

Dear Walter,

12/15/72

One of the unhappiest realizations of my work on the assassinations is that the cardinal sin is to be right, and the more one is right, the more he becomes the object of opposition and dislike, with the consequences of both, of those who are not right, that attention is withheld with the frequency with which the wrong are wrong. It seems that strong-willed people with high self-esteem were attracted to the subject.

So, I am adjusted to the consequences of a poor reason. It does not include being right about it.

I've just learned the radio but have not seen the printed accounts of the official report on the Southern University murders. It has had the knowledge of the opinions of the victims had the same voids that existed in all other cases, again we bleed.

You may recall the strenuous efforts I made at the time of Africa to see to it that the quantitative evidence was first collected and then preserved. Clearly that has not happened again, and from the first it was clear first what was essential and second that it could not. Criminals just don't preserve evidence against themselves, and in this case again the police was the criminal.

I recall my calls and letters to you on this, for example.

The one difference is that in this case I learned and did not take the time to try to do something. I learned that nobody will pay attention. The feeling of futility is not comfortable, and it means the success of repression, besides individual suffering. I know you can do nothing about this, and I have really been intending to write you about other things, for one of which I have time before breakfast.

One last note on Baton Rouge: I can show you an "instant analysis" written on seeing the first footage the first time that from the official report can have out a single error, identification of the kind of police firing. (I am not yet persuaded there was but a single shell fired or that one caused both death-I have some familiarity with shotguns and from the hills the distance was too great.)

I have not yet heard from any of the lawyers, and my need for one in my own case increases with the deterioration of our financial condition. I had to borrow from a friend yesterday to pay immediate emergencies, and I have no idea how or when I can repay.

At the cost of considerable time and aggravation, I have gotten David to work down on the financial allegations of me that you will recall by discussing with you, to repay those debts, and to credit me on the remainder which I am to get with the interest from the time the suits were due. Other problems remain, and in my dream, and in advance, of payment for the time required to check the spurious list of me which the contract required the provision of proofs. Another ~~is~~ the basis for determining the amount of the advance if there were to be any change in the one agreed upon on submission. Here something like \$3,000 is involved, and there are others having to do with non-performance.

However, compared to the hell situation, this is peanuts. There I think I do have an odd-odd-what came on several points. The evidence included the affidavit by Pope, and a copy account for greater sales than he owned. For to be and even copies of an edition never accounted for.

It is pretty damned to live in such poverty with the amount of money and me. It is in some ways more dismal not to be able to get a lawyer, as it has been not to be able to get a lawyer she took the case years ago to be nothing.

So, when you have time to do a bit of thinking, I hope you can devote a little of it to coming up with a lawyer I might ask.

Hope everything is going well. I'd expect to hear from you again that she has heard from Alex. I was a couple of blocks from Mary's sister Saturday with a correspondent from there but didn't have time to stop off.

Have a good holiday!