

NEW ADDRESS: RT. 7, FREDERICK, MD. 21701 473-8186

10/14/67

Dear J.,

Your three of 10/12 arrived (our mail if now after 12, so I'll take the replies to town and mail them this evening.)!

Your letters to John and Rashall okay. Now let us get to the Dolan thing. First, I twice sent him copies of PW, each with a letter so saying. He could, by now, afford to make a few comments on the post office, on his own. Hal knows when because I told him and I can dig out and copy carbons. First package was multiple, with one for Jim Eason, then at KNEW.

Aside: the ms is not complete by the prologue and Garrison's foreword. Prologue where I hide P.O., with photocopies of receipts, story of undelivered, insured ms.

There were some things I felt I could not tell Dolan about the SEP, but if you think he won't be bored, go ahead. First of all, let me tell you what I did tell him (not on the air, for this was the night before-remember that three-hour lag).

I had gone to New Orleans not to learn what Garrison had but to do two things<sup>2</sup> help in any way I could and testify before the grand jury. Even those very brief investigations I conducted were for Garrison, for my book was written and, so far as I then knew, scheduled for crash publication. Dolan expected that I make an effort to dig Garrison's case out of him. This I didn't and haven't. That belongs in court, not in the mind of some high-priced writer too lazy to do his own digging.

From my work in this field, I knew Phelan was the SEP expert on crime in New Orleans, having done a major piece (The Vice Man Cometh). In writing his subsequent Garrison piece he did mention Ferrie without mention of his connection with Marcellio-Mafia. To me, this was a sign of the bias in the approach to the article. You tell me one reason consistent with honor for omitting it! It is only one of the things he left out, things I knew he had to know about. Next, on the central issue, of the omission said to exist in Moomoo's report on his first Russo interview: there were things I could not say that I knew and there were things I did say. Under the pressure of such work and events, it is more than possible to leave the central thing out. As you go through the one you'll find the proof that the Cuban Revolutionary Council was organized by the CIA. I worked with such speed-without outline or note-that I just forgot it. Now I actually noted that within a week or two after the appearance of Schlessinger's book. The notes, including it, for TIGER, were all typed up before I began WWII. But I did leave it out. I therefore know that, if there was such an omission, it could be for such reasons. There remained the question of fact: did Perry Russo tell Sciambra or did he not? On this I have, but you cannot use it, the best source: Russo. He says he did, at the first meeting. Phelan and his photographer, Herron, checked back before they wrote the piece and he told them he had. They just left it out. After Herron's piece was out, Herron and Russo had a long phone conversation about it, and Russo maintained there never was any question, that he had told Moomoo (or is it Moomoo?) right off the bat, and when he checked.

I have also had personal experiences with the SEP that were both disappointing and educational. Those also I had in mind in evaluating the dependability of Phelan's piece. In early May 1965 an editor of the Post told me they were interested in serializing Whitewash. They got me an agent to deal with. Ten weeks later he resigned, saying

no US publisher would then touch the subject, and reporting that the Post had declined because the book did not lend itself to such treatment. This is nonsense. It was built that way, as I knew, having done the building myself.

Then, toward the end of 1968, I saw Mike Mooney, associate editor and the expert on this subject. He was pleasant, told me they had a pile of dough tied up in Richard (Founding Father) Whalen, a topflight investigative reporter. Whalen, Mike said, would really did it all out. He was then in Dallas and momentarily would have the truth by the scruff. After months, poor, well-paid, competent Whalen was back in Washington, facing a deadline and with nothing. Mooney told me that he didn't want me to go to Whalen with what I had, that he was paying Whalen not for feedback but for what he wanted him alone to dig out. He also told me that he told Whalen nobody knew the subject like me (he had found eight others using my materials, even paragraph structures, he said), and if he had trouble to look me up. Mooney also had a ms of WWII. The Post wanted to be out before Look's Manchester serialization.

Finally, Whalen, then back in DC, phoned me. He and his wife came up, we spent until 9 O'clock that night with me helping him (for it turns out that despite his well-earned great reputation, he also doesn't understand English when it is plain and simple). I persuaded himself to limit himself to a single aspect, like the autopsy, with what little he felt he had to have, and that I could probably supply what he didn't have. He didn't even understand what he did have! I both gave him materials and straightened him out, in two steps: first, at my place, then in his office at the Institute of Strategic Studies. I waited about a week to see if I had taught him enough and then visited him. He was still bewildered. I then said, okay, make a deal with the Post for them to give me full credit, and then say what you want. In my presence he then and there phoned Mooney, told him he was stumped, that I could help him and would give him what he wanted in return for nothing but credit. They then talked about how wonderful my attitude, how conscientious my work, how thorough (especially as compared with Lane and Epstein), and the deal was made. I was led to believe that they would say that whether or not one agreed with me, anyone knowing the field could not but be impressed with the thoroughness and honest of my work, that if what had been printed, I had first printed everything of significance, etc. I then offered to take them both to the Archives and show them things in the Zap movies they hadn't seen. They made a date. I said I'd be there, with my own editor and projector so they could see it in 8 mm. I was there at the appointed time, and lo! had had upped the time and were almost finished, having brought their own projector (16mm!) from New York and seen and understood none of those things I wanted to show them. They never did see the 8mm version, but they were satisfied and I passed off this apparent effort to bypass me as what it might have been, an accident.

