

Dear Dick,

4/7/93

Unlike recent weeks I awakened this morning without feeling feebleness and with untroubled sleep. Even got six hours of sacktime, better than average. While walking, ~~when~~ I'd intended think about the rest of the article the beginning of which I sent you for consideration as of possible use in promoting the King reprint. I finished that the next day and had planned to read and correct it today. (I have the title "Assassination <sup>hours</sup>" in mind.) But my mind kept turning to your silence.

In one area ~~is it~~ it is quite proper. I should not hear from you unless you have a question. In the other area it perplexes me.

I have asked you nothing about the Livingstone book other than is it contracted. I did not even ask you pub date. My purpose was not to waste time.

In Never Again! I'd asked no more than what you could say before seeing <sup>it</sup> that you are interested. But it has been some time since you saw the first two pages. If you did not read them or have forgotten them I'll enclose them. It seems to me that on the basis of those two pages alone you can say more. Not necessarily that you want to do it. But you can indicate that subject to a full reading and consideration you might. At the same time you may have reasons that need not relate to the book itself for deciding against it. I hope not because I've made no other effort. I can think of what might be external factors.

But to the degree possible I would like to be informed.

Tomorrow I'll be 80. Day after tomorrow I am to call the gastroenterologist at Johns Hopkins to learn whether after consultation with their radiologists and the hematologist they've decided whether or not surgery is indicated. Essentially this means which is less hazardous for me now. And next month I may be told the same thing when the urologist sees me, after he gets the results of the blood test the purpose which I did not know until you told me. Possibly bearing on this is what I was told locally after a prostate examination, there is a small nodule. When he saw me five months ago that urologist exclaimed when I identified the medication I had had prescribed for the sleep apnea and after my own checking decided not to take, "Why that could kill you." He meant it could have required another TURP, normally outpatient surgery, but any surgery no matter how minor, can have fatal consequences for me. This knowledge does not overwhelm me. Last week I told the doctor I saw then that if the decision is to operate, to ~~make~~ make the arrangements without asking me.

But at 80, ~~with all~~ I am surviving with the efforts of that wonderful angel on my shoulder (I hope ~~she~~ she is not tiring!), plus what was once a very durable constitution, While I hope that time that remains is not short, there is no assurance of that. And I am aware of steady <sup>weakening</sup> ~~w~~weakening, probably as the heart, already injured in a number of ways, tires.

When I finished the draft, well, really before then, I believed that I had done what I told you I would and if you do not recall what I said the potential would be and what I believed should be done to achieve that potential, I remind you.

Without using the word Wrono used in conversation with my local history professor friend McKnight, that in history this book is "unprecedented," I indicated the belief that it would be. He told McKnight that its documentation is also if not unprecedented he could not think of any that comes close. He also said that the documentation in particular impressed him, that it was simply overwhelming.

Aside from what the book says, which is unprecedented, it has what must be unique credentials.

It may not be saying that much to say that in the field it is unprecedented considering that only deplorable bad if not really evil books have appeared since I published Post Mortem in 1975. There isn't one that is either honest or factual. But it does come from unique sources. Sources that alone in any reasonable promotional effort should guarantee a decent sale. How many books do you know of that are in part based on a dozen lawsuits, some precedential in several areas (including copyright), one leading to the amending of a law by Congress to make it possible, and by an octogenarian who has been in potentially fatal illness for more than a decade, a man so weak that he can walk only short distances and then slowly, who struggles with a short flight of stairs and yet in relatively so short a time had the knowledge that enabled him to produce so massive and authoritative a book that is so "unprecedented?" Or a book that McKnight wrote "should revolutionize thinking about the JFK assassination."

And these are the only two professional historians in the entire country who can qualify as subject-matter experts.

In telling you what the book would say and prove, not about the writing, I told you I believed the content would warrant nomination for a Nobel.

I was not then boasting. I remind you that you once described me as "the most conservative man I know." You then said in explanation that while I might say something that seemed extreme, it always turned out to be understated. Aside from my own opinion, that I have done this, I have two, the only two competent professional experts in the country, who say this in different ways. *(Well, a Nobel nomination is not much of an understatement!)*

There is no libel. There is nothing that is not more than adequately supported and in almost all instances with official records or information in all cases cited. It is not possible for anyone I name to claim even that I was unfair or defamed him. Anyone who even dreamed of filing a spurious suit would be crazy.

