

Dear Les,

6/29/80

The job you have is the one I dislike most - cutting. Sympathies.

Understand about not wanting to do magazine pieces. I have no agent, no purpose in seeking one now, and when I don't know how much more time I have I have other priorities.

When you come up for air you'll find it fresh here.

It's about an hour from there. I'd like you to see what I have.

There could be many column items but I don't know any of Jack's young associates.

Spoke to Gary Cohn a couple of times by phone.

Just heard of an Indian item today, when you are next in touch with them.

Carter has cut out the ^{funds} ~~appropriations~~ for educating Indians, in Wisconsin at least.

If they ever want to do any assassination items that require no stand on the facts I've got some pretty good stuff on suppressions of evidence.

Nobody ever asks why the FBI and DJ would want to suppress any of it.

I'm still in court trying to get what I first asked for on 5/23/66 - 14 years ago.

I've been to the appeals court 4-6 times, to the Supreme Court, Congress amended FOIA's investigatory files exemption over it and the FBI hasn't provided it yet.

Little by little I'm learning of tests the FBI made that it has suppressed. I'll be using some of this when the latest remand is before a district judge (Pratt) again.

I've also just gotten the ~~xx~~ eye-witness account of one of the Dallas motorcycle cops, next closest to JFK when it happened. There were 17 jockeys (his word) in the escort (FBI record) nong of whom was interviewed by the FBI at the time of the crime. When it was embarrassed over this because of an unusual incident and Clarence Kelley has them speak to the jockeys, it learned that this one had written out an account as soon as he got home - and avoided ~~ix~~ getting it. Those cops were the most experienced and maybe the only trained observers present besides the Secret Service escort. Now why do you suppose the FBI avoided them - all of them - and then avoided getting this contemporaneous account. I'll give you a clue - it does not support the FBI's version, which I now have in FBI documents as Hoover's instant vision. And what is not known is that he immediately grabbed the case illegally. ...Hope your editing goes well and that the novel does too. Best wishes,

LESLIE H. WHITTEN
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June 26

Dear Harold,

Sorry to be back so late. I've been immersed in the novel. The deadline was April 1. I had 672 pages in that week, but the ~~book~~ agent felt it was 300 pages too long. I argued him down ~~to 220~~ to 220 and have been feverishly cutting and trying to make the transitions caused by the cuts work. I still have about two, three weeks work to go. Frankly, nothing intrigues me more than the kind of stuff you have. But I don't want any magazine work. It takes too much time. I don't mind doing column stuff if it could fit in there. Otherwise the only incidental stuff I'm doing is book reviews.

If you can get it out someplace else you'd do better to. I too worry about the danger to FOIA and I promise I'll take a crack at some good cause when I get the book done if you have anything around at that time. I do want to keep my hand in at the office because I don't want to lose touch entirely and I like Jack enormously, as you know. (I'm not ~~charging~~ charging for the occasional stuff I do at present, figuring I don't need the money at the moment and it gives me freedom ~~to do or not do.~~ Best to your wife and hope to see you when I come up for air.

Les