

Dear Doug,

10/20/95

When you repeated the account of why Mailer wrote his Monroe book and his one supposedly on Oswald at first I thought you were saying what he'd said about his Monroe book only. It was only after you left that I realized that what you quoted him as saying fits very well into what I developed at the end of ~~the~~ ^{the} book I've written. So, when you've the time, I'll appreciate as full an account of that as you can provide. You had a source, you told me about when it was, perhaps the occasion, things like that. I have already made the case that if Random House had not signed a contract and given him an advance they'd never have published and made such an effort with so trashy a book and that if he had any self-respect at all no writer would submit such a book, unless his failure to do that would require the return of the advance he had already spent. Earlier in the book I went into Mailer's debt to a publisher and the monthly drain on him of all the alimonies he has to pay to all those former wives. So his moment of aberrational honesty fits perfectly.

I was surprised, as I should not have been, about the COPA award. Judge had told me but in what looked like a form letter, addressed to "dear friend," and all I'd looked at was to skim the program.

If I'd read those letters I'd have written and explained why I would not be there and expressed thanks.

And I'd have been prepared to say more and better than I did as you were about to leave.

I hope it was adequate.

I was tiring when you left and I was able to sleep longer last night.

And I was a bit concerned ^{ed} when I learned that you were going to have that distance on the beltway that was strange to you ^{and it} ~~are~~ rush hour on it. Californians have their own experiences on crowded highways but on that one there is so often the unexpected it can present special hazards to those not used to it and having to keep their eyes open for signs as well as unpredictable traffic. That is why I was concerned about Hal leaving in time for that same rush hour with much of it after dark and with a little more distance than you had.

I told you about the case I'd put together on the impossibility, from the official evidence alone, of Oswald having been the sixth floor assassin in the major part of what was edited out for Case Open. That will, as I did ~~not~~ think to tell you, be available to you., through Hal. I have another California friend who will be here several days next week. He had asked to be able to read the very rough and entirely un-edited manuscript. It happens that I had the wrong kind of printout, single-space on continuous, perforated paper, and I offered to lend it to him. When Hal expressed an interest I told him I'd ask this man, Bill Mills, to give it to Hal after he reads it.

Bill has a security service at Hughson. He also has much to read and little time for reading. I can ask him to lend it to Hal first and Hal can make notes for you or copy off what you can use. *Or, do you want to read it first?* I think that adds much to the case you make for an earlier shot. For that you may want to get what I cannot now find for you that I told you about, that handwritten Secret Service note that accompanied the dub of the Zapruder film sent to Washington the night of the assassination. It was in the Commission's files. I do not now recall whether in WW II I identified the number of that file. If you read what I wrote about Zapruder in WW you'll find the source for his saying that he had believed the shot came from over his right shoulder.

I do encourage you to read and read carefully NEVER AGAIN! and to feel free to use what you can from it. Here and there you should find what you can use. I especially refer you to the Dolce part and to what you can find under Simmons, Ronald. In what I say about those tests at Aberdeen, and this fits with what Dolce said very much, it will direct you to his testimony. I mentioned it first in WW, as you'll see if you look for it. Use the index under Aberdeen proving Grpunds or Edgewood Arsenal.

I have not heard of Dolce's death. He must be quite old. All I told Chip Selby other than what he could say is that he lived in the Palm Beach area so he may still have a phone if you want to speak to him after you read NEVER AGAIN!

You may also find useful what I wrote about Posner and the theory he has on the shooting, in the ms. Including that he stole it so carefully USIA awarded him the copyright on the Failure Analysis work. Also you may be able to use its letter to me almost all of which is in Case Open.

I do not know the detail you intend but you may also be able to use the scientific testing on the curbstone patching that I think also is in Case Open. I have that letter, of course, but now cannot retrieve it from the basement files.

I do think developing as complete a case as you can is worth the effort and hope you have the time and the interest for that. It could make a small book and that could be an important one. Especially with your work and the pictures you can use from it on the Alvarez mythology and Jattimer's. Feel free, if you'd like, to use what I have on Jattimer in Pest Mortem. Not a peep from him about it in 20 years! You can duplicate my FOIA request of the now I think ^{energy} ~~energy~~ department, then ERDA, and the office out there as I recall. Those are historical records within the law and regulation and cannot be discarded or destroyed without Archives assent. They have them still. I'd like a duplicate of that tape for Hood, if you can find time to make it, along with anything you might add to it. ...If you think I can help in other ways, ask...Glad to see you both again, sorry that could not make it...You could call your book "The Magic Bullet."

Best,

Harold