I also remember telling you that I believed the book would be more successful if it were rushed, with only the most essential editing, and published with the explanation that it was being rushed because of my age and health and because I wanted to be able to face any criticism that might be made and because there is less chance of any criticism when with my unique subject-matter knowledge I would be able to respond to it. I think this would be a perfectly legitimate and a natural if unusual promotion. With what I have evolved, which exceeds what I expected, I am even more confident of this.

This is a book that will last and be used in teaching. Need I remind you that my first book, also rushed and with more than 100 rejections internationally, without a single editorial criticism, endures? Most of our income from books last year was from it.

(I'll add something you may have had no knowledge of regarding one rejection.)

So, I wonder about delay, or hesitancy.

I wonder also if it is not by you.

Unless there is something I can't imagine this is, by orthodox standards, a book that should be quite successful and can be prestigious. Especially if I am here to help it. As despite my limitations I can.

If it is that C & G do not want it, can you think of another publisher who could be interested? I would, of course, prefer one what has not published wretched<sup>14</sup>/bad and dishonest books like Thunder's "outh, which did not respond when I wrote that the claim made, that Lane wrote the first book, is false, and continued to make that false claim. I have no idea who distributed through Publishers West. (That Lane book is also fraudulent.)

With any promotional effort at all this book should really be a sensation and a sensational success.

In addition to the still large assassination-books market, this book should be one in which doctors have a great interest because their medical association is so important in it and because it is so critical of their association.

Can you think of many books for which the promotion is so natural or ~~which~~<sup>with</sup> such antecedents?

And as I've told you, my mail daily thanks me for not commercializing theorized and phony solutions. My mail <sup>tells</sup> ~~keels~~ me this daily. I enclose a letter to which I responded yesterday. (Today's mail is not yet here. *None in it*)

There is in this what I call to your attention, mentioned to me often, concern for the country.

I hope you can understand and appreciate my perplexity and <sup>e</sup>concern.

I have made a reading that may not be correct. It comes from C & G's not making a single promotion of which I know and not asking me how I might help with any promotions. <sup>W</sup>ill my record on the King assassination, with recent appearances on two national TV shows?

This is not a complaint. There were no promises and I asked for none. But with no typesetting costs at all, the expectable and normal list of ~~my~~ other books was not included? If the cost of another folio was the factor, <sup>e</sup>ven that was not necessary. "See page 530" could have been added onto the indexing of my name and that list <sup>could</sup> ~~must~~ have been pasted on <sup>vol</sup>/530.

I fear from my personal experience that books on the King assassination cannot be expected to sell on subject matter alone. But there are still people with talk shows who have aired me in the past, at least one who is now network. The cost of learning

that was a stamp or a phone call and the cost of seeing is any would air a free promotion for the book was again only a phone call.

(For your information, a dark cover has some disadvantages. My friend the manager of the local ~~Walden~~ Walden stores, has a display rack in the entrance with the top shelf of this book. With the limited light in the doorway, a prominent place, one has to go up to the book to learn what it is, close to it.)

I repeat, this is not a complaint. No promises were made so none was broken.

And I do hope it is not the basis for a pertinent reading.

I published the general edition of Whitewash a month before the annual ABA convention. I was astounded at the number of publishers who knew about it when I had not a penny for advertising and the only promotion was a Washington Post story. There must have been a dozen who praised me for doing what I did. Quite a few of them said they wished they'd had what they referred to as my courage. These were among those who had declined the book. Some of them and also others mused they'd have made a pot.

What you may not have known because we did not meet often is that Parallax also rejected the book - in 1965, when housed with Grov. Was it the third floor front in that old downtown building? And Parallax also could have made a pot. That fine young woman editor Ann told me why it was rejected. Some one there knew a self-important stupidity who had worked for Newsweek, Alfred Newman. He is of the right and he had his own book, a farce, that was published later. He nixed it. His own book ~~is~~ is built around the theory that Oswald returned from the USSR with a Soviet radio with which he listened to Cuban ~~stations~~ and thus got instruction. Well, the cheapest domestic radio could have been used for that. And his Soviet radio did not work! The FBI said so. (True also of Ray's.)

So, I hope that after almost 30 years the prospect of solid, <sup>responsible</sup> reputable works is not what it was then. ...

