

8/21/67

Dear Jonn,

Because I have to go to the Washington airport tonight I'm reading and answering your 8/17 simultaneously. The enclosed clips from the New Orleans Times Picayune are because I think you may a fellow who also may want a copy. This is the exact opposite of the leak that was made to Newsweek a week ago. There has been no local mention but the Newsweek apparent falsehood did get attention. The London Times, for example, replaced a part of a story that dealt with ME with that! I am reminded of my II epilogue line: The late President had such friends he had no need for enemies. His brother, too? It could be said to look like his BROTHER!

L. agreed. 2 agreed. 3 ditto. 4 ditto. 5 both parts sound okay, but we should discuss.

Page 2, par 1. The best I can now say is what I can anticipate/the publishing costs of the next two books, the one to include the Autopsy and Manchester Machiavelli. Based on the past, and pub cost only, between \$8,000 and \$9,000.00. Because we have been doing all the work, I cannot estimate what the attendant work would be. At the moment, my credit will cover the next, I'm satisfied, and there is money due from Dell next month that may, entirely, have to go to my bank or may be enough to include something toward the \$4,000 I now owe the printer of PW (my reason, in part, for exposure on it - to seal and get some dough in. I have paid everything else off, owing only the bank and the printer. My bank debt is \$24,000.

Par 3. One of the reasons I'm going to NYC is to consult Dick, who is a publishing lawyer (general counsel, Grove, besides chr. bd. Parallax) and John's lawyer. One of the things we may sue for is the accounting I have never had. Under the contract, one was due in April. I expect the figures, if and when we get them to be very low, based on the affidavit they gave the New Orleans court. Telling the truth now might hurt them worse than by forcing an honest count. It may involve them in a perjury charge.

Par. 3 Good advice. I'll try and see him in NYC.

Page 3. I was on KGO-TV when I was there, their a.m. show. They were nice. On going out, right now I'd say at the earliest after 9/17. I've gotten little writing done on the book, expect a major development before then, and may have to be here for a little while after. I'd like the book to be in process before I go. In Calif I suspect the best time is when the colleges are back in session. Those kids have things to say (can't understand some of it, but I can hear it.).

The Popkin paragraph. When you get interested, I have some letters that may interest you. Also, that appendix of his was mine, given to him by one who didn't realize it was confidential. He raved. His wife says it was the most exciting thing in his career! Paul Hoch let Jones Harris have it and he gave it to the Pop. His needs controlled his pen. I had already written everything he had learned and much more. He could say he used carbon or that I'm a nut. I can also show you identical quote editing and the identical typo in a footnote. Such things can be accidents, but how odd it is that my book was out before his article in NY Review, of which the book is a slight enlargement. There is also a legal question: His use of my name on his cover. That is a book, not a book review.

then fight. It has been a long time, but I think the best two things about his book are a) it was published and b) the cover.

I've already sent the signed copy of your letter.

I cannot pretend to know what goes on in Kennedy circles. It is my opinion that Bobby is being imposed upon and can get badly hurt, if not ruined. I have been careful to do two things: make a record that can be cited, including to him if he was not informed; and to do nothing that could or would hurt him or be used against him. He had been hurt on this enough. He has trouble remembering maxims. One he should paste under the forelock: God protect me from my friends; I can take care of my enemies. There is no possibility of validating the official story or unsoiling also those connected with it. There is no possibility that credible, unused collateral authentication exists and is secret when the need for it is so urgent. There is little possibility he can have any first-hand knowledge of the fact and untruth falsely represented. He trusts Sheridan, which is not enough even if Sheridan were honest. Sheridan and/or NEC have been footsie with CIA in this. These are some of the reasons I think Bobby has coals under him but his feet are too tough. Soon they will burn.

The addenda make interesting reading. Now it also happens that I think the assassination should be a major campaign issue. I know everybody fears it. The man who handles it will have the press against him and the people with him and if he is a major party candidate, he cannot be denied the audience. This is a subject that lives in the guts, like worms, and it saps us all, also like worms.

I think you should know my own politics. Roosevelt made me a democrat and the Republicans keep me that way, save for those for whom I vote (not Goldwater). I cannot remember voting for a Democrat for Congress in 10 years. In our local elections, 50-50, expect when the goons fluked their way in. I straight-lined to get them out, ~~including~~ ^{secret} voting for a Republican dedicated against them. I think my beliefs are firmly and literally rooted in the constitution. In financial matters I am a practising ultraconservative. I hate debt, public and private. There are those who think me radical, as they suspect the cheese of the moon. I see no really outstanding man on the political horizon, none who I think is able or imaginative enough to escape his advisors, as JFK had started to do. Therefore, I will support the one with the least objectionable declared policies and what I believe to be the greater personal integrity. I think that by the time of that campaign, there will be no avoiding the assassination-investigation issue. I also think it cannot be a party issue, ~~either~~ ^{3/4/68} ~~it is~~ LBJ because he was the boss or the Republicans because they were the Commission majority (5-2). There is a chance it may figure in a local campaign before then. Specter is running for mayor of Phila. Are the Dem's gooks for not being in touch! Here is a man I have publicly called a liar (and done it privately also) and he is publicly silent. What more of a persona-respectable issue does an underdog need? He is a liar, and a conscious one. Also a repeater (CBS). I have shunned using this. But I am to make a speech in Phila 9/19. If I am asked a question, I'll read the proof.

John, give thought to what I've been sending you copies of. It can be powerful stuff. Especially because I am right. I think the UPI letter is an attempted bribe, to halt me. Give me a bright young lawyer and this all goes to another cloud. I have built a platform for an official forum, administrative, judicial or both. That is what we have been needing. Even if Garrison overcomes all the odds. And think, John, he can win if he is beaten in court. The facts are his way. I wish I had a copy of the N.O. book to send you. I'll try and get some proofs. The manuscript never gets delivered. Starr mailed a copy to the London Times more than two weeks ago. By today it hadn't reached Washington. ... Now there remains another solution to getting me out there: Have a couple of women's clubs hire me as a lecturer! That pays the freight, by air, and the pay is enough to cover other expenses and losses.

Hurriedly. Hal.