

20734

2/5/66

Dear Sally and Jerry,

Upon the ring from Jerry this a.m. I did go to Washington immediately. I have every reason to believe I accomplished absolutely nothing about the immediate, but I hope that the future may be better for it.

The Newsweek Bureau Chief was not in. I saw Ken Crawford, who vaguely recalled me from 30 years ago. He has aged and seem to be unwell. But I did, once, and for no money, seek to defend him from an accidental libel he committed in an otherwise good book he wrote and he may have recalled that. I spoke to him pointedly and frankly ~~xx~~ about what Newsweek was advancing. told him there was nothing I could do if they persisted in wearing the Emperor's clothes except to assure him that at some time in the future I would be the little boy and would know what to say, and showed him the obvious evil in what they were doing. He was not happy, not at all angry with me, said he'd call New York, but that if this is to be in the book section it is already on the press, and indicated he though there was nothing they'd do anyway. I had this belief in advance, because they have not answered the letter I wrote them w after the appearance of the Inquest story (no word from ~~1964~~, either). He spent about an hour, and I was able to document for him just what Newsweek is suggesting, and he seemed not to like it and to think it is not what they might intend. I also believe he now has no doubt what the effect will be. I do not know if this will do any good.

I then saw my lawyer, who was Justice Warren's law clerk several years ago and recalls my efforts, both before I wrote the book and after, to enlist his assistance in getting to Warren with the dope. He also recalls that I offered the opportunity to his boss, Edward Bennett Williams to write the introduction to WHITE-WASH, knowing he is a personal friend of Warren, and without suggesting in any way what he should or should not say. He quite readily saw that this and Inquest may be the beginning of a real campaign against Warren and what he at least seems to stand for and that it could be part of an effort to place everyone else's blame upon him. He said he'd talk to Williams.

Thereafter I had about a quarter of an hour of blunt but not unfriendly talk with Al Friendly, vice president of the Washington Post, in which he did not demur when I said this is where I say I told you so. He sees clearly what is up and I have no reason to believe he'll lift a finger. I am sure in the future he'll be unhappy. In each case I told these people about my sequel and what it would prove, and how, and offered access to my data.

The Post has ordered its book-review department not to review any of the books on spurious grounds, which means that they'll be the ostrich with the head out of the ground whenever Salotaroff so elects. Higgins, the editor, is on vacation. I could not get to Tom Wickar, who could do nothing, but who I'd like to inform. He was at a press conference and later I could not stop back....I have a foolish letter from Fremont-Smith. It reflects the Times attitude as the equivalent of Newsweek's but includes a gratuitous insult. I shall eventually answer it, for the record.

Then I spent a couple of hours seeing movies others haven't seen and getting

less out of them than I might but seeing certain real possibilities also. Does either of you know anyone at Colper. They own one of the movies. It is in large part - and in the important parts - very poorly exposed. But examination of individual frames may very well reveal something. The official copy bears signs of alteration. I also saw an edited - and poorly edited - version of Oswald's so-called press conference. He comes through much better than I had expected. The editing of the film was slipped on the sound track, which, after the film ends, can clearly be heard with the question, "Did you kill the President". His answer seems to have been edited off of all extant copies of this film. I am expected a tape that includes it. He specifically said he was a Patsy. His shiner is much puffed and larger than the official stills show. Even the report includes this part, on page 201. And there, the editing is represented by asterisks.

I also found out that it was Dan Kurzman, not Larry Stern, who referred him to me. Kurzman told him what he thought of WHITEWASH. Ahna, at Kurzman's suggestion, phoned Stern to get my phone number.

It would be comforting if I could see a less serious potential to all of this, to the attention to the books that are basically illiberal and can be used to spearhead an emotional campaign of unpredictable possibilities. Perhaps I am wrong, but all I can see now is that I must find some way of doubling a 20-hour day and rushing faster with the sequel. I'll have to rush too much and will need editing, but I do not know where I can get it. I shall again want normal publication, but this time I shall simultaneously prepare for a private printing, profiting, I hope, for the problems with this, and hoping that it will not be necessary. I have in hand all the essential materials. There is little more that I must have. The question is just getting it done with the disjointed life we have to lead. It certainly is not conducive to good writing. I plan a book with very heavy documentation in both pictures and documents and now wonder about this title: WHITEWASH II: WHO DID IT? Of course, I'll prove who did the whitewashing. I think it will be a real shocker.

Meanwhile, the sale of WHITEWASH seems to be holding up. It is now more than 7,800. We had 52 orders here today. The letters still come in from the Burke show and from other exposures. I'll be away a day and a half next week on this sort of thing, a "popular demand" return to WCAU, in Philadelphia, for four hours. I've gotten a line on possible mid-west distribution. When I have books in that area, I haven't forgotten the Chicago suggestion.

Please try and get me copies of the English edition, its galleys or page proofs, and ditto in the US if you possibly can of "Rush". You understand its importance.

It was very kind of you to call. Please continue to keep me posted.

Sincerely,