I had hoped to read and correct this today but the mail and calls made that impossible. I was reminded by a call and a long and childish false letter from Waybright about something I do not want to get back to you in any way that might be embarrassing. It does not bother me, I suspected it would happen, there is nothing wrong in it except Livingstone and Waybright boasting about it and thanks to Harry I've known it since about Xmas time. They are boasting that everything I tell you gets back to Harry. Harry in fact told people some time ago that Graf told him what I'd told you. He <sup>also</sup> as much as said it in a letter I have. From a phone call and from this silly letter from Waybright he and Harry also boast about having sources close to all of us and to Harry having about <sup>20</sup> 40 informers in his pay.

What I sent you is what I thought you as their lawyer would want to know. If you believed you should tell them, that is your responsibility to them and I'm glad you did. If I knew them I might have sent them more directly but not knowing them I tried to limit myself to what their counsel might want to know so hr can look out for their interest. If

for any reason they are interested in anything else, + need not know what their interest is, they are welcome to anything I have. Including copies of all the letters he wrote of which I have copies and if they'd like all that I wrote him. Even some I wrote and did not send realizing that it was hopeless.

Feel free. You are my friend and their counsel and I wanted to help you do what you can to help them. I don't think any of you wants to read this fat file but I'll certainly have it all copied and sent if anyone wants it.

The only thing wrong is the boasting that you are a spy for Harry, which is what it amounts to.

I think you know that I have no secrets and that I spend much time trying to help others on the subject, ~~to~~ most of whom I know in advance will write what I disagree with.

Harry and Richard have had unsupervised access to my files, including the file in which at least Richard worked and knew it held all the lies the FBI told about me. He could have copied them. I have no way of knowing. And no concern if he did.

One way in which this could get back to you is from Waybright. He has written me twice recently that he is thinking of writing Graf. I encouraged him if he does to be truthful and fully informative. He's been lying to me. ~~Un~~childishly, as I've told him.

I hope I've preceded any exaggerated or twisted account getting to you. You have done nothing wrong and I have no objection of any kind to whatever you did.

4/8 While I hate to spend any time on my 80th birthday even thinking of this nasty business or taking any more of your time, Harry's persistence, utter irrationality and lack of any self control, along with his renewed threats, this time to kill Mark Crouch, plus his recasting of me in the imagine role of an imagined conspiracy against him led me to do what long ago I indicated to you I might do. I have an appointment with the state attorney tomorrow morning. I do not know whether his actions and threats constitute a criminal violation in Maryland I'll try to find out and if they do I'll press charges. I will at least make a record in the event he goes further out of control. Not long after I made the appointment I learned more about his crazy notion that I am his chief persecutor. Crouch continues disturbed over those threats. He phoned me to tell me that he had prepared a package he is sending or had sent to Graf relating to Harry. He decided to tell me more He believed I should know.

Last fall Harry, knowing Crouch was friends with the DuPont who recently figured in a deprogramming case involving his alleged kidnapping of his own son, asked him to ask this DuPont to use his DuPont resources to investigate me. <sup>(Lewis DuPont Smith)</sup> He wanted to know if in fact I had worked for the DuPont company, which I had never said I had and hadn't, or its newspaper, the Wilmington Morning News then. When I worked for it, which the paper itself reported last fall in using the AP account of my gift of all I have to Hood College, it was owned by Pierre DuPont, through his Christiana Holdings Corp. Anyone has the right to make

to make inquiries, of course, although it is pretty sick to do this as part of a supposed investigation of alleged plots to kill JFK. But he was explicit in telling Crough his reason for needing this information: I somehow because the "psyops" expert in charge of such operations against him!

I asked Crough if he included this in his package for Graf. He said not. I asked him to give me a statement on it. He said he will.

A new, long letter came from Richard yesterday. It contains more of the sick and incorrect allegations of my connection with one of Harry's chief JFK conspirators, the late H.L.Hunt. It is his basis for telling me that his book will say that I helped one of the conspirators, Hunt, and this additionally helped the conspiracy. The other leg of this that Harry himself told me is that he says that all the critics, in conspiring against him, have also conspired to protect the assassins and their conspirators.

Whether it is in the ms. or is or is removed from it, it represents his state of mind and the irrationality of his whole thing, especially the major conspiracy he imagines, that is cribbed from the fake SDECE book Farewell America <sup>one of</sup> and his source, instantly recognizable to me then, was confirmed voluntarily by Richard in his letter: Hunt's former chief of security, Paul Rothermel. Rothermel has filled him with crap in seeking vengeance against Hunt's son, who fired him, Currington and a few other for stealing from the company. I have files on that.

