

Rt. 8, Frederick, 2701

Dear Phil,

As soon as I get to the Post Office during open hours, I will return all your personal papers, as I should have before this. In the event they are ever needed, which is doubtful, you can always provide them again. I had stapled them together a while back for this purpose, got busy and forgot. This will be the various receipts, etc, plus your 1962 tax form. I do not want to send them other than certified or registered. It will be in the next few days, depending on the weather. If there is much snow, I won't be getting out if the lane drifts closed, as has happened.

I thought I'd sent you a transcript. I have only one copy besides the one you annotated. What I'd like to do is take that to N.O. when I go there, which will be in the next couple of weeks, and get it Xeroxed, replacing the office copy with the annotated one, and mail you a Xerox of your own annotations on that copy. If the trial is delayed, which does not seem likely, I'll do it here and mail it.

I've been too busy for correspondence that wasn't immediately necessary, and in recent months, I've come to feel it, especially physically. I've two unpublished books, several more in various stages, and I've been helping others more than myself lately. Thus, we had no time for Xmas cards and for acknowledgements. Yours was colorful. We are always glad to get them but the work we've been engaged in the past five years denies time for pleasant things we'd like to do.

The Supreme Court decision did not surprise me. What has since is the failure of his lawyers to enter a single motion. The trial is no less than 10 court days away.

The belief in Oswald's singular guilt is restricted to those of influence and connection. Most ordinary people never bought it. The whoring writers, the pimping press, these pretend to believe and say they do. Few others. Had I not decided it was more important to finish Oswald in New Orleans I'd have completed Manchester Machiavelli: The Unintended Unofficial Whitewash. It is book length or was in early 1967 when I laid it aside. It is quite something. No pretender, no writer, has ever been so completely disassembled or as totally wrong. ...The Salinger attitude is sickening. But I addressed myself to that in the Epilogue of the second book...If Teddy's bid is a surprise, what is his victory?... This is the beginning of his danger period. No politician aspiring to the Presidency and with the potential of reopening the investigation will survive unless he makes a real issue of that, thus making his murder too hazardous.

Several nights ago, intending a kindness, I phoned Kerry for the first time. Quite an experience. He is less than rational, works himself up into quite obvious passions, has no concept of reality, and finally gets out of control entirely. He got so far out he wound up defending Dave Ferrie! A very strange man, at best, and a poor one at most.

Best wishes for the coming year. Hope it is a good one. I expect to be in N.O. for the trial, beginning before it, and after I want to stay home and complete about six more books. I have so much material, I can rough them out

unbelievably fast, as they show

Box 55045
Omaha 68155

2 January 69

Dear Hal,

Well, it seems--especially from Garrison's point of view-- a brand new ball game. I admit I was rather pessimistic: I thought Shaw might pull it off, get himself out of the soup. It is still possible, I suppose, but let's hope the D.A.'s luck holds and he has a chance to at least present his case. As you well know, and have in fact remarked to me in the past, time is of considerable importance---too much time, indeed, may now have passed for the case to ever be really solved.

As I read more about JFK I am struck by the tenacity of the belief that Oswald, and only Oswald, was the assassin. An odd sort of blindness, I think. Manchester seems to go out of his way to try and support this idea. Sorenson and Salinger claim it doesn't really make a damn bit of difference who killed the President...but seem impatient with anyone doubting the veracity of the Warren Report. All of this seems to me very strange. On the specific point of Oswald's involvement, I don't understand how anyone could now seriously argue for the "lone assassin" (Oswald) theory. I noted the other day that even the new World Almanac refer~~s~~ to Oswald as the "alleged assassin." Still, it is significant, I think, that the Supreme Court did not honor Shaw's petition: if it had ruled the Warren Report "the law of the land" (this is what I understood Shaw had asked), everything would be, surely, infinitely more difficult.

News of Edward Kennedy's bid for Long's position in the Senate comes as a bit of a surprise. The papers here say he hasn't a chance...but the Kennedy's don't usually opt for a cause already lost. I wonder what's up.

Oh, yeah: I need my 1962 W2 Form. You can go ahead and xerox it and keep the copy if you think you or Garrison might need it sometime, but I'd appreciate it if you could return the original to me. Incidentally, I'd like a typescript of our interview if you have one.

--Must go,

All good wishes,

