12/24/66

Dear Everybody,

What can I say about how wonderful you all were and how much I appreciate it that you do not already know?

My first day home I spent in Washington. I can report several new things. CBS has assigned a staff of its own to investigate either the investigators's claims or the Report. I had a long talk with their man on the Washington desk. My own best contact, who I hope is one of the crew, had a day off.

The Baltimore Sun, two influential papers with a split personality with whose staff I have spent much time, has become 50% interested. The evening paper, in whose investigative reporter is very interested, for the moment will do nothing. In addition to what it has already done (Boswell, etc.), the a.m. paper has put a man fullt-time on this. He is presently in the archive. The mg. ed or the asst. is personally interested now and I understand believes that he sees in about Freme 190 confirmation of Bennet's statement that he saw the President hit andw when hit the Pres. rose slightly in his seat.

The LIFE admission they accidently damaged the original Zapruder apparently is confirmed to the papers by LIFE. (Shaneyfelt has been instructed to refer inquiries to the p.r. officer and that gentleman declines comment.) This, of course, leaves more questions than it answers.

The SEPost is keeping its major story by Dick Whalen secret, that is, they are not goingto plug it until it is out, which is due to be 1/3. The story will demand a Congressional investigation and the accompanying editorial will say that some kind of investigation is needed. This is confidential.

Tom Wicker believes the Kennedy suit accomplishes more than disassociation from Manchester's work. I have no other news of the NYTimes.

Jerry Agel will plug "The Bastard Bullet" in his coming issue of BOOKS. Hal Verb will tell his class how to get it.

The Metromedia "Majority Report" is "on" again, I understand unofficially, but the people involved were off on a long weekend when I phoned.

Martin Ginger of SAGA is interested in a story on Penn - him more than his book. I hope you will all be hearing from him soon. I had a long talk with him yesterday. They are interested in serialization of WHITEWASHes.

The stack of mail to be answered is towering. We hope you have had the best of Christmasses by the time you get this and thank you for making ours better. (Bill, if you didn't get to mail what Maggie got for me, I picked up a book my wife will love yesyerday, so I'm not empty handed.)

From the supply, it looks as though my wife has shipped out close to 1000 copies of WHITEWASH II from here. The printer, who was also not in yesterday, has shipped about 2,500, so the beginning is good.

Sincerely,

BILL, HAL, PENN,
WITH EXTRA NOTES