Three or four days before the Post issue went to press I stopped off at Dick's on the way home. Everybody downstairs was shshshshshs! Daddy's in the house. The great man invited me up for a few moments. He was nearing the end. And how proud. He had actually written three or four thousand words in a day (Hell, I often do more than that before breakfast!). Either before I left then or the next time I saw him which was right before the issue came out, he said perhaps I might not like some of it and he sure hope (he said it like he also prayed) I'd not do with him as I did with Nebel (see WWII). Then the masterpiece came out. Now he had all sorts of people opening all sorts of doors for him. He knew and told me things that had not been printed -and weren't. Like when who gave the pictures and X-rays to Bobby, who showed Arlen Specter the back picture he saw, when and where (Tom Kelley, at the May re-enactment). All sorts of things that certainly should have been used and weren't. Then, the credit to me, less in space that to Lane and Epstein, who hadn't helped him a bit and who he professed to dislike and be contemptuous of. Just what kind of sweet thing did the SEPost say of the man who for not a single cent of income had opened up the contents of countless hours of original work, shown them all the documents they couldn't get on their own, made sense of what they didn't understand when they saw it? They said I was a disgruntled chicken farmer who claimed his chickens had been damaged by military helicopters! (The truth is that this was the reason I had years earlier stopped raising

chickens, that I had filed and won a precedent decision even though I had a city lawyer who didn't interview a witness before trial and the judge said he didn't believe me. That decision was affirmed when used in a Western P. case that went to the Supreme Court. It was the basis of that case. The govt filed an appeal in our case, asked for and got several extensions, then decided against appealing my case. Congress has held several series of hearings and come up with no solution. Remember I told you there were several other things I thought would make movies I had laid aside to work on the assassination: This is one of them. I call it EVERYTHING HAPPENED, a combination Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House and The Egg and I.) The net effect of the careful prose was to say that I was agin the govt and this is why I was attacking it on the assassination.

Well, I didn't do to Whalen what I did to Nebel. The net effect of his inadequate and less than honest story was positive, so I settled for that. I did these- after ask a single, simple favor of him. His source on the Kennedys getting the pictures and X-rays was a Treasury undersecretary. He had admirals on the staff of his institute opening doors for him and his own contacts and the name of the Post. I asked that he do for me what he should have done for himself: get the Customs (Treasury) arrest record on Loran Hall, in Florida, right after the assassination. He refused.

At this point, I don't care if you do tell Whalen the whole things. He'll then understand why, if my own knowledge that with this kind of pressure what has already been conveyed to the boss personally could be left out of a detailing memo, was not enough to make me question the Post's undeviating devotion to the whole truth and unvarying integrity, my own experience was. He may also recall that I also told him I thought the place for that to be aired was in court, that too much that belonged in court was already outside it, that I had conducted my own investigation (and by now he should know its extent and magnitude) and it convinced me that Garrison was right. He will see what I have that was independent of Garrison and his work (how much can be said the other way:).

May I also point out that after he really clobbered me, assailed my integrity, what remained of it and my confidence in my judgement of his was such that I did not alter a single word I said of him (and could I have expressed a higher opinion in something that endures, a book). He will also see that a book written entirely after this and after he failed to respond to a single one of my letters and had not tried to make good the damage he had done me, I nonetheless wrote similarly of him in PSOT MORTEM. Further, after all of this, when I was the main speaker at the annual convention of the Ohio AP editors, I spoke of him similarly. If Joe does not believe that others can make honest mistakes, I do. My opinion of him is unchanged. I think he towers in his field, is a great force for good, is one of the few who have picked up the fallen torch of freedom of the press, and our country is in his and their debt. This is what I said in Ohio. Text on request.

So, without violating confidences I then felt I had to maintain, I could not say more than I did. I fear his mind was closed, that he didn't really listen to what I did say. I believe that had he had an open mind, had Phelaff and Aynesworth not conked him (frankly, I didn't think anyone could), had he just thought out what I had said, he'd have been at least partly satisfied.

Remember, I'm the cat who dug up the fact that Ferrie had actually threatened the President's life (Assassination: "A Colloquial Expression"), so I knew, from the FBI's mishandling, that such a thing had happened, even if the FBI was careful to hide when and where. I'll give him that FBI report, if he wants it. For that matter, he need only ask for whatever of the documents he wants, as you know. If I can get the electricity up to snuff and find the time and have enough 3M paper, I intend to bring just about all of them with me. I think he should also, among other things, ponder "Checked Out And Found Clean", chapter 9. If he wants, I might be able to do an additional show for him on what I had that I didn't use!

