

9/21/67

Dear Maggie,

I've been working at the Archives again, something I'd wanted to do for a couple of months. I got into some real good stuff today and will spend one or two more days there again before I have to suspend. I really do not have this little time I am taking for it. I've finished the draft of the fifth book, tentatively titled Post Mortem: Whitewash (or Suppression, or both) of Kennedy Autopsy. It will be almost entirely on that and will be too big! I hardly know how I'll be able to publish the documentation I'm still getting. His one, aside from the ruin in which it leaves the autopsy and everyone involved with it, does to Specter what only began in II, about what I have done to Liebelar, as you will see when you see what I've added in Oswald in N.O. That, I'm now told, should begin to come from the bindery in a couple of weeks.

Before going to DC this am I wrote Steve and asked him to tell me if he, if thinks it possible to arrange a confrontation with Liebelar or a situation in which he will not show I can make publicly clear why he will not. I could have some fun with that "stack" of New Orleans reports he went over! I'll also have some of them with me when I come out.

However, the real purpose of this letter is to tell you that in several days, probably Tuesday or Wednesday, I'll send you a photocopy of another 1026 document. I'll be back at the Archives Tuesday, when I expect what I ordered copied today to be ready. There is so much of it I may not be able to go over all of it in time to get it out that day (and I may not feel like five teeth to be ground to meet an erosion problem the dentist attributes to tensions of long standing). However, I've got all the grinding scheduled for that one day, and when it is over I plan to spend the rest of the day at the Archives. I am working in staff papers. If there is any special interest you have, please phone me by late Monday night, because I'll be leaving here not later than 8 a.m. Tuesday. I have to go to DC the following Tuesday, but do not know how much time I'd have then. I am also getting some different pictures of 399 if you are interested, prints showing the flattening of the ends, that is, the narrower view and the broader view, from the side; and of the wrong end itself, to show where the metal cannot be missing. If you want copies, let me know.

I wish it were possible to get someone else to continue in the papers w in which I am now working. However, increasingly I am concerned about the doctrine or approach. I'm not going to tell anyone except you (meaning you can tell Bill) and Sylvia (when I see her, I hope soon), because rather than again run the chance of having something misused, I'd prefer to let it wait until I can go back to it.

There is pretty good indication Liebelar tried to impose a radical-right philosophy on his colleagues. I found some of the memos Epstein didn't mention. He tried to intimidate by leaving them in the files, with such arguments as Oswald did "act for" the FPCC, etc. I just couldn't afford to buy all the copies I'd have like to because my spot decision was that we had enough on Liebelar and I'd save that for other things we didn't have....It is now possible to delineate a fairly good picture of the staff. From what part of it I've seen, none of them can be really proud. There was some politics (Slawson had worked politically for Whizzer White, as I recall now, etc.) One of the Liebelar things I did get was because of what he told Epstein about Rankin. Well, I have his September 25 joint memo with Burt Griffin in which they conclude by telling Rankin what kind of gift to mankind he is!...There was so much of this, by volume, that to go through the four largest files to select

Much of it is self-serving and could lend itself to an Epstein treatment, as you might expect from what Liebeler has said, hence my apprehension and my caution that you keep it to yourself and Bill and, if you think he will not spread it by accident, Steve. I'd like to not arm the other side, even by accident. There seems to be no interest in this material now....Xeroxing time, which had been up to two weeks, is now fast. I had been promised this material, and I guess what I ordered yesterday alone is well over 200 pages, by Monday, when I had expected to return to it. That means the Xeroxing facilities are not taxed.

There is a considerable amount of Specter material that I'll add to what I've written, to the completed text. Not once does he refer to a neck wound! I already had much on this....In May there were indications that the pictures and X-rays would be examined, and that the doctors would be recalled! I was in Phila to make a speech I'd promised to make several months ago. I got very little press coverage, no major Phila paper, but county ones. I called Specter all over again, again dared him to sue me and again predicted he wouldn't. There is a chance he'll be elected mayor, which I would regard as tragic. After his CBS appearance I called him a repetitive liar to his face (let'er), told him it was even more reprehensible to seek to convert his mis-,mal-and nonfeasances into political capital. He responded, very mildly, saying he had been only accurate. I bounced back with photocopies of his CBS text and asked that he affirm the accuracy and said I'd publish his response. He said he had nothing to add, and nothing else. There is a certain amount of personal hazard in this, but if I can get an audience for it, it can do something. But he'd then have to file suit, which I cannot afford to defend.

