

Mr. Paul Wurtzel
1688 Sunset Plaza Drive
Los Angeles, Ca. 90069

2/23/76

Dear Paul,

Your letter of the 21st made remarkably good time. It came this morning.

It was good to talk to you yesterday. I appreciate your taking the time.

I've just returned from having the regular blood test and at the same time getting new glasses, I've finished the chapter on which I was working, and I'm surprised that Playboy hasn't called yet. They must be holding a war council all morning. But I have to be free for it.

I suppose you live with these kinds of situations: fantastic waste, incredible executive stupidity, and contracting for and then until too late not using an expert. As my wife said this morning, by any evaluation of the worth of time alone they've taken much more than the fee justifies already and we're not done.

The books will go out in tomorrow's mail. Thanks.

I'm finding as I write, even with the determination to eliminate much, not to turn out something as comprehensive as Post Mortem, that the new ~~ing~~ book is running longer than I'd expected. However, I'm satisfied that it is structured for easy cutting, if that should be necessary.

The material is so voluminous and diversified I've not attempted an outline. I had about three hours to think this through back in January and decided against trying. It would have required as long as writing to go through the material I have. Instead I decided on a structure. I have been following that rather than an outline. I'm finding that it seems to be a good one, perhaps the best, and that in the writing so much comes back to mind! Thus what I'd planned as a single chapter with the last two in each case has required breaking into two. If my judgement is wrong the way I've put it together relatively simple cutting can make each into one and what is considered unnecessary will come out easily. I'm not in a position to judge because since the second chapter I've not, as I told you, taken time to read. Instead I'm getting it onto paper.

I'm hoping that with the way I've worked on the current part, the mysterious death of Judge Battle (think I'll title the second chapter of the two on it "Died in Battle" because the legal rights did and the rest that goes with it also did) with single editing it will make a separate magazine piece that with attention will apply pressures where they may be helpful. This is the part that I said would provide the plot for a movie, whether or not on this case.

If there is the Las Vegas speech I think I'd like to go to LA and from there go to Frisco to see a friend and then return. I'll be spending a few days in Vegas if I go to interview and work with the man you don't know. But when you told me your neighbor was one of the Hollywood Ten not only do I want to get there to meet you but I'd like very much to make an oral history of that affair and my prior experiences I mentioned briefly. Here they called. I can get to other work for a couple of hours unless the editor calls. If you think it will not bug Townsend, let me add to what I told you about the success of my fight, when I had no such support, no funding like and no press like the Ten. When it was all over and I had won the assistant DA who wound up with me, a brash kid, taking his own damned grand jury away from him and having to fight my own lawyer and everyone else to do it, had so much respect for me he risked being disbarred to give me a stenographic transcript of the grand jury testimony that I might need in the future. Not mine. That of others which showed they could come up with nothing wrong I'd done. He is now dead or I'd still not say anything. He became chief war crimes prosecutor in Tokyo. The point here is how one fights. The Ten didn't know how tragically. Maybe because their professional lives were with unreality. Best,

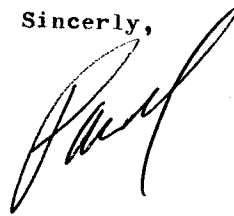
Paul Wirtzel

1688 Sunset Plaza Drive, Los Angeles, California 90069

2/21/76

Dear Harold thanks for the copy of O in N.O. I didn't realize it had been published in paperback. I appreciate your giving up one of the hard to get copies. I am concerned about your health from the things you have been telling me it sounds like mal-practice or ignorance. You mention the fact that you don't know of a phlebitis specialist. My friend in San Francisco had one here in L.A. . I can get his name. Also, I am going to ask my friend to write you and tell you of history with this affliction in hopes it might give you some first hand encouragement. I am almost finished with PostMortem and am schocked even though I am really past that stage. I am more shocked by the attitude of the people in this country. I can see how Hitler did it and today things are much more sophisticated in that field of conditioning the masses. I have spoken to the political cartoonis to for the L.A. Times, Paul Conrad, and am going to have lunch with him and give him a copy of POST MORTEM. I am getting about as much response from the people here about the JFK cover up as you are getting info from the FBI. But. I do know things can change instantly. I am enclosing a check for 5 more copies of Post Mortem and to cover the Copy of White Wash and O in N.O. Please try not to knock yourself out; let me know if I can do anything to help .

Sincerely,



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