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Dear Maggie,

Enclosed are copies of letters I have written Bobby K, the editor of the Saturday Evening Post and Dr. Bahmer, for your information. Although I cannot conceive of his accepting my challenge, I have prepared the notes for ~~xxxxxx~~ a commentary-analysis of Wise's writing. This new sensation is consistent with the analysis I gave you of the Thompson work when it first appeared in the Post. While the CIA inference is now stronger, I am unaware of any proof of it.

I have kept going at about the same pace, am more tired and fatter for it, and feel that despite the absence of external proof, we are making progress. Although earlier I freely predicted Johnson would not run, recently, with his increasing over-commitment to wrong policy I did not so think. Hence I was as stunned as possible by his last-night's announcement. I have been too busy working to stop for a careful thinking through of its meaning.

Instinctively, I fear attributing it to the need for a basic change in policy because I believe those who control policy and who have been the major beneficiaries of the terrible ones we have followed are not prepared for and will suffer from basic change. As I think of what he said of Vietnam I also ponder what he did not, and I wonder if his purpose was to seem superficially reasonable while insisting upon what the other side will not accept, thus assuring no change.

His reasons can be entirely personal, perhaps medical. His Macbethian situation may have been a major factor, for without doubt people are openly -and in great number, from my experience -saying he had something to do with the assassination. We have reached a majority of the people and we have influenced them and their thinking and understanding. If this is the reason, it more than justifies the enormous work we have done and the great cost we have paid and the sacrifices we have made.

In the context of Bobby's statement out there, I find myself wondering if he had something to do with it - if he had come across something we have not and was using it. Whatever can be said of Bobby, I do not think he can be considered a fool. I understand how great or important men become the creatures of their advisors and that, like lesser men, they say things under pressure they may not mean in precisely the way they speak. But I cannot believe Bobby has "seen every thing" and supports the Warren Report, unless something else is involved.

I have been busy on the New Orleans end, having been there twice since I saw you. I am about to return, as soon as I conduct another investigation in the midwest, of a witness I turned up here. My work there has been quite fruitful. I have new witnesses, never spoken to by the government, statements from those not asked the right questions by the government, many things I cannot go into here. I have learned more of Oswald and his associates -and he had them -and of some of the other people involved. Jim has been following my leads of Thornley. My own witnesses establish his guilt of perjury overwhelmingly (Jim may have others, but he doesn't need them) and it becomes increasingly clear that Thornley may be of considerable significance. There is a witness I held off interviewing for almost two years, to give myself time to learn more, who has been incredibly informative about him and who has led to others...Thornley "celebrated" the assassination, in the company of

man to whom a number of my witnesses have pointed me for months. Perhaps I will seek to interview him this coming trip.

Please understand that I do not intend sitting in judgment on others, that I understand each has his own interest and life to lead. But I sincerely regret that no other of us has done any real work when he has been in New Orleans. Police investigators are uniquely unsuited for the kind of investigation required. They cannot think as they must, cannot establish a rapport with those with whom they must associate, and they remain "fuzz". If Jim's lawyers are better suited, they haven't time. There is a wealth of information available, and no one to gather it. This is the major reason I got there when I cannot afford to. Each trip is increasingly successful. I now have a small band of amateur investigators working down there, and they are piecing things together rather well. If I could stay there long enough, I think I could add a volunteer office staff. One of the missing requirements is someone to transcribe tapes of interviews, something that simple and basic. Another is a small group to do simple research.

Beginning with my first trip, now a year ago, I developed an interest in Barbara Reid, a sort of benevolent Madam La Foyage of the Quarter. Jim and Moomoo both knew her and would have nothing to do with her. When I was satisfied that she is on our side and would be helpful, for lack of an alternative I turned her over to a staff policeman. Fortunately, when he could not communicate, circumstances required that Moomoo contact her and now, through her, the office can draw on a considerable knowledge of the Quarter and its people... One day I phoned and asked her to get what she could ~~xxxxx~~ about someone. That night she had information from six people.

Orest Pena has turned on again. Some day I must tell you and Joe the story of how he got turned off and what turned him on again, causing him to reach a basic decision, as he formulated it, "Okay, so I get a bullet in the head. So, until then, I enjoy myself". With this he went out and bought a purple Cadillac convertible-which provides me with some of my transportation, especially nocturnal, when I am there. Through him I have turned on several new witnesses to the "drunk" and what related. It was not a drunk, it was not the only time Oswald or "Oswald" was there, with the same companion, and I can date the incident - the day before Oswald went to Bringuier. Pena has become a good (and accomodating) friend. The night Jim closed down the DA's banquet when they tried to censor him-and they did, exactly that-I was there- Pena decided I had to relax for a couple hours. Why, after dinner, he took me to the Playboy Club! He is a member! He has gone out and bought a tape recorder so he can interview witnesses for me-and I think he will. He has voluntarily performed worthwhile counterintelligence functions and knew what to do. Fantastic? !

Two little old ladies much too rich for tennis shoes helped me with one of my long-standing suspicions, as you may recall if from Oswald in New Orleans. I now know that those handbills found near the Reisman residence were also found within holding-the-breath walking distance of the home and the then printing-plant of Kent Courtney! And I can now establish what I have long known, that Thornley worked for him. At the same time one gave me her card, which reads, "Don't fire until you see the red of their lies".

There is much more that I cannot now go into. There is nothing I can say that can relieve the apprehensions I know you have, I also still have them. Perhaps the time will come when I can get out there again and we can spend an evening and I can bring you up to date. Now I've got to get back to other things, beginning with breakfast then preparing for the second of a series of seven three-hour TV broadcasts in Washington (unfortunately on a small UHF station, but that's better than nothing). Hope you are all well. If you learn anything about Butler, no matter how trivial, please let me know. I cannot think his disappearance from New Orleans at this juncture is entirely meaningless. Sincerely,