

New address: Rt8, Frederick, Md. 21701

7/16/68

Dear Maggie,

It has been too long since I've heard from or of you. I've just returned from New Orleans where I believe my work was unusually successful and a little wild. It is ~~to~~ incredible to try and put in so public a medium. I hope I'll be ~~other~~ there before too long. I have one speaking invitation that will cover part of the fare. As soon as there is enough to take care of the rest of the ticket, I'll go. There are many things I would like to be able to brief those out there interested on. Some are working on related things.

Our new place is a delight-if only I didn't owe for it. I look out the window and one of the cottontails that regard~~s~~ itself as tenant is grazing and paying no attention to me (it is a five-foot Thermopane window, and that wall has ten feet of them-very open). Nor is the robin who is closer. The rabbit is less than 20 feet. Sometimes we have to stop the car if they do not yield us the right of way. The only animal problem, with a cat that will not hunt (thank god) is the suicide rate among the birds who think they can fly through the house (it is all Thermopane) and the frogs not content with the fish pond who chose the pool. If I do not get them out the chlorine gets them.

As I have learned, this is an ideal environment for work. Just before going to New Orleans I was asked to submit four short articles to a European agent. In three days it grew to a 35,000-word book I typed while I was in N.O. and I'll read beginning day after tomorrow, I hope. ~~It~~ It weaves the assassinations together, tells some of the stories that have been told only in part by those whose pretense they are original is false, has stuff on the NSRP (I know the name of the intended NSRP assassin), etc. But if I could turn out that many words in three days, this is a good working place. I now have two unpublished books. The one on the autopsy is the hottest yet.

While the significance is not certain, the fact is. There were at least four simultaneous camps on the north shore of Lake Ponchartraine and two simultaneous ammo dumps. I was able to establish a rapport with local officials, no doubt deriving from the fact I tool~~ed~~ around in a sports car (loaned me by a man who knew of my efforts to help a Bay of Pigs veteran who was also CIA and was lousing himself up), in shorts and sandals, etc. I didn't look like one of us! This time I had to relax more in my work there, for the pressure was greater. I did, and it worked well. I lived in the quarters of a man who had threatened to kill Jim, was privy to some of the stuff, may have been CIA connected, and told his mother he has seen some of the assassins 11/24/63. Maybe. Jim and Louis Lyon were uneasy when I accepted the offer of that apartment made of a former slave quarters, but it was so much better for sleeping than the short couch I had with a friend and so wonderful for working- three private rooms, air conditioned-and no refrigerator (dropped 10 pounds in two weeks) I am happy I accepted it. Real wild, I know. But it worked out fine and I got some good new material.

There are persistent indications Thornley is considering suing me. I hope so. Unlike the Bringer situation, where I cannot afford a lawyer and have one simply because Dell owes me money they refuse to pay and hired an excellent one they are paying with my money- and he does only what Dell orders I think I am now prepared in advance. I am, at least in part, aware of what has been said and written out there, but not in full. Please do not worry about the

Thornley things at all, despite what Lifton is writing and saying and despite the misrepresentation you have been given of a letter that is not a letter that I did not write and is in any even innocent aside from possibly the letterhead. The story on that is simple: Lois told a steno as a courtesy to write a memo from me to Fred asking him to see if on one of a pair of identical pictures not to be separated a makeupman could make Thornley look like Oswald. There is sound reason for this and it was carefully prepared to in no way damage him. The result was unuseable and was never used. The girl used stationery. I never saw the thing. I told her to ~~xxxx~~ use plain paper. Any representation of official unhappiness over this that you may have been given is contrary to what has been told me and to other things. I have a large amount of original materials on Thornley. He is anything but the man Dave represents. These are his own letters. I do not know what else Jim has, but I presume he has a reasonable presumption of proof that Thornley did see Oswald. I have more than that. I also have some of his personal letters, with the envelopes in which they were mailed. I do, sincerely, hope he files suit against me for I can do in a civil suit what Jim cannot in criminal court. His character will be a central issue, and what I have on that will convince any jury there was nothing to defend, even if I had.

I understand from the other side—from his people—that Open City printed the two letters I wrote them and one from him. No one has sent these to me. If you can I'd appreciate it. The more they talk and write the more it helps the devil who so loves scripture. There were major misrepresentations and lies in the articles they wrote, lies that are incriminatory. I have them both spotted and proved. These cannot but help us and cannot but hurt them.

Lifton solicited me to buy the reprint he was doing of those three files. One of them I have had for two years, the other for a half year. I asked him to sell me the Liebelser memo. He has not answered.

A covey of quail just walked past.

It would be helpful to more than me if someone could keep me posted on these things, for they can mean to me what they do not to others. While I am not responsible for Thornley's "arrest", I have been very interested in him since May of 1966, when I was given very interesting data on him by some one who knew him well, and I have undertaken a few investigations that were, as you will eventually know, productive. Right now, although I haven't made up my mind, I have been told that he was company and is now its beneficiary. I have what may be proof. I will tell you when I am there.

Bringulier has been filing frivolous law suits against me in the hope of accomplishing blackmail against me, which is impossible, and against one of the publishers. He may have succeeded with Canyon. Meanwhile, he always gets clobbered in court. Yesterday, two weeks earlier, last year, when that case was thrown out with prejudice, without trial. He has not "served" me, so I am not really a defendant. He told the lawyer he would not serve me unless I went to New Orleans. I have been there since for a total of a month and he did not even attempt to serve me. It was blackmail to keep me away. So I have quite a story on him, who he knew when, what he knew of Oswald, and who his friends connect to, with solid witnesses and on tape. I once thought he was only a radical-right nut. I now know he is more. He was vitally important in the entire misrepresentation of the assassination. Without him and Thornley it would not have been possible to pin a red tag on Oswald. So, if this case is again thrown out of court, I'll have to sue him for damages. I'll then take a deposition from him. I think it will get him a jail sentence. I think I have made arrangements for the legal representation....Gotta get back to work. Hope you are all well and not too pessimistic. regards to everyone,

Sincerely,