Dear Jim, Initial press. Post Mortem; reasoning in, for press conference 11/15/75

Prior to the appearance of the morning papers, my expectations from which I will come to, I want to record some of what was in my mind earlier in the week and some of what the initial reaction has been.

My basic assumption is the Post Mortem is more powerful, more beyond refutation, than any major part of the media is prepared to accept.

(Parenthetica;ly, we have several indications of advance knowledge, ranging from an order on the new blank no copy of which was mailed untill personally gave them all to the mailman in two large cartons this morning; and a phoned-in order today prior to the release of any story, from a Gaithersburg bookstore which had neverordered anything from us before except a sopy of WWIV. Today, by phoned, it ordered two more and teo PMs.)

I found partial initial confirmation when Waldron was taken offg the story he better than anyone on the Times was prepared to handle. When Barry Sussman phoned me to say he could not really do it I knew this was a copout and when it was assigned to the overloaded Lardner I expected there would be little or nothing. Crewdson's attitude that he wanted nothing pointed out to him is as least atypical on a subject about which he knows nothing and with a book so large. He was, supposedly, given a week, which would have giwshn him time to read and question. In fact he called me several days ago with a single question not relevant to the book and outside anyone's competence expect as a conjecture. The Congressional committees provided nothing really encouraging. So, I felt I had to make other efforts. I did, and I extended the content of the book. UPI used it.

AP radio phoned me today with the hard-to-believe explanaton they thought my press conference was for today. They phoned me many hours after the hour set. This leads me to expect an AP downplay, probably editorial or policy in origin, and the radio followup when they learned of UPI's handling.

UPI used the press conference rather than any of the serious content of the book. For them the press conference serves as an out from the too-tough content. I haven't seen the story but will. (None of the manywhh phoned had any idea of the content and some had wrong ideas.)

I'll be pleasantly surprised if there are NYTimes or WxPost stories. I phoned both after learning the UPI use of the challenge to confrontation. Times told me Crewdson would be in and would call. Silence after many hours. At the Post, as I expected, Lardner was off. I deliberately avoided phoning him at home, as I could have. Insetad I left word on the national desk, which said it would get in touch with him and he'd call me back. Silence after as many hours.

All the radio nets except CBS called and taped, NBC and Mutual twice. Second with NBC was live. Lil h ard it as I spoke. It originated not in Washington but NYC, which is exactly what I'd have expected of Washington NBC.

I don't know who all the tape recorders belonged to at the press conference. The submineratura Lanier right before me, belonging to the guy who made no notes, did attract my attention. I know no reporter who uses such a delicate and ultra-expensive machine and makes no notes. But Mutual belonged to the mike that was in front of me. Yet they phoned today after the UPI copy was on the machine and did what makes no sense, demanded that I name names of those I chargex with libel. I even asked if they really wanted meto name names. They said yes and I did.Later they phoned me back to say the tape was technically defective, impossible to air. Ee redid it without any reference to that past. Clear enough? Anyway, I didn't listen to any broadcasts partly because the phone stayed busy and partly to clean up other things that continue to accumulate. I knew better than to try to rework the Belin speech.

More than an hour ago Ted Gandolfo phoned from California, where he now lives. It is past bedtime and what he was talking about, including more insanity about Bud by those he trusted, have pre-empted my mind.

What is clear, regardless of any printed-press play (I'm assuming no evening net TV coverage- I was broadcastin, then) is that this has already received heavy radio treatment. I also did part of a Baltimore talk show in which I went into Fischer.

What may be translated into the sale of books may be a question but the number of people reached can't be.

I'm inclined to think there will be more calls the beginning of the week.

Now I'm sorry I have to be away Wednesday and Thursday.

Gandolfo's information from a Calif. CBS TV station is the shows are to be aired beginning the 25th.

Best,