

1/28/76

Dear Ernie,

Sorry about the long delay in responding to your 11/20. Take it you are still nestled in the very bosom of BBC; they've taken you off the teat; or you are working there. Contrary to what you say, they are the only TV interviewers who were ever considerate enough to pay me a few buck for the time they tool. Gerald Priestland was always considerate and friendly. If you see him, please give him my regards.

The day you wrote was A DAY for me, which is perhaps the best way of leading into a convoluted explanation for the long silence. It was the day after the night that persuaded David Belin to come out two days later for a new investigation. Kicking and screaming he was until he saw he had no real choice. The details of that exploit, which began with a little planning; a successful press conference which tipped Belin off (I knew I had this debate scheduled at a university) about Post Mortem, about perjury and about subornation; and then dumping a case of his subornation and suppression on him, will have to wait. Only he's a hardhatted psycho whose head is so hard the hat is superfluous. That day I spent the morning with James Earl Ray. By the time I left the jail I needed help onto the plane and was loneOloaded on. Met by a wheelchair. That morning I could not get shoes on. Fortunately I'd had packed some soft moccassins for me to use as bedroom slippers. perhaps without telling me foresightedly fearing in silence what did happen.

Without the well-known side benefits I have the well-known phlebitis. I held out against the pain, not knowing what cause it, long enough to get the negatives of Post Mortem shot and on the plane to the printer. It may amuse you to give you one detail of ~~the~~ the hospitalization. The Belin debate was scheduled for 10/22. When I knew I'd be unable to keep it I offered a substitute Vanderbilt would not accept. When I was hospitalized 10/15 the lecture bureau phoned about the moment I was bedded. I told them I'd call back after the examination. They were impatient and phoned agein just as the rectal examination began. Could I take the phone then?

I'm limited in what I can do by this condition and a determination to take as much case as seems indicated. I get a normal night's sleep now and when I can't sleep I stay abed and rest anyway, as during a rtong wind with a fortunately light snow last night. I work but I can't reall produce. If I were in a mood I'd resume writing where I had to leave off when the mail came. This came to pass through unconscionable medical neglect. The care I'm not getting is of the same nature and I'm seeing a new doctor the 9th. I saw an internist in NYC 1/17 and the questions he asked cued me in all I needed. So, I'm uneasy from the uncertainty and the fear that something is developing and not being treated. However, despite everything I'm strating a new book and letting other things go except for moments like this when I'm too uneasy to write. That is when I attack the accumulated stack. I've October filing not filed and other letters unanswered.

Sarry things turned out for you as they did. All that work... Be glad to get dubs. Please date them because they'll record an accurate forecast. It is not an ego-trip. I want young people of the future to see what can be done if the mind can be unfettered. As I remember it, the tapes might hold some of that. I think your letter suggests as much. Computer-dependence and specialization have destroyed the training of young minds for simple analysis. And it is simple.

Nobody will touch Post Mortem. It is that explicit, definitive and irrefutable. We've recovered about 1/3 of the printing and mailing costs with the interest I've been able to generate with a simply flyer I did the weekend I returned from the hospital. Sales are not spectacular but are regular.

Your people were crazy. A decent movie would have made a fortune here alone.

My writing situation is this, aside from the daily overhead: I can sit for only so long at at time then must move around. Sitting is with the feet horizontal. To be able to do this I had to invent a typewriter table, pedestal-type, with a large pipe to support the surface and ball bearings for casters. This I can straddle without being spread-eagled. And violate orders and use tools. (On anti-coagulent.) Walking is part of the treatment bat this time of the year weather precludes it. Not the cold.

So I'm going to have to get my walking done inside, some of the time and better every day in addition to the outside. So, I'm going to get a smaller machine than the TC55, use it then and when I travel. (Trying to make notes on three rough plane trips in a single day and then returning from NYC on the Metroliner convinced me. Then I have to get someone besides Lil to transcribe until the end of tax season at least. And I'll write a detailed, documented work of non-fiction (King assassination, not Ray) while pacing the floor with blanks for direct quotes and documentation to be filled in on transcription. I don't know how it will work. I may wind up using the TC 55 in the house and the subminerature outside...If you come here and can pick up a Hermes Rocket with pica type I'd welcome it before you return. My eyes can use a larger type and infrequently now I could use the small machine when I travel. Understand it is durable. ...Sorry about the typos. Finex presses. Hope your situation is good and that you do get here. Best regards,

14 CAVENDISH ROAD  
LONDON NW6  
20th November 1975.

Dear Harold,

it's been a rough six months. I fell out with the producers of that film. They refused to abandon their philo-Garrison line or give me and anyone else with whom I would want to work a reasonable guarantee over how our material would be used when it came down to the final cut.

*open*

We parted company after I had proposed a treatment which was, in essence, a pretty good film version of our conversations, some reading I had done as a follow up and a hurried talk with Sylvia. The main argument of the treatment was that the circumstances of the JFK assassination had been fictionalised into incomprehensibility. The only certainties remaining were the reasons for a complete lack of faith in the institutions involved in the investigations. The process by which they deserved such disrespect was worth following through a number of examples aided by the availability of certain crucial documents. The examples would on the whole be concerned with what happened to the physical evidence. Only the possibilities of the identity of the conspirators could be drawn from recent allegations and arguments which were on the whole a recycling of previous postulations of possibilities. Whilst these possibilities attracted to the assassinations great deal of interest, their contemplation did little to repair the real damage to American society. If anything, they did more damage. The crucial aspects of the confusions remaining could only be adumbrated by an investigation of the physical evidence and sifting out the generations of misconceptions created by the investigating agencies. In the time available, it was impossible to also deal with the RFK and MLK assassinations although the latter was certainly instructive in terms of how an investigation of the JFK murder might properly be mounted even at this stage. Depending on developments in that case in the next year, this could be done as a means of simplifying the explanation of the problems created in the JFK assassination.

*3M*

Since they haven't paid me for the work I did as background for this treatment (i.e. spending a while with you and then going thru the tapes) and were not prepared to give me the guarantees I asked for in relation to any further developments of this material or iron clad assurances of the line between information for background and for use, I told them to go fuck themselves.

Ernie  
Mc

TV

I have been doing some other work since and am still going through the tapes and transcribing them from time to time. Apart from the purpose for which they were made, they are pretty educational in other areas and there are some very funny exchanges. I haven't finished them yet but when I do, I'll get them done for your oral pleasure at least. It's the least I can do.

I must apologise for taking so long in passing on this really shitty news about the movie. It isn't that I have been expecting the coming of a new age or hustling up some viable alternatives. The welcome waiting for me in terms of money and work shoved me into a state of deep depression and I told myself that the last thing I wanted to think about was that film.

Perhaps that was too hasty a scamper to judgement. It seems that way in retrospect. I certainly should have felt the force of an obligation to you and let you know what was going on. Fuckit, I'm sorry.

I was going to ask how you felt about a couple of ideas I recently got round to having after all this time. I also had some questions I thought you might be amused by.....The reason I'm not going into any detail is that the BBC have taken me to their bosom and are sending me on a brief trip to the States. Whilst the British Broadcasting Corporation is not known for its generosity, it's very non-investigative work and I should be able to get down to see you and Lil at some point provided that it fits in with your schedules.

I'll call when I get near you part of the world, huh.

Onward and Out

*Ernie Eban*

Ernie Eban