

Dear Dick,

2/1/93

This is a letter to which I'll add later. I awakened with it on my mind, troubled by it. Yesterday Dave Wrono told me he had placed an order for "The Complete Whitewash" and had been told by C & G that it was cancelled. What troubles me is not the cancellation but that it was David's project that did not succeed. I am very sorry that it did not and that it represents the waste of time and work for him. I'll be arranging to return the advance. This is one of the reasons this letter will be delayed. I may not have the time for a few days, as I'll explain.

If the condition I made to begin with, that it take no time for me, has anything to do with the cancellation, I am, of course, sorry about that, too.

But as I think I said, at my age and in my condition what is most important to me is making as good a record for history as I can in the time that remains for me. Which now seems like it may be less than I'd thought a few months ago.

I am only too aware that when I die a great amount of information not known to others will disappear with me. I do not see anyone investing the time I did with the materials I had and the background on which I draw without dedicating a lifetime to it and being suited to it. While I can feel, in Thurgood Marshall's words, that I did the best I could with what I had, I cannot feel that I did as much as I'd have liked to.

The belief that I should use the time that remains for me to perfect the record for history to the degree I can, is why I've not spent any time editing the new book. I have instead, delayed by the few problems I think I mentioned to you, started another one in another area that is and will remain important in our history.

I'm weaker now and when I arise I sit and read with my daily coffee allowed, <sup>and</sup> to which I'll soon add, but this morning this was on my mind and I did not read. Not having heard the reason or reasons I can only guess. But if I can make a good guess from my mail it is that the people are increasingly disappointed in the assassination books they buy. Increasingly these strangers thank me for being factual and doing no theorizing. None of these books will endure and none deserves to. They can and do excite but they do not report fact and truth and when they contradict each other to the degree they do they leave people unsatisfied and confused. They had the Oliver Stone stimulus and that of the great interest in the subject matter but there is nothing in them to make them worthwhile. Which, perhaps old-fashionedly, I believe is required for a book's success. *And worth.*

While the volume of my mail can represent only the tiniest fraction of the market I think it is considerable, particularly when most people have no way of knowing how to get in touch with me. Saturday I got a letter addressed to an ~~my~~ address we have not had for <sup>u/</sup> two decades. Mostly it is not forwarded. But I've been pleasantly surprised at the distinction <sup>made</sup> in so many of them between my work and that of others who recently got so much attention.

And it was in an effort to help the King book that I offered to work with David on new material for it. If you saw the Fox <sup>TV</sup> show of the 22d you have a glimmer of the "new informa-

tion" I have and gave them. All the witnesses they used except as I now recall Ramsey Clark and that poor sick Gracie I told them about. Lane and Fauntroy, of course, were not witnesses and they hurt rather than helping the value rather than the attractiveness of the show. The producers also violated their word to me in using anything theoretical. But they did produce the best thing <sup>commercial</sup> on TV about <sup>any</sup> the assassination yet. I am sure that they are both embarrassed at lying to me as a condition of my appearance and pleased at the reaction they've gotten.

These are, I think, subjects on which the interest of the nation requires truth and fact, not the fancies and inventions of commercialization and exploitation.

What will be my priority today is going ahead with the medical arrangements the need for which I think I told you about. The Johns Hopkins hematologist I'd written was away. On his return he urged me to see a local hematologist of whom ~~we~~ I'd known as an oncologist. He told me that Friday night. Because the name sounded familiar I asked friends about him, those who knew him as an oncologist, and learned that he was a child TV star as <sup>Arce</sup> Geoffrey(?) the Housketeer. He has an excellent reputation as a doctor. I'll seek an appointment when I'm home from the blood-testing and physical therapy. And that is only the beginning because there are decisions to be made. One involves the fragility of my skin and blood vessels and whether that means the polyp <sup>is am.</sup> should be done in the hospital rather than the usual, in the office. Any invasion of my body has been dangerous for years, as ~~was~~ is anything that causes bleeding. The urologist at Hopkins told me several months ago that another prostate operation, normally outpatient, can be fatal for me. Knowing the symptoms I believe this need is closer, perhaps quite close. To give you an idea of the fragilities of which I speak, in reaching for a spoon the other morning I had a slight contract with the top of the cabinet and hemorrhaged the size of a quarter on the top of my right hand. If I scratch, as eczema sometimes causes causes me to do at night, the skin comes off. It then takes some time to heal, the healing delayed by any further scratching. So, I'll have to seek advice and make arrangements and perhaps seek more advice and then make decisions.

Some of this may be pretty tricky because of the abnormality of my blood-clotting problem. Three times in the past I suffered additional venous thromboses when the doctors did as they usually do. The consequences of one I was not expected to survive.

Later. The time of the appointment means I do not have to collect records for him today. And Hil tells me we do not have to make any arrangements to be able to return the advance. It is enclosed.

I'm very sorry this of David's projects did not succeed. The others of which I know were worthwhile and seem to have succeeded. I hope he has only successes in the future!

Thanks and best to you all,

*Harold*