

Dear Oliver,

8/9/75

It was thoughtful of you to send me Louis' and Willie's pieces, both of which disappointed me not because they are without precedent but because I'd thought much better of both, especially Heren. He tried, after reading the xerox edition of my first book, to interest his British publishers, on his own. I well recall his involuntary "Good Lord!" when years ago I showed him some of the evidence the Commission neither wanted nor had. Like you I'd rather not speculate. I'd rather recall his decency, his efforts ~~to~~ be of help before the subject was opened.

Personal publicity means nothing to me. On this basis alone I would not consider exchanging any rights for no more than that.

If you can interest Horizon in buying the TV rights I'd be quite happy. They may have considerably more value than is immediately apparent because CBS is knocking itself out trying to work around the evidence so that in November it can again present a videowhitewash. Now they'll have to be even more dishonest to pull this one again. But it is the clear policy intent, on all the assassinations. If Horizon would content itself with using stock footage, documents and interviews we could have with those you now know I interviewed they could easily beat CBS and have some sales potential outside England. There is no doubt in my mind that if the other WS nets did not go for it independents would.

Because I'm having trouble clearing enough time to bring Post Mortem out myself I'd rather that you not show any more to Willie. There are some endeavors from which, much as I'd like to, I cannot separate myself. These slow down the time I can spend on an addition to the book and doing the (long) appendix. Long as the book is I'm editing a new end I've drafted for it, based on the results of the suit Willie did not understand. Here is how I'm bringing it out: the sale of the older books continues. We have elected to live very tightly and have put what these older books bring in aside in an escrow account. It had the purpose of having the means of paying for the printing of the two that are close to out of print. I'm electing to use these funds plus what, while I hate to do it with no regular income, I'll borrow. I'll take my chances on being able to find some way of reprinting and I have damaged copies I'll offer first.

There are other reasons why I feel I must do this. One is the accurately reflected insane stuff almost all the others are pulling to promote themselves to the detriment of truth. Another is, as perhaps you can agree, that I have done this part of the work of the Church committee. I hate to keep giving things away. So, I'd rather give them the book and then let them recommend what they will. It seems to me that with the evidence I have assembled it then will not be difficult for them to recommend a separate and real investigation. On their own, without the time to do their major job and with the awful campaign of the irrationals that takes so much of their time, I see little prospect of their doing better on their own. I'll take this chance because, while it would be of real value to the book, I have the same responsibilities as a writer and citizen without it.

Without a penny for ads or promotions I have sold enough copies of Whitewash IV to repay the loan and the artists and we can now start recovering the other costs. It will not lose money despite unheard of handicaps, greater than any of my other and severely handicapped books. (The cost of doing the work is so great only a runaway bestseller can begin to approximate profit. However, I believe a condensation can be very profitable.) So, although it will have to sell for more and merely sending copies out will be a great burden I do not visualize losing cash on Post Mortem and with luck can do better. I do hate the time from what I'd prefer doing that being my own mail-order dept. takes.

Once the book is out I'll just have to play all else by ear.

There was an unexpected, welcome and small sum that did come from the Times, so I suppose it was from the time with Willie. I'm grateful for it because I'd have taken the time anyway.

Meanwhile, I'm trying to work out an arrangement with one of the scandal sheets here. If they agree with my offer I'll not have to jeopardize the prospect of reprinting the older works. At the same time I'm getting estimates based on a thinner if expensive paper that may enable me to print an even larger appendix. I do believe that printing the actual documents is important, the more that are significant and relevant the better, despite the prejudice against long books.

I've been meaning to update you and to ask something else of you in the event you or another have occasion to come here and do not have to carry a portable typewriter. My eyes are not what they used to be, this type now is rather small for me, and when I

travel this machine is rather heavy. Hermes has discontinued much of its US sales. I can't get and can't afford their extremely portable Rocket machine. John Pilger had one that he said was marvelous and trouble-free. I'd like a second machine with a larger type face as well as one more portable. If you come here again or know someone willing, how costly is a Rocket over there? New or second-hand but decent.

It is an advantage not to have to wait for luggage when travelling here and the small machine that does not have to be checked through is an advantage.

What I may wind up doing is just getting not as good a second machine here but this Hermes has taken more abuse than the average upright can be expected to absorb. Use, too.

The family of the man killed by the CIA's LSD lives but a mile or so from here. I first knew his oldest child when he was in high school. Later when he taught school. I also have a CIA once-secret document that really says our interests in such "azi-like" use of humans was not defensive. (I have hundreds more once secret pages that should make good stories but there really is little I can do with them. I get them regularly.) If your people go for this kind of story I've kept a fairly good clipping file, too. If they send you again or you want a trip I can introduce you to those responsible people, the small minority, who have put a probative work, on the RFK case. It lends itself admirably to medical treatment rather than legal....Our thanks for your decency and interest and our hope that you are here again soon. Sincerely,