I believe that the only thing that has kept this from becoming a Baltimore scandal that might be reported elsewhere is the police decision to avoid another public scandal. From my own source I learned yesterday that Richard has not yet been interviewed, at least officially, in the internal investigation Harry triggered. Or his actions did.

It appears that Harry invents conspiracies against him each time he is faced with the major errors he made in the books that made so much money for C & G and for him. His imagining of my shifting role as his persecutor and his inquiry of Crough coincides with his learning that the major basis of his High Treason 2, the blowing out of the back of JFK's head, is false. He has invented another conspiracy to pretend that he made no such mistake.

This happened when he phoned to tell me not that he had another book contracted, but that he was working on a TV documentary. In connection with that he wanted to make a study - so long delayed after so much writing and publishing about it - of the Zapruder film. What should he look for? I told him the later, unpublished frames that I forced public years ago. What would they show? I told him that the back of the head was visibly intact after the shot that blew the head open and that there then was no blood on the visible shirt collar. He phoned three weeks later to tell me I was correct and he was glad to learn that he had made a mistake. But his self-concept does not permit him to admit that he makes mistakes. So, soon he told me that both the Zapruder and the Bronson films, the later his imagining that Gary Mack is conspiring against him, were both altered. When I told him both claims

were impossible, that assured me a role in the conspiracy against him.

If he were not so crazy in so many ways the vested-interest feeding to him of the basic concept of the fake French spook book would be ludicrous. (He even chided me for telling him it is a fake by those spooks, saying it was the fact, the truth.) It would not be surprising if Mark Lane and Donald Freed accuse him is plagiarizing their Executive Action, book and movie, which they cribbed from that same book!

I have not yet received and thus cannot enclose his letter stating that I am the head or the ringleader of his imagine conspiracy against him and in support of those who killed JFK because Mary Ferrell's husband, who has been in terminal illness for some time, has taken a turn for the worse. (Aside from his worry about what Harry was doing to Mary, when Harry phoned and she was not home Harry gave the husband a very bad time with his violent accusations against her.)

If you want Richard's letter to me and my response I'll send them. They indicate that Harry's alleged sources on his imagined French spook conspiracy are "respectable" sources. The only one he named is Rothermel and that account is exaggerated with a twisted meaning. If you want them you should know that Richard is a childish liar.

If I cannot get to reading and correcting this today I may delay mailing it until after I see the states attorney tomorrow.

This whole thing is so very sick I can see it becoming an attractive and embarrassing spoof.

If you think you should tell Graf about any of this feel free to do that. But please also tell him that Harry can regard my going to the states attorney as a threat that can trigger more of his irrationality from which I'd rather not suffer. I cannot defend myself in any way -except by trying as I will tomorrow.

4/9/93 An emergency call to the court forced postponement of my appointment so I'll read and correct this and mail it. In skimming some of the letters Harry wrote I thought of something that may come to you. There were none likely to litigate ~~he~~ based on High Trash 1 and 2. But aside what Harry has said and written about the critics he has told me what this book will say and what is in a number of his letters repeats what he told me. I believe that if he names names in connect with the conspiracy to kill that he alleges There can be a question of libel. And if he uses as sources those he has indicated and described there can be a question of malice on the part of some of those sources.

For my own purposes I am going to prepare a memo on some of these letters, without regard to libel. If you want a copy of it I'll send it. ...Hopkins decided against removing the polyp. I go there 5/3 for a further examination, of the lowest six inches. Outpatient.

I've been given more of Harry's letters. Came today. Aside from holding more threats he repeats he is being helped by the FBI, that it is giving him information.

If this is true, and the FBI man he names has assured me several times that it is not, you can be sure that the FBI has records that will reflect complete deniability. They will have records reflecting what Rookstool told me. This is to say that if any of that is used, it will be without any support at all if anyone litigates over it. I have seen this often enough in FBI files I have.

They do use writers and reporters. And they are always in a position to deny that they did it.

Harry also says he is helping the FBI. I presume this means he is giving it what he regards as information. That they will save and index for retrieval.

Sorry about the length. Hope some of it is of use to you.

Best,