

2/1/69

Dear Maggie,

Only the infinite capacity of New Orleans to do the wrong thing in the worst possible way has prevented what we have wanted and sought for so long. Despite their best efforts, we still have a chance, though once again yesterday they set it back.

I have been keeping Art posted in the hope he would let the rest of you know. It is feasible that way. I know he is leaving for N.O. Monday.

While I was doing other work in the daytime, I stayed up most of the night working on my analysis of the major blunder Clark made. When I returned home I finished it and helped Bud with his brief, which I think is an excellent one. Even Vince, who less than a week ago would have killed himself rather than acknowledge Bud is anything but an agent, is satisfied that the brief is an excellent one and that Bud is really with us.

(Vince is now playing Svengali, and he loves it, as does the largest Tribby ever.)

The analysis is about 30,000 words long. I am editing it. My wife has returned to work so that our food does not daily increase our indebtedness, so I do not know when I'll be able to supply copies to those who might want to see it. I have made a limited edition of POST MORTEM. This will be one of the two additions I will be making.

No matter what happens, I will never forget 1/17/69. If that phone call to the courtroom from New Orleans had been five minutes later, the whole thing would have been over now! It was perhaps the most difficult single moment I have had in all of this.

I will, of course, help them in any way I can. That does not now visualize down there. This new stuff on the autopsy is perhaps the most important single thing we have yet had. In a few days I will have done all I now can with it and I will return to the other relevant and quite significant material I have had for some time, also to be part of the same book. It will be the largest yet, and the most significant. Then I'll go over COUP D'ETAT, which has been typed for the offset camera, on the chance publication of it becomes possible. Then I shall return to AGENT OSWALD, a large part of which has been written and just about all of which is researched. It has the potential of getting us important allies. I think it will in other ways be one of the more significant works. All of this will be keeping me close to home regardless of any change in circumstances, for I regard the development and presentation of material still the most important things we can do. I expect none of this from New Orleans, where the best (and very important) we can expect is public exposure of a fraction of what is known - well known - to most of us. The real opportunity there has been missed. Real possibilities remain, but I am not sanguine.

I believe you are right on de Vosjoly. I have asked a number of people who might be able to accomplish it to seek pictures in various ways. If I get one I will send it to you immediately. That Steve Burton has been sent has been fed to people who have a slight chance of developing more information for us. If anything eventuates, and the chances are not too good, I'll let you know.

When this period is all over and I have a little more time and when I can afford to get my 3M serviced I'll be able to supply you with copies of the various documents. Perhaps Bud has made enough copies and has or will. I know it

was his intention. In addition to this work, he is trying to get a law practise started, has a few clients and a few major cases, so he has been pressed for time. I know several mornings he worked until 3 a.m., one with me. For a newcomer, arriving when most others are dissipated, this is a pretty good record. I regret his concept of his organization killed it in the womb. Perhaps he will reorganize it in a way that will enable it to function. He has spent too many years on the Hill, where SOP is not applicable to this subject. He is learning fast, though, and may yet be able to do what he wants. He has already made a major contribution, and at some personal cost. Without his effort we would not have had what we now do on the autopsy. Without his paying the extra fare for me to go to New Orleans last November, all would have been over. I feel indebted to him. It was his idea, not mine, that I then go to New Orleans. I had abandoned it when I learned there would be an additional charge on the ticket.

Another thing that will keep me close to home for the foreseeable future is the first meaningful threats I have had. There have been subtleties in the past and I have ignored them. Two mornings ago I was awakened at 2:30 by a real one. I taped it. Our local and State police, neither of whom will be able to do anything but both of whom have been fine, also take it seriously. They have dubs of the tape. I fear some of the content of COUP has leaked. This had all the earmarks of NSRP. They are quite active here, with none branches that I know of within an hour's drive. The telephone company is unwilling to try and trace the call for me. We may be able to work something out on that informally. However, while there seems to be any such prospect, I will not want to leave my wife alone.

I got up earlier than my usual early hour to be able to write you. It is not yet daylight. Probably I will not mail this until Monday, because I will insure it. By the time it reaches you the immediate actions will be over. As of yesterday, a hearing had been set for Friday, 2/7. The DJ must say by Tuesday if they are going to produce witnesses. The judge has asked N.C. for a showing of materiality of one kind or another, I think a letter will suffice, in the prosecution of Shaw (and I think it is proper) by Wednesday. If they can only do this simple thing right, on Friday, in open court and for the first time, we will have done what to this moment has escaped us. I have spoken to Wecht about this several times. He is excited about the prospects and will be one of our witnesses. Forman will be another. With what I have discovered in the X-rays, it should have some impact, even with the corrupt press. Unless there is some seeming need, I will not be in court Wednesday, but Bud will keep me en courant and I'll be able to post you should you want. Of course, I'll be there Friday.

You did not really understand the purpose of my call from New Orleans. I just did not want others later to complain that I had left them alone and to say that had I let anyone know the situation would have been altered. I did not want to stay there - did not want to go and had cancelled my reservations. I went only in response to urgent opportunities after I had told them I wasn't going. At best that is anti-climactic to what can happen in Washington. At worst it could be ruinous to us - and this is why I called. However, if they come out of this in any kind of decent shape, win or lose, I have developed several visible cases down there that they have ignored. They will be able to get convictions on lesser but very much related charges. I just do not think they are capable of it, given the disposition. And I do not know if they will have that. I still anticipate a decision ultimately based on legal technicalities....Whatever happens in Washington, inexcusable blunders or not, its long-range effect will be important and good. It has given us what we otherwise could not have had and told us what we could not have known and now do. They can panic. This time they did. They do have guilty knowledge.

My best to you all.

Sincerely,