

11/16/68

Dear Jerry,

I liked Dick Gallen. When you and he are talking again maybe he'll tell you what he now knows about why they didn't do WHITEWASH more than a year ago. A strange accident, a strange block on Ann Weingerden's part. Use it only on his word, not mine, for I do not want to embarrass them. The negative recommendation came from a "competitor", the author of a competitive work (that I have no doubt WHITEWASH destroys) who is also, apparently, radical right or so connected.

Please try and remember to give my address with your kind mentions, so it can be translated into sales.

I have challenged Merriman Smith to debate me at the National Press Club, on the subject of his story, my book, the work of the Commission or any combination of his choosing. WBEM is extending the same challenge to him. I'm warning it up with an hour broadcast by phone tomorrow, 5 p.m. our time. This is to be followed by an evening program, also via phone, and a live one about December 13 where, if they cannot get Smith (who will be absolutely insane if he accepts), they'll try for Liebaler.

If and when this takes place, I'll have some Pulitzer Prize footnotes. His Sunday's piece (I had it in advance and wrote the challenge before it appeared) is Pulitzer Prize material if they start making awards for conspicuous inaccuracy. Where he said I was in error I was not; what he presented as fact also was not, including even where he was. If his story could possibly be tortured into any relationship to reality assassination day, it could mean only (could you believe a word he says) that the shots - all of them - could not have come from the Depository and did come from about the sheriff's building. He doesn't even know where he was!

I wish I knew a magazine that would pay for a piece on this.

You never commented on my Kompton letter. Want to use it?

Proofreading on the text will be completed today. Tell me what you think of another idea I have: A book that is nothing but appendix! My documentation for WHITEWASH II tells a story entirely aside from that of the assassination - the story of how our federal police work. I'm thinking of calling it WHITEWASH III: The Archive of The Documents, with everything reproduced by facsimile and the briefest possible commentary at the bottom of the pages where the proportions differing will give slight space. I'm thinking of a coupon in WHITEWASH II for ordering. If I could get someone or some foundation to guarantee the printing cost I'd do it. It would be a real shocker and would certainly pull the plug on the Merriman Smith's, Bickels, Godhoretzes, Cousins and Feins. I've tentatively changed the subtitle of II (and cover color, to avoid confusion). The top line will read "The Untold Story", the the title, then dash The FBI-Secret Service Coverup, all superimposed on the title page of the Report to tie it to the Assassination and WHITEWASH I. What do you think? You'll have to let me know right away, because unless I get something I can accept by the first of the week, as soon as I see both my dentist and doctor on Monday we go into production.

Also for your information alone, for I want no fights on our scant side, it is I who pried permission to examine the Nix (and Muchmore) films from UPI and it is I who recommended frame by frame examination to other researchers, including Sylvia Meagher. My approach to UPI was through VP Julius Frensdan in Washington. His written permission was dated June 1. I tried to get this extended to others at the Archive and succeeded and my word to the others, by letter and phone, followed within a few days. I haven't seen the Esquire thing yet. Doubt if an enlargement from such a small film of such poor quality can really prove anything but do not spend never have doubted that it is inevitable that something was there. I say so, quietly, in WHITEWASH and louder in II.