

8/14/67

Dear Jerry,

I was sitting and thinking maybe I ought to write you a letter about something that might interest you and wondering how long it stays this rough when a heavy smoker tries to stop when I noticed Books, which came today and I glanced at it. That made me wonder if you ever noted the coming publication of any of my books and I doubted it because I think they have come out about as fast as monthly publications, which is something for books, if not for BOOKS.

Anyway, the New York Times thought it was news except in the book department, which, according to itself never receives one. But the rest of the press agreed with the book department, not the news, for there was no single mention of it, anywhere else. This was a great disappointment to me because, through the courtesy of the Times, no body had to read it to write a story about a picture doctored by the FBI because it showed the President's car, which they didn't want in a picture that also showed the sixth-floor window at the moment of the assassination and neither a rifle nor an Oswald in it.

If the Times' news judgement is this poor - and can it be better when 10% of the U.S. press, including the Apologizing Press, disagrees - you can depend on it, no Evening Times. Of course, the Agonizing Press almost agreed with the Times. The phoned me from Baltimore the night before the Times story, on instructions of New York, to get a story. They got it. And they kept it. I just found out why and why the New York Times doesn't know news and the AP does: none of their subscribers knocked down the door to demand the story about the book none of them knew about.

But the AP was fair, as always: they kept the story on file in Baltimore in case a subscriber wanted old news.

At the beginning I had an idea of something that might interest you. This is something you don't have to read; you can hear it - the taped interview in which Dean Andrews said he wanted to live and why, which means why he chose jail to a life of unshame. Or should I say an unlife without shame. Get it for yourself - 600 words - from Dick. Only one "shit" to not take out. I did it for you.