

Dear Robert,

9/19/88

Just came to your most recent and undated letter while working my way down through the stacks that always accumulate on my desk. Lil will draw a check and it will be enclosed.

I finished Oswald in New Orleans toward the end of February, 1967 and went to New Orleans for the first time about the end of May. When Dell did not live up to agreement to publish it, while a publisher was being sought I added a new last chapter and in it I did express the hope I then felt for the Shaw trial. I'd only had that brief contact with Garrison, never asked him what his case was and, in fact, did no investigation of Shaw at all. I spent my time there mostly on Oswald's activities. Thereafter I did have some questions about Garrison's case and acts but it was not until the Sunday before the impanelling of the Shaw jury began, when I was helping the two lawyers who handled most of the case, that I learned what their alleged case was. I then told them they'd lose, deserved to lose, and when I would return home. I was to have been the Dealey Plaza expert at the counsel table, where the NYTimes mistakenly said I was, but I wasn't - wasn't even in the courtroom and never laid eyes on Shaw. My relations with Garrison deteriorated much earlier, however, and I never hear from him. However, saying that he went out of his way to protect the mob is nonsense. There was nothing to investigate involving the mob. I doubt that he ever got any money from the mob. What the theorizers don't know and probably would not care about is that the mob's known activities in New Orleans were legitimate businesses that were quite profitable. Marcello was based over the line in Jefferson parish. He had many businesses in New Orleans and in Jeff parish.

On the shows, I've been interviewed for three only. One is for NPR, prepared in Chicago months ago. One is the British ITV show by Nigel Turner. The other is the master's thesis by a Univ. Md. student who hopes to sell his thesis/documentary but as of my last knowledge hadn't. Print press I've been spoken to only, of all things, by the National Enquirer, whose reporter will be here tomorrow. I am inclined to think that this time they will not be irresponsible.

The VCR is owrining on VHF. I've used it twice. But nobody who has been here has doped out how to program the VHF, of which four are possible, and following the instructions doesn't work. After we get it working I'll worry about th details like using the clock. No point in doing it now anyway because I need a new receptacle and the electrician has not come yet. One in wall has no accomodation for the ground plug on the extension strip I need to replace the cube tap that has been feeding both radio and attachments, like tape and phonograph and stereo.

I think the one way the Orioles cannot rebuild is via free agents. It got some good ones and some not good but they destroyed the chemistry, the family feeling, the spirit. The only place they may be weak in the minors is catcher and they have one who ought be ready by now. He was fine at AAA level. They made a stupid trade under the new gen mgr Hemond, two of the most promising kid pitchers for a has-been whose been a disaster. But one of their own pitched a one-hitter vs Detroit yesterday and the others who bee used recently look quite capable. Wo of the first three got wins their first times. I don't think these blue-collar types are like the Mets' fans. The O's attendance this year will be quite good, maybe about fourth best ever. They'll love the kids who try and they've often applauded failure after a real try. Perhaps the layover before next season will give time for those who still suffer psychological trauma to recover and return to form next season, like the Ripkens. With the kids they've a fine outfield now. I agree with you on Tibbs and Disk, who came from the Mets, and Thirman, frometroit. Remains to be seen if Asse can get his control back after newest surgery. Schmidt and perhaps Williamson may be the only ones not still rookies next year. Olson, here right from college, has the stuff and needs experience that he may even get in the majors, his stuff is that good. He likes relieving. I think that without Williams and his Will/talk show advisers they'll do better. Congrats on the show!! Best,

Handwritten signature

and Shaw's participation.

I'm including an article from Esquire this month. It's an excerpt from Don DeLillo's book LIBRA.

With the 25th anniversary of the assassination coming up, is there any possibility that you will do any kind of talk show? The airwaves will be filled with Gerald Rivers and Jack Andersons and other disinformation. It would be nice if the public got to hear someone who knows what he's talking about.

On VCR: To my knowledge, all VCRs have timing devices. So you could set the VCR to record a ballgame at 10pm and go to sleep. The only problem is if the game goes into extra innings (assuming it's baseball), so I always set the time for longer than actually needed. One other problem is avoiding the sports section and the radio, so you don't know the results in advance.

On the Orioles: Obviously, I am not as familiar with the team or their minor league system. But if they can rebuild without any free agents that's great. The problem with that is the wait for players to emerge. Even the most loyal fan will get impatient. When the Mets went into a nosedive in the 70's, New Yorkers gave up on them. Shea Stadium was empty - there'd be 6 or 7,000 at a game. This doesn't usually happen in New York. But after 4 or 5 bad seasons, you get frustrated seeing your team get beat. My feeling with the O's is that they need pitching. You're not going to win with Jay Tibbs out there. Tibbs pitched

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for Cincinnati. He had good minor league stats, but could never get it together in the majors. He was traded to the Expos. He got bombed in the majors and was sent to the minors and pitched well. Now, the same thing in Baltimore. I just don't think he has it. Perhaps if they trade off veterans for prospects (like Pittsburgh did last season, they can expedite matters) Cincinnati, on the other hand, is a few players away. They never replaced Dave Parker's bat in their trade to Oakland. Jose Rijo turned out to be a good pitcher, but there was still a hole in the batting order. With no one to bat behind Eric Davis, the opposing pitchers pitch around him. So, if they can plug a few holes and do something about Marge Schott (an owner who make George Steinbrenner almost seem palatable), I think they can challenge L.A. next year. It's very odd to live in L.A. and root against the Dodgers.

Things are hectic with the show back in production. GOLDEN GIRLS (the show I write for) was nominated for a number of Emmy Awards, so I get to attend the ceremony (although I am not up for anything). It's exciting to go, knowing the show and people I work with are considered among the best. The award isn't important, it's just nice to have your peers think highly of what you do. I'm not wild about dressing up, but then how many times do I have to put on a tux?

I hope all is well with you and your wife. Take care.

Robert