It is too late for Sylvia to use anything in her book, but one of the things in which she had interest, if it is of interest to you, is the Day print. I have something very good on that, staff disbelief. If you can use it, I'll send you a copy if you let me know. Despite my personal attitude toward him, I defend Mark, as you know. I have several very good things on that, one worked into the conclusion of Post Mortem, another picked up yesterday (they almost had the FBI put a full-time tail on him).

I've skipped around because at the beginning I was interrupted by the visit of an old friend, from my investigative days years ago, and it is the next day and we have to go to town, where I'll mail this, probably unread. I hope you can make out what I say through the typos. I will not bug you about your book, but it will be a shame if I have things you can use and you do not have them. What I'll probably do is bring as much of this new material with me as I can. Now that you have your own machine, you can make copies. The copies I'll bring will be better than most originals are, as I believe I told you is possible with the dry-copier if you underexpose and run through the heat process a second time. Some, however, as so close to illegible this will not be possible if a second copy is made. I'll use a considerable amount of this in my Manchester book, to which I'll return as soon as possible.

I don't awaken as fast as I used to, and I'm forgetting. There are things I wanted to say that now do not come to mind....I took Kupferman to see some of the pictures he hadn't seen and to show him Zep as he hadn't seen it, even though he saw the prints with Sylvia and LIFE, the best kind of guiding. He realizes now what I told him before, the great hazard in isolating the X-rays and pix from the rest of the story, and he now will not push on seeing them with a pathologist until he has copies of my more recent documents in hand, to prevent being booby trapped. We lunched a week ago and I told him the dangers. I said nothing yesterday, but after he saw the pictures, while I was walking him to his car, he volunteered this. I'm glad, for he was leading with all our chins. There is a big booby-trap there. I may have defused it with my private correspondence with the right people. I have an acknowledgement that there is no chain of possession-they cannot authenticate! I'll be publishing that soon, in PM. He will seek a young lawyer, who has the time, so I can file suit not under freedom of information which Congress wrote in the exemption that enables them to deny it.

know but not to advertise. The autopsy authorization is "missing". I have copies of about a dozen different files in which it should be -and isn't. It has been carefully removed. I am satisfied this means by the Commission(staff) before the files were turned over to the Archives. I've been helping Dr. Nichols, who had been told by Dr. Bahmer that the document doesn't exist. I got a copy WHERE IT HAD BEEN MISFILED! In it the Kennedys waived all the rights they later exerted! They signed away all the reservations they might have asserted. There must have ~~xxx~~ been dozens of copies made, from the remote generation my copy is. But that I can make out clearly.

Meanwhile, people take to my writing because it is not dispassionate. It seems as though this attitude crosses all political lines. I have several of the radical right who are helping. One a racist, seems to be coming up with some very good pictures for me. He has already supplied me with very good stuff for what I call the Sean Valjean theory. I'll have pictures for Lillian when I come out (I take the mention of her name in Ramparts to be a reflection of a change in her attitude, that she is no longer afraid of public mention, as she had written me, and I give her the credit that is her due for some of her work in the new book). I have two hitherto unknown or to the best of my knowledge unconsidered possibilities in hand, photographically, and last night, by phone, he promised me two others, saying he had already checked them out. I also have the plans for the entire sewer system in that area, before and after the reconstruction of Dealey Plaza. When you see her, if she'd like this, I'll try and have copies made for her. The sheets are large, but I can probably do them in piece on the 3M. I am also promised pictures of the finding of pieces of the skull on the south side of Dealey plaza. You may recall the documents on this I showed you. Also, pictures of two arrests at the time of the murder! On this Dick Sprague's work has been good, too. Jones has kept me slightly posted. Dick has written me but a single note, for he, too, is busy. They have located a dub of the Alyea film. They have found good stuff in CBS, Oh, yes, I've located a complete copy of all of NBC's stuff that I'll write him about so he can check through all of it if I can arrange for it to be seen...I so wish I had time to do what must be done and so wish there were others, like Dick, who took take over aspects of it. He seems to have done brilliantly, much better than I could have.

My last word from LIFE is that they are going ahead with their story on unseen assassinatio n pictures (meaning during, right before and right after). I've lined up another "mysterious death" story for Penn with a friend of mine, Arty Singer, of SAGA, the men's magazine, in which Penn can update his previous stuff and introduce his second volume.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you again, and I do hope it will be possible to arrange a Liebelier confrontation.

Best,