

6/9/67

Dear Jim,

Glad to see you are situated. I think you'll probably be happier there.

Now you know what you knew anyway: MS is a fink. Someday in the future I'm going to do a book, Correspondence With Finks, or Letters To Finks. I've got a pretty good collection. I've got a long-standing challenge out to debate Smith, face to face or in writing in any journal of his choice. Tick them off, I've challenged them all. None accept, which means I can get more writing done. Eventually they'll face those challenges.

Smith did send out a partial correction, which made it worse because, in saying he was in back of the Presidential car (which does not account for his so-clear recollection of seeing JFK slink onto the floor) and not ~~accounting~~ correcting his certainty, that the shots came from behind him and to his rear, he is in the position of saying they came from the sheriff's building. That is still not the worst. I've got notes on the rest waiting for him, which is why he will not debate. He is so unscrupulous he knows he is a fink.

I haven't read the scavengers and will not, unless Schiller agrees to face me on Jack McKinney's show. His daytime produced phoned me two days ago and asked if I'd do it last night. I agreed, but not until after the 25th. I have a hunch Schiller will stay busy and will not now accept. I do not think he'll face me. I've asked Jack, since radio is so admirably suited to the spoken word, to use the record and let me play stop the music on every lie, with Schiller there to defend. He is one of the most corrupt and most dangerous because he gets away with a pretense of being a decent guy. Bell did back out on CIA WHITWASH: OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS. My problem is that I am not a Mormon. If I had two more wives like my ownder or five run-of-the-mill, I could do everything. Retyping that for offset is beyond her exhausted capacity. I think I have a deal cooking with a very nice guy with a small house. If that doesn't go through, I've got a deal with a major magazine to supply my talents as a consultant in exchange for a sum equal to what a commercial retyping job on the ms, for offset, will cost. Then we'll still get it out as a private printing.

Almost finished the second spinoff from WHITWASH III (the NO book is the first). Tentatively titled PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITWASH: SUE RIGGS KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PICTURES. It should be on sale in a month, even though the writing is not yet completed. It will have 150-200 pages of photographic reproductions of FBI reports, etc. You, Joe and Derve will get the first available copies. When I asked my three largest wholesalers how many copies they'd need for the first month's anticipated business (so I can print more but bind only what I need immediately, in the hope of getting an index in it), they ordered enough to more than pay the estimated printing bill. Very encouraging. Raynar, my west-coast wholesaler, want 1000. They'll go by truck. I'll air copies to you fellows. When you speak to ^{Joe} ask him if he'd like to ask his sponsor Paul Elders if he'd like me to air freight enough copies to hold him until Raynar's surely gets there, not less than eight days from DC to Bonzovia, with luck. If he does, I'd like to include copies for you fellows in that package to to save the time we will not have. Could you pick them up at Elders? If so, I'll include other press copies, if some one will give me a list. That should take, depending on the size of the package, less than four days, to SF.

CIA WHITWASH is quite a book. I wrote the history before it happened. I did the book before I met Garrison, before I went to N.C. It is independent of his investigation, says that I wrote in what was coming out in the papers as I wrote from my own materials. PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITWASH will not make Hoover happy.

Glad to do a show with you any time. I'm busy the last three days of next week, but in all probability I could do this before I have to go to DC. I'll also let you know anticipated pub date photo book. Best to you all,

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Dear Hal:

Two items of news: I have a job at the same station as Joe Dolan; and, I got an answer from Merriman Smith about his dual location in the Dallas motorcade.

First, I do a "phone-in" show for the five hours just before Joe Dolan comes on (1:00-6:00 our time; 4:00-9:00 a.m. your time), and one of these mornings I'd like to chat with you for a half-hour or so at about 8:00 or 8:30 your time.

Second, here is a verbatim report on M. Smith's reply. He sent back my original letter (I sent you a copy), and in the upper right-hand corner he wrote:

"DEAR MR. EASON: BEING THE WORLD'S WORST LETTER-WRITER, I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA WHETHER I EVER ANSWERED THIS. WHICH IS AT LEAST HONEST. THE ERROR OR DISCREPANCY TO WHICH YOU REFER WAS CAUGHT LONG BEFORE THE ARTICLE WAS FOR RELEASE, AND MY GEOGRAPHIC POSITION CORRECTED. SOME PAPERS IGNORED THE CORRECTION AND, MAN, DID I EVER GET LETTERS! THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST.

s/ M.S.
Merriman Smith"

Aside from the fact that I wrote him on January 30th, and his letter to me was postmarked "ALEXANDRIA, VA., MAY 10th" (giving him over three months to answer!), if you'll re-read my letter you'll notice he didn't even answer my one question! (Could you explain how you could be in front of and in back of the President's car?) All in all, a pretty shabby reply after a long wait, I'd say.

Now, then, what's new with you? I recently read The Scavengers -- what about that? Harv Morgan says Dell backed out, now what'll you do? Tell me how it is.

Jim
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