

10/13/67

Dear John,

It has been my understanding of the Pap smear that its great virtue is that it permitted early detection, where the cure was about 100%. Chins up; it'll come out okay. When it does, let us know!

I do not think Liebler will sue me, for the same reason he never mentions my name (and still owes me \$5.05 for WHITEWASH). There is an airtight defense: truth. Dare he risk the wider-spread truth of his, at the very best, utter incompetence?

Correction: it is not the "second Oswald" theory, but the "False Oswald".

I haven't discussed this with Jim by phone, so I know only his belief as of 5/1/67. He then considered all the appearances in New Orleans of this person using the name "Oswald" were the one and only. I think he is wrong. I have wondered about this for some time, worried a bit, and stopped both, for in the overall prosecution, which is for conspiracy not murder, does it really make any difference? I think it highly unlikely that the man who threw that spectacular Pena drunk was Lee. Marina would have known had he not been home. Seymour is only one possibility. There are others. He was also my first candidate. *But does he deserve clearance from the Dept / N COLLET?*

Do you think it possible to enlist the aid of the DJ on this project. Of course, I know better!

By the time you get this you will have read my Robert O letter to CowardM. I think it is the kind of scandal the finks will go for inasmuch as it really does not address itself to the fact of the assassination, does not in any way say the govt is wrong. I tried to phone Harv several times last evening. He did not return them. I think possibly this is his sign that I'd best read clearly. Anyway, my purpose was to give this to him. When I heard nothing, several hours later, before retiring, I sent a copy to John Starr and asked him to try and sell it. Then I made a phone call today that may have interested a major magazine. I also wanted to find out from Harve whether he wanted me on his show when I'm there, for I want to use all the time I have for a constructive purpose. I can understand how he could feel he'd better not. But I'd like to know, because that could mean I might well spend a night less in SF and that night elsewhere. Matter of fact, he and Judy had both invited me to stay with them next time I'm there. It might not be good for them. I'd not want to do anything to hurt them or for them to do for me what would hurt them. They're too nice....My Look didn't come. I got a copy in DC today and will read Robert's ...Look is incapable of right thing on this subject. It hasn't thus far, will not, and had plenty of opportunity to check their stuff out. They had less concern than a whore.

By all means let Cooke have a copy if he wants it. He may find some things there that are not in the book, whose appearance you know know of (eight days and all's wrong with the mail still). If the additions have been properly made (and I think one, a prologue, cannot be in that copy), they will have the work dated. I wrote the prologue to explain the delay, the roughness, and in it told the story of the mails and the permagnets. Because Mayer told me they might have something cooking (no pun) with Popkin, Cooke's viewing of the raw but dated ms will certainly show the kind of stuff he is getting, and whence it comes. I don't know how much time I'll have to make photocopies before I leave, but I've already made some to take with. ~~Trix~~ The rub now is not only time, but juice. Our electric service is being modernized, so until it is over we can get only dubious copies. Voltage, current, critical. If Phoebe is interested, so much the better.

I hope up to here I've been comprehensible, for I've been almost asleep. I've been wondering all evening if it is the flu shot I got this a.m. after my medical checkup (apparently okay, unless something shows up in the tests). I have one more examination (throat) 10/23. I've almost quit smoking, after a lifetime of the heaviest. I was puffing about 30-35 cigarillos a day. Now I'm down to about 2 cigars. I went out and got a third just before the local store closed, so that and the air have revived me a bit.

The only other time I can recall feeling so done in was when I finished WHITEWASH. I was pooped for two weeks then. Now I'm sleeping a little longer. I do not know whether it is exhaustion or the new place, which, despite its many problems, may be relaxing me some.

Now that you've read the book, and assuming that it hasn't been cut too heavily, what do you think would be best for TV showing out there? I-kind of favor One-The-BallWall's "Banister" report, with the pictures I have (my own) of the front and sides of the building, showing the addresses on Camp and Lafayette are the same building, perhaps the report showing Banister got the space for the CRC, a page from Schlesinger (who hadn't the remotest idea of what he had) showing the CIA organization of the CRC, and Oswald's use of 544 Camp as a return address. Perhaps a few others connected with it. For another station, that mysterious paper he armed himself with, the receipts for the printing, the FBI reports saying it wasn't Oswald who ordered it. For another, the story of the training camps, with the Ricardo reports.

If you have any suggestions, please make them. Remember two things: I am so tired my memory has begun to fail me; and once I finish a book, I try and forget it so I can concentrate on the next. Now please bear in mind that I have completed two not short books since I wrote that one. How long ago April seems!

I'll have some of my autopsy documents with me in case some of the potential backers are interested, esp ABC, which sounds very interesting, and movie people. I hope it will be that Lil can get more typing done on the offset version while I'm gone. If I can find any backing for it, BING! It goes, right away. I think this is the kind of backing Jim needs. With a little backing of my own, I can complete Manchester Mackievelli (which will have a helluva appendix) by the end of the year and begin the new one with TIGER, which I think can be a major work and one of incalculable importance.

I have't discussed it with many people, but Dick Billings, associate editor of LIFE, thinks the best help I can give Jim is to get this stuff, with the documentation, published before he goes to trial. That can do more to backstop him than all the fakery in the world. The problem remains, attention. If Phoebe wants something good for syndication, I can provide it.

Unfortunately, you now have too good an idea of my other problem: Lil's health and state of mind. She has been through the mill and is physically and emotionally exhausted, and has a few other problems, like a hiatus hernia, glaucoma, a trick knee that kicks out and downs her (and I shudder every time she is on steps), and apparently incurable, sometimes crippling headaches.

This is the third day and Parallax hasn't phoned back for the conference on the trip and the promotional arrangements. I really didn't expect them to. I wrote John a long letter about all of this last night, asking them to scratch themselves and do something and to keep a few less of MY secrets from me.

A query on O in N.O. went to another major English paper with a weekend edition today. I spent a half hour with their Washington man, from the time he wrapped the towel around himself as he left the tub (before my medical appointment), through his shave, etc.

By the way, although you've seen no credits and I didn't use it, that Minute-