

Dear Bud,

12/27/76

My agent did respond promptly enough but his letter did not reach me until today.

I took the time to write him further, if as always in too much haste with the hope that the corrupting influence of having made money on and gotten away with a complete fake like McDonald and his b.s. would not lead them to believe they can pull this kind of profitable obscenity indefinitely or that they would or could be forever immune.

If I did not tell you earlier - I think I did but I've forgotten - I was consulted by a book and a publication publisher on the b.s. I remembered then that both you and Bob Smith had also consulted me about it. You may recall the nature of the changes in this supposed work of non-fiction. And more it was not necessary for me to go into to meet the obligations I undertook. I could have done much more.

I do believe the day for this kind of thing is past, as it should have been long ago and would have been under other circumstances. I do believe there is danger to any publisher who tries to pull it. One of the dangers to Zebra is obvious: my agent places a solid work elsewhere. If I get a publisher I can promote a book and I have found nobody who was undertaken a second confrontation with me. I'll ruin McDonald if we ever tangle. I have not felt the need. It would not do Zebra any good. Meanwhile, there is going to be a new political leadership and if there is any pressure from on top those below the pinnacle will be looking for goats. It just is not a good time for fake books. Any book that goes farther than I am willing to on the King assassination is a fake. I have everything but another "Saul," who is about as close as you can get to Raul. I will have that without a fake name and without fake evidence. And with a truthful account, not one that is not and in fact is impossible.

It is not easy to see how anything else could be in Grossman's mind. If it existed it would not be secret and a book would not be looking for a publisher. Nor would there be a need for an investigation.

The Fauntroy-committee report stuff is also b.s., and this may be of interest to O'Neill. Jim has a notion the supposed source might be Avery. On the face the story is without either credibility or any basis for a remote possibility of it.

I'll also be including a clipping from a Phila. paper. What he is doing to the Congress is vintage Sprague. Be glad that Lane has taken public credit for his getting the job. (He had a little help.)

Lane is digging himself a deeper hole, so I encourage complete detachment. He can't have too much help on that.

I'm sorry it is not possible for me to lay court to Geller or his publishing people. I am confident that if they could escape the captivity of the profitability of the McD. fakery they'd recognize a better formula, quite aside from the other realities and problems they would be making for themselves. I'm sure Jim will agree that they have a unique publishing possibility with a greater profit potential than McDonald. If you can speak to them, not through an agent, it might be helpful. I would go to New York after the 5th.

Ray is not dead, as Oswald is. So a fake would have to run the risk of what he'll do. After McDonald Zebra is a mark. If Ray tries and fails it still will take a remarkably successful book not to be a net loss. If they do a fake book that Ray wants to sue over I'd have trouble not helping him. Not only from self-interest, either.

This before the feeb's have to make an overt move. When they do...

Have a good year,