

11/9/66

Dear Jerry,

This is not a working night, nor are the thoughts good. I heard this week that Dell was going to keep their word, put it in writing (and it was put in writing by the young and inexperienced men acting as my agent) and before it could reach me I just got a phone call from said y.m. that Dell phoned him and changed their minds, if that is what they have. At this point if I could get some support from other writers who have to live in the corrupted "literary" world and a decent, honest, competent lawyer I'd file an injunction against them. Sometime soon such a thing has to be aired, and I'm willing for it to be now.

None of this was on my mind, what was is on it kept me from working. I've been much troubled this week by the whole story of the coming TV special. It makes sense only in a very bad way. None of the things that were supposed to happen-not one-has happened. Then suddenly Sauvage is there, without even a phone call to let me know, and I'm told we're to get together before the preview to "set the ground rules". He came late and eliminated the possibility of that. The press conference at the end was going well when it was ended by Mark Evens (who is having Sauvage on his show and was to have me to plug this show and didn't). The program they were to have on their own radio station in Baltimore, where I've been welcome, so welcome I arranged the plugs before they had a chance to, even this has not happened.

The editing begins with my tonsillectomy and ends with my castration. But over the phone, when the show was edited down to within a few minutes of the three hours and all the cross-talk had been taken out, I was told that their top NY brass had seen the show and were excited, had addressed such praises to me as Mel Baily had never heard addressed to a man, that my total recall and resolute integrity were the hallmark of this program, that their top people said I could have done the entire thing alone. Need I go on? There were to be ads in Washington, described as to content and size. There as yet has been not a single one. Perhaps there will be. There was to be generous mention of WHITEWASH and me for the local angle, interviews, book marks, tie in, 30-some plugs on their station, the works. I've seen and heard of nothing.

Weekly they promise to return my ms (this is why I'd had none for you or Salisbury). They haven't. One week it would be done by Wednesday, another they were a little busy but it wouldn't be long, another not to worry about security, ~~there~~ but a trusted mail clerk would do it and that soon, they they told my "agent" three weeks ago it would all be in the mail by Friday of that week, but the next week they told me when I called that they hadn't yet had a chance to touch it but - so I said mail it back the way it is an immediately. Maybe it is lost in the mail, but I've gotten no covering letter, either. Sunday I wrote without reference to the taping I'd seen and made a special trip to town (rather Saturday, I think) demanding the immediate return of the ms by special handling. No response. Yesterday Dick Whalen, at my suggestion, asked Mike Mooney to get a copy of the unedited transcript (which they made right off the bat and told me they had). This was three o'clock or thereabouts. Dick phoned me this afternoon close to 3:30 and said he had a copy, but of the edited tape only. WNEW had gotten it to Mooney who had gotten it down here and to Whalen in less than 24 hours. The unedited transcripts seem to be scarce. Dick is going to ask for one personally. I wish you could get me one. I suspect they will not/not exist.

Meanwhile, Mark Evens says that while all the Commission people invited had declined, they have since had a change of heart and there is now some talk of another program "The Majority Report". Whereupon I wrote and expressed the belief that, since the other side had been invited to our program, our side, or which I ~~was~~ the senior member (any way they want to measure I am) would have the same courtesy extended. I said that in advance I would accept such an invitation. Silence. There was an early rumor that Lloyd Weinreb, former staff member, has been engaged to edit the tape. This Mel Baily denied to me, very forcefully. He'd resign first, etc. One of the "brothers" was there, possibly accompanied by your friend Arthur Cohen.

I cannot pretend that I know what this and other related things mean. I know what they indicate, and I know that is not good. I just cannot believe Mel and Paul would willingly do such a thing, but I know what they have done.

From a newsman who may not know what he is talking about I have been told the three hours have been sold in Washington for \$15,000. His, of course, could explain the lack of promotion; it isn't necessary. But at the same time Mark Evans answered a question of sales by saying nothing had been sold. This newsman told me he was told this that very night at the station. What kind of promotion has it been getting in New York.

The California station announced 2 hours. I heard by phone two nights ago it is now down to 1 1/2 hours. This need not be sinister. That is the kind of lousy job of editing it is. It seems as though some of David Schoenbrun's commentary, especially about me, was intended for other than what it now relates to. The plug I was promised, how to get my book, was edited out.

Something has happened. Something is cooking. The other side is desperate, even if the public record does not so show to those who do not stop to think and analyze. I haven't had time to read the papers, and I do not see the Times, but do you realize what Johnson really said about this in his press conference - and the timing of it at the press conference? The long question should also be read with care. It is a mixture of deprecation and stage setting. Then LBJ said, among other things ("persuaded out in every sewing circle"): "It is my understanding, ~~that~~ and all of this took place while I was away..." Then, "The late, beloved President's brother was Attorney General during the period the Warren Commission was studying this thing, I certainly would think he would have a very thorough interest in seeing that the truth was made evident. I think that he, the FBI (the same as "he", since he was A.G.) and the entire government (inherited from JFK) made available everything the Commission (everybody but LBJ) wanted." Also, "I know of no evidence that would in any way cause any reasonable person to have a doubt" about what the Report, the behavior of the government, anything like that. No, "about the Warren Commission". If any evidence is brought forth "I am sure that the Commission (which no longer exists, as he knows better than anyone since it reported to him) and the appropriate authorities will take the action that may be justified." The "appropriate authorities": Those who whitewashed.

Bobby will regret what is happening about which he is doing nothing that I can see. The same is true of the silent friends of Earl Warren, a number of whom I have approached. I wrote Bobby Kennedy a Personal "personal" letter 10/29. No answer.

Jerry, we are heading into a very rough period, especially now that the election is past. I wish I were less alone (in some many ways).

There is a rumor Epstein is a a beater for the Kennedys. I do not believe it of either; I simply report it. All of these things really suit a situation that could be misused when the Manchester book comes out, which could serve a number of powerful interests, least of all, as I see it, the Kennedy's. Remember what the subject matter is and what I have done and prove and am about to do. There is an awful lot at stake, Jerry, more than can be imagined. Please spend some time learning what you can and let me know what you learn promptly. It may be vital. I hope this word is inappropriate! I thermofaxed the second of the two articles I wrote and mailed it out of the country immediately, without waiting to revise it and get it typed. The first one also went out and I sent a copy of it to Salisbury. I also left a copy in Washington with someone. I effect a little relief from the pressure I am under by sharing the really totally destructive stuff I have with another writer who I believe I can trust and whose competence I admire. There are risks I must run. The kind of insurance I need isn't written....Do try to learn something and let me know. Sincerely,

Minor additional signs: the "receiving line" I'd been asked to get there early for didn't exist; I wasn't introduced to a single member of the staff of the wife of any I'd met. Sauvage didn't even introduce his wife. They haven't ~~mailed~~ mailed out a single WHITEWASH & they asked for 100 (gave 120)