

1/7/72

Dear Js,

A bright, cold and windy day provided temptation and opportunity for several hours of outside work this p.m., and uncertainties in the mind really compelled I use that time for thinking out possible new moves in that which I feared and haven't completely explained in what I've sent. I was not able to decide, and error may be too costly, so I'll have to await clearer thought or the whisper from the shouldered angel. And there are a few notes I'd like to make for the future.

You may remember my September apprehension over the potential of Cyril's asking for access to the pictures and X-rays under contract. I then conceived that if he did not ask or if another asked and was given access to all or some of that stuff, there would be a whitewash. Were he to come out and say the materials disputed or disproved the Warren Report, at this point that would tell the people little, nothing those willing to believe don't already believe, would and could add remarkably little if anything to what we (I) have already established beyond question, and would so misplace the blame it would be a disaster. This became so oppressive the more I thought of it that despite his established unavailability I decided to brief Bud on a few of the new goodies. He flipped. He wanted to fly immediately to Dallas where a right-wing buff worth \$50,000,000 lives. Bud was going to ask him to pay for the printing of PM. I suggested not that Arch's immediate response would be how about you, you are pretty wealthy, too, but that it would be better if I were to be there and Mary, a close friend of Arch's and a very bright and sharp conservative made the pitch, with me there to answer. It didn't work. Arch has to be the world's stingiest man. He got no hints, made no offers, didn't even pay the fare he had earlier agreed to! Bud paid the fare from N.O. to Dallas, and he sent to me N.O. on a limited mission for him, which I accomplished rapidly and had time for other work, after a similar venture in Tenn. So, aside from the time, uncompensated, a few odds and ends of minor expenses, my only real cost was an \$85.00 repair made necessary by the settlement of deposits in the transmission fluid, gumming up an assortment of valves and other small openings.

I don't suppose we can ever properly estimate what is in the mind and what subtle influences control it. Beginning after my first meeting in Dallas with Arch, for the first time I can recall - had trouble falling asleep. I sometimes lay abed longer awake than asleep, and with the short time I spend in bed, that was tiring. At first I thought it was the weather reports for home and what it might face. Then I decided it was excitement from successes. In retrospect, I wonder if it wasn't disappointment at Arch. In any event, when I got home, the weariness persisted, the symptoms of the old anxiety condition multiplied and became more persistent, and once I cleaned up the inevitable accumulation, I found it difficult to write and edit. Exuberant Jerry, who you do not know, but who is great, was a drain because he just insists, silently, in imposing his personal life style upon everyone with whom he comes in touch. I had just gotten back to productive work when he came. He left and Howard came the same day. Howard, by far the youngest of us, and also wonderful, was a better influence. He reread the new last part of PM, pronounced it even better than he had originally (attributable to the reading of clean copy, I think, not a change of mind), and I was back at it again when the confirmation of my fear came yesterday. It was a call from Fred Graham of the Times. The present deal, confirmed, is for Lattimore (you should have a file on him and his "work"-ugh!), urologist at Presbyterian Hospital (Columbia University) to see what he wants. What he wants seems to be only the brace and the Ace bandage. This clearly signals the intent to say they "prove" that the only reason JFK didn't fall forward is because it was mechanically impossible. Rubbish! Lattimore told Graham that the bandage, figure-eighted around both thighs and the groin, was atop the brace. Immaterial and unlikely, for braces come with straps to keep them from creeping. After more than 30 years I know! The bandage was to support what the brace couldn't. The brace and the combination couldn't prevent falling without preventing sitting. But the plan is pretty clear. Cyril, Nichols and a cat from Michigan have applied. Now I also have, with appeal in advance based on 1966 and 1970-1 refusals! Meanwhile, at some risk, given his past and the Times' policy, I have backgrounded Graham and made him generous

offers he'll not likely take. K've just spoken to G again, this minute, to tell him something I forgot. It is certain I is getting first if not exclusive crack and G, even G, thinks it is because he is an apologist. G did speak to Wecht, who I had asked to call me, and Wecht has not. The date is soon, G says not geared to the return of Congress, but when I said maybe a coincidence, he said yes, coincidence. Do you think this the case? Those people know their rotten business!

Anyway, the futility is oppressive. There is a limit to what I can do. I have taken and will maintain the position that there are many with the means to uphold their share of the responsibilities, of whom Arch is not alone (in talking to Jim, who called back today for Bud), and that not one thing I have will be released to counter any of this without publication of the work in the immediate assured. I have gone further and warned that all their tinselly expenses will be wasted and have gone further and made it fairly clear that I'll withdraw totally from all contact with all with means if this comes to pass. For the first time I've said I've been doing all this damned work, at cost nobody else has, have to spend too much time cleaning up their unending messes, and it is past time for them to do something that can have meaning. I think I'll keep to it, too. If this one comes off as planned, and if I haven't the capability of converting it to a plus for us or to neutralize it, I will have to learn that alone I haven't the capability, so I may as well not waste all the time I've been wasting and spend what time I have in a manner I consider can be productive.

I've asked Jim about the possibility of me filing a really large suit for damages, personally, against the people personally involved in this, that is, to sue them for not doing their work so a) they can't use government attorneys and b) they'll have to pay personally if I win. The suit, in itself, could clear some of the air. He seems to think I can and is to check and speak to a practised lawyer. I'm to hear from him Monday.

Graham will be back to me, but as I understand it, not until after he does his first piece. Unless he changes, I have made serious inroads and his eyes are more open than ever, which may not be saying as much as I'd like but encourages me to the hope that it is saying something.

While I've been writing this an idea is slowly forming in the back of my mind. If I decide to do it, you'll find a carbon enclosed that will explain.

Meanwhile, Mary is in Europe and Bud had decided to write Arch a letter. I told Jim there isn't time. But can you imagine one special feeling, that with so little left to do on this book to have it camera-ready, I have to be worried about all this stuff when it was so clear in September and to spend time trying to counter it now?

Lil's working schedule this season has changed. They are taking advantage of her but there is nothing we can do about it. Instead of finishing work at 5 each day, she has to work until 6 three of the five days, M, W, F. Thus I have the time for this before getting her.

I'll write Mary so she'll have the letter on return, in the hope she can find some way of leaning on Arch, about whom this personal stuff is, of course, confidential. He has set up a \$5,000,000 trust for each of his three daughters and, from 10 to 15, has indoctrinated each with the notion that no man will marry any except for her money! They are rather nice girls, but the detachment of the youngest was, it seemed to me, apparent. This is what money is for?

If all this sounds apranoid or unwise, don't be afraid to offer an opinion. I've about enough time to get supper in the over and go for Lil. Howard returned home today. There seems to be some prospect that the Univ. Penna (he is soph there, full scholarship) Press will do his but cut to what deals directly with the framing of Oswald, which I hope for him and because while this is something we have all said, nobody had that as a central focus. Best regards,