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3/16/93

Dear Clay,

The Hersh-It with that superbly-made package came today. A difficult day because of all there is new now to do. I decided to do another book on the King assassination now that poor Jimmy is about to cash it all in and got started when the Hersh came and I'll get on that early in the a.m. Everything else possible will be let slide. I do intend to approach an agent on it when the college library opens again and Jerry can get me the address.

I read your letter with care and started on the newsletter and laid that aside so I can clean today's mail up and not have that on me in the morning. It is now only a half-hour to my usual early suppertime.

I agree with all you say but there is only so much one person can do and I'll let the editing await a possible editor on Hersh, as on the rest.

What I said was not intended as any rebuke. It was intended to eliminate the kinds of problems that do slip in and have for years.

I fear that redundancy is inevitable for me and not from age and health problems alone but from the unorthodox way I do these books. I just sit down and get started and do them, in not much more time than the thinking and doing a decent outline would take. There is no question, the well-thought through and outlined book is superior but if I did that I'd not have all the manuscripts for history that I do have. My central objective has been to get on ~~some~~ paper all that I can in the time I have.

I'd not thought of it the way you do, that Hersh was extorting Little, Brown. I can go along with that but I believe he did the writing and that nobody else would have dared some of what he did. But I can believe that Little, Brown had that advance to recover. I'd thought that was true of Random House and Mailer.

I've never taken the time to make even a list of the manuscripts I've done.

Of those not yet retyped I suspect that ZRRifle is the least worthwhile.

Once upon a time I knew what every union was from the initials but perhaps yours has taken a new name. I do not recognize the letters. The mention of King in it reminds me that when I had reason to believe that a rep. the union had sent to Memphis knew something about the assassination and had quit the union and changed his name I wrote Jerry Wurf. He gave my letter to his counsel, named Zwerdling, and Zwerdling referred me to the FBI and sent the FBI a copy of my letter and his, as I learned via FOIA. And all I'd ask was the man's correct name and where to ^write him.

Many, many thanks. Hope to get it back to you soon!

Jerry