrated by the move yesterday of the release to the archives of the autopsy photographs and X-rays which the Justice Department says was corroborative to the findings of the Warren Commission. (See enclosures)

Your manuscript has indeed arrived and I am pleased to report I've read more than half of it carefully and will withhold my detailed comments until I've put them all together. Maggie gets it the end of the week and will read it as rapidly as possible and return it heavily insured (reimbursing you for your mailing costs etc.) and enclose her suggestions. We have already jointly read and discussed one chapter together. I took it to San Francisco as I was loathe to lay it aside even overnight!

Under separate cover I am enclosing the "blow-up" of the Altgens glossy that Maggie made from the one you sent me and now request. Unfortunately, it is in Lillian's possession and it may take time to secure it. I hope the substitute will suffice.

Best wishes,

Bill