

3/18/72

Dear Mary,

The mail was late today. Lil is abed with one of her real bad headaches, so instead of lunch this hasty response to your 3/16. As other enclosures or what I have already written indicates, I guess I had some kind of ESP. I feared your long silence was at least in part due to some kind of trouble. I do hope Buck mends well and permanently. But if he does have to stay there, please let me know. I have to be in St. Louis 5/7, and if it is at all possible if he is still there I'd like to stop off on the way back.

There are some things I know of Lattimer that I have not included in the epilogue to FI, which Lil hasn't had a chance to read, leave alone retype. Like being in a hospital unit with Shaw in WW II. If they knew each other then, it has to have other meaning, for L's position in the JFK case predates Jim's charge against ~~him~~^{Shaw}. I also know it can't be connection with Marshall or any Kennedy. I have often wondered if he had any connection with anyone on the Commission or in Justice, because his "work" is rubbish and his politics are from the lower depths of Belmont, Mass. Of course, I can't ask you to violate an oath. But I do know when it was decided to grant him access, how he learned about it, what else was and may still be in the works. I do not know the basis of selecting him or what interests me much, how Marshall dredged him up, on whose recommendation and based on what inquiry.

With his interest in guns and McCloy's in hunting, I'd wondered about that connection, or as a connection. I know something about his memberships but haven't traced them looking for others. I'd pondered who could have been his patient, and while his politics are opposite Warren's, I have been fascinated that he could speak as indignantly about any questioning of W. He'd more likely be Hoover's pal. Anyway, although I have done much on this, without any offer of help from any recognized critic and minor help from a couple of kinds, it seems that I have no idea what you are talking about or you have hidden it so well that if I do I am not aware of it.

So, it will have to wait. Maybe there will be an epilogue to an epilogue? But after Lil does type this, the burdens on us are so great it will have to be world-shaking for me to add it, assuming that there is a chance of ever getting it printed.

If you have read the work, by the way, I'm surprised that it has not damned on you as it did on me in going over it to make changes in the first two parts and corrections in what is now the third and in the writing of the epilogue that I have come as close as anyone honestly can to penning a defense of Dallas. Not that this would or could make any difference to those down there loaded and holding onto their loads. It is rather strange, for if you remember, my first book opens with a defense of the Birchers, with whom I have no sympathy, against the way they were treated by the Commission. I have often wondered if this, in part, has caused the special animosity toward me of the so-called eastern liberals.

Sorry about Buck, but hope it and he turn out well. Best to Sue, Arch & family, your boys, and anyone I've forgotten. By the way, if you get a chance to ask those abnkers why they didn't show, I'd be interested. I found myself wondering if it is because they saw Sue pick me up. If so, the hell with them! She and I may disagree on many things, but she was sweet and kind to me and I like her. Oh yes, Al and wife, Golz. So many by now!

Best,

March 16, 1972

Dearest Lil and Harold -

We are finally back home and I am back in the office. We have had Buck back in Memphis in the hospital. They may have to re-do the surgery they did last July. It isn't holding...

Bob Smith is supposed to be here Saturday. We are anxious to have him and I hope getting back "on the case" will relax me. I have been so sick myself, with worry over Buck and just generally run down that I am looking forward to long evenings going over the different things Bob Smith will be full of by the time he gets here.

Harold, put a little note to yourself in your Dr. Lattimer file to ask me about my information on him at some later date... For the present, I am sworn to secrecy about it but have been promised a release on my oath at a future date. It would explain his efforts to uphold The Warren Report...

My desk is piled high but I did want to drop you a line at the first opportunity to sit down at a typewriter.

Love to you both,

Mary

