

20774

9/18/66

Dear Jerry,

I have gone over the two long chapters and integrated them into the work and am about to begin reading the entire thing. I would very much appreciate the return of these two things which I need and haven't time to retype. Please, do, send them right away, before you get busy and forget and before you again forget, how about the set of documents, with Gervasi's covering letter.

This is not be a good week for getting work done. I'll be away two days speaking and most of a third when I'm in Washington.

If you did not see Drew Pearson's column yesterday I'll lend you my copy. With Jim Bishop, no less, he tells the story of Mrs. Kennedy's efforts to suppress the other books on the assassination and to reserve the field - indeed restrict the contents of the books - to what she approves. It is a rather remarkable and very sad thing, something not even real royalty would attempt. It is exactly what my Congressman told me was happening to me but I was unwilling to believe (and of which I am not persuaded still, in at least many of the cases). My efforts to interest the family and the publisher, Harper's, in the truth, will make interesting reading, especially if this correspondence should appear in another magazine about the time LOOK begins serialization of Manchester! Nobody was interested in evidence. It is terrible how nothing but scandals evolve.

There is a tentative package deal for both books by Leber-Friedman, with whose representative (the reporter-son of Friedman I spent most of Thursday). He flipped over my conclusions (which you may have if you want them when the book is out) and we discussed certain minimum terms. These include immediate publication of WHITEWASH II. This may cost me money, but it must be out before Manchester. If any major publisher had a little courage and a little business sense, we'd both make a pot on this. I think I really have something so important that after WHITEWASH it is at least as great a shocker. And you ought to see my evidence! I've got enough to print an appendix as a separate book and with it tell in addition a separate and important story.

Just heard by phone that AP moved a follow-up on the Pearson item that may be in today's N.Y. papers. If there is, especially in the Times, please send it to me.

As things are developing, I'll have to let people know about the sequel now, although I shall make nothing like a "formal" announcement. The continuation of letters reporting not a single bookstore in major towns knows how to get the book impelled me to write Publishers' Weekly and ask for the smallest ad they can place just saying how we can be reached. I must have lost a fortune through this. Sales this past week, by the way, were over 2,500. And a French publisher has asked for an option (referred to English agent). Asher denies impropriety. Cohen evaded most of my letter but did promise to suspend claims of priority, which I demanded May 11 and was not done. He can safely do so, now that the damage is done...Oh, boy, what a clever publisher could do with WHITEWASH after that Pearson column and its history!

Sincerely, and with happy new year's,