If Joe taped that call-he didn't air it - he might go back and listen to it. He will find that I did say, simply, that I had had my own unhappy experiences with the SEPoet that gave me enough ground to question anything they printed, particularly when that writer omitted the to-me vital link of Ferrie to the mafia and he was the Post's mafia-in-New-Orleans expert.

How ironic it is that it is perhaps a surplus of what he questioned, integrity, that leads to his feeling!

One little gilding, as I believe I invited him to do: let him call Bob Scott, WNAO-TV, WRKO, Boston (direct newsroom line 617-266-0146). Bob, who you will remember as my reporter friend who spent a long time with Alvin Desoboeuf in the witness room in New Orleans during the Andrews trial, will tell him that Desoboeuf told Scott, freely and knowing he is a reporter, that no effort was made to corrupt and intimidate him. All he was asked to do was tell the whole truth.

Subject to your approval, I will do more. I've never told the story of how NBC tried to plant bad information in the Garrison investigation from naive, everybody-trusting me. I can tell that, bring the tape I made with permission, even the handwritten note of instructions from Richard Rowley. I'd rather stick, if he airs me, to the book, but if he wants to tape other things, I'll stay as long as he wants. You see, this also had happened before Dolan phoned me. It happened beginning April 28 and continued until the night of May 1. Townley even drove me to Jim's home the night of April 30, so I could-and did-deliver what he had given me. If Garrison isn't paranoid about the press, he is otherwise insane.

That dossiers bit excites! I can guess your source, given two guesses.

Afterthought: if he wants, give him this letter. Then let him see me what he will. I will give him my source that I would not above, but only in person. I did, when I was in New Orleans, satisfy myself about Phelan. I knew what I was telling Dolan to be true. He will have to promise to maintain my confidence, that is all.

If he wants to make and keep a copy of the unedited ms, okay. I do not know what Parallax did to it.

On the classified ads, okay. I have just gotten a letter from a 72-year-old San Antonio fan. Raymar is my Texas "distributor". He tells me he has had his bookstore order PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH, and that in September they told him that after a month the order had not been filled. I'd never have thought this of Raymar. You told me Elder had a supply. Either he doesn't or Raymar got more copies than they were supposed to. They returned 296 out of 1,000 ordered! Pickwick in LS, aside from Elder, would have taken more than that. See now why I kept asking my friends to check the bookstore and to have them order?

Dolan can still do something about it, if he wants. He set San Francisco afire on WHITEWASH in the end of June 1966. He can do it again, by phone, after he reads PW. I have more since I wrote that. LIFE is going to do a story (spoke to Dick Billings yesterday) on the unseen pictures. Again, I do not expect credit-why should I now when I've never gotten it before\* but it comes from my work, published and unpublished. Sprague is following along behind me (brilliantly) and he also is keeping LIFE posted. Dolan can scoop the whole thing. Hal may have made a copy of the Hughes picture, FBI exhibit 29. He just returned it. I'll send my only copy to Joe if he wants it and will return it. I'll send him the copies of the actual reports, too, if he wants them. Because no one has done anything with PW, he can have an additional scoop, for it is all new, still. We can say they can get the books from me or they can order them from their bookstores. Or, we can take a telephone number (Hal can probably get some one to man it). I wish he would. What I build up it would be for my getting out there. It would also help me pay for the book. I still owe for all of it. He could also undo some of the damage he has done me, whether or not

his intentions were innocent and pure. He hurt me and my books no end, and I have towering debts.

Let me tell you the rest about Billings: In late May or early June I gave him copies of some of my autopsy documentation. It excited him. I have turned over a lot of other stuff to him. I have offered to let him see the documents behind the book. I told him, briefly, what they are. He is coming down here to go over them. The result could be enough to eliminate the risk of printing the book now. I know the odds are against it. But, I trust everyone. One of the problems really is that these people are all high-paid, full of respect for their own abilities (witness their positions and incomes) and have failed to find in the same place what I did. Professionally, they eat too well toenjoy crow.

This is longer and has taken longer than I had time for. You will have to puzzle out the typos. I have a number of other letters to write and get to town to mail so you and others, including my British agent, can get them promptly. Unlike Whalen and his 3,000 word output, I haven't even shaved yet today and I began before the sun was up. Tonight I'm taking my wife OUT. We're breaking the fast I didn't keep with new friends, neighbors. If anything isn't clear, bounce it back.

On your approach to your friend Lee, when you speak to him, tell him this includes what will follow, and that, in turn, includes many insides, including the autopsy, with sensational things no one has yet guess there, including Bobby Kennedy material that is no serious reflection on him but is on others. Again, I'll give you (and Joe, if he has off-the-air time) details in person. We'd best have long nights if you make good arrangements for the days!

Sincerely,