

Dear Steve,

Tried to call Jim last night. Left word. He did not return call. Got Jim Alcock on the phone today and he, physically, put Jim on. He promised to phone you through Art from a clear phone and he made a date for me to phone him from one tonight. I leave in a few minutes to do it. I think I gave him to understand, through the circumlocutions, what we wanted to know of him. And I do know he promised to phone you.

A friend in New York has borrowed the Stanley J. Marks book, "Murder Most Foul", for me. It was sold by the Kaxoo Bookstores, which recently have been declining orders and returning money. Can Art get a copy for me, please? I have to return this soon, want to read it, and am just snowed under with a real stack of mail that I must answer and now, with my wife's incapacity, I must also be the shipping, mailing and billing depts.

I have a wire and a letter from the Reseda school and/or boys. When I work my way down to it I'll send you copies. It doesn't make sense. I hung up on Lifton Thursday night when he insisted on trying to shout me down, never giving me a chance to respond to whatever immateriality he most recently advanced, but not before he made it very clear that he was involved. It is he, he said, who had the boys include the line that the other side did not cancel out.

I do hope you have the time to grab everything that was offered and copy it as rapidly as possible. I have initiated further checks at the Archives on what we were interested in out there, what developed, etc., and have ordered copies of the appropriate documents, assuming they exist.

And I am anxious for Fred to finish his work. I spoke to Dick Billings, who says he did not try and influence Hall, that LIFE now projects no other writing on the subject, certainly not to clobber Jim, hence it must be the LA Times and I can now only wonder about our long meeting with Cohen. I phoned him Friday night, for he asked me to when there was something new. He did not respond. I hope I do not regret not making a tape recording, but Hall was specific that there would be a clobber series, and if it is not LIFE, it will be the Times.

Please excuse haste. Tell Steve I'm reporting the Colls bit to Jim if I get him tonight. I am anxiously awaiting his report.

Best to all,