

Dear Dick,

5/29/76

Until the mail comes a further update.

When the judge set the next status call on my suit for the suppressed King evidence back to 6/11 and I had time to think about it I decided to begin some overdue reorganization in my office. I've not been able to file in the lowest drawers for close to a year and the stacking up is enormous. I also have thousands of pages of once-suppressed evidence I haven't even space for. And there is the need to adjust to my limitations in other ways, particularly while reading copy. So, I've sparged, with a new second-hand desk and some two-drawer file cabinets that do not have to be where there is not an inch of space left, against a wall. I have a long period of shifting files and confusion ahead but it will get done and hopefully working conditions will be better.

In the long run I'll be able to work faster, too, I think.

This will not mean a delay in the drafts of The King Conspiracies. It is retyped as far as I've gone. I have the one of two Foreman chapters to complete. Otherwise I've written myself into the new evidence part and have to await delivery of anything else I'll get or restructure Part 3 to permit writing while waiting.

I'm working in other areas of this, too. Ray did ask Fensterwald to leave and Fensterwald did after the appeals decision by a letter to that court. The decision, by the way, is a very strange one. Not in its selectiveness as much as in its explicitness in saying that the district court did not grant Ray rights necessary to the purposes of that hearing. They said he did not have these essential rights and instead of remanding turned him down. Lesar's reading is that they bucked the decision to the Supreme Court. Lesar has given Ray until the 5th to decide whether to file for cert under specified conditions. As of yesterday's mail he'd had no word.

Meanwhile, after reading this decision I've found a chance of taking a new tack. If it pans out, as now seems probable, Lesar thinks it will be enough to go back to the appeals court with a request for a rehearing first. It is in the area of the denied rights. Les is doing this part for me and as usual, very well. Besides, I can't do it for myself. He'll have the story, which I want anyway. It won't hurt and can help the book.

For a number of reasons I've had to use this breather in the FOIA suit in time-taking ways that are essential to me. I think I've told you of the visit of my friend who is a Hollywood production man. He sees a King book and wants to produce it. I have no idea of his prospects but think that initially he will meet resistance. He has found some encouragement from those he knows who can't now help because of prior obligations. One is a multiple-Oscar writer. He thinks the commercial possibilities are fine but is under contract for too much now. I've had to address other needs, too.

One is the visible campaign of official and largely spook dirtworks. One aspect is the Hart copout, if the Times has reported the shenanigans of the Senate intelligence committee's subcommittee on assassinations. Another is financing shoestrings. For the latter I had to turn again to the National Enquirer because there is no element of the press that will pay and does care about assassination stories now. I've given them a really hot one that in the Times could make a significant difference. I'm expecting this to pay for the office costs and perhaps enough for the new roof almost completely on now.

Because I do have to look ahead and try to keep going I've made other proposals to them through a friend who is a former editor and recently spent two days here. He retired from them but still free-lances with them. Good relationship, him with them and me with him. These proposals include a foundation-type support for me in return for all first-refusals and a regular consultancy function. While the odds are against it if this is agreed to I'll be bound on ancillary rights.

They sell at least 4,000,000 every week, if they are not the Times.

They are also looking for a little prestige now. So I've included in my proposal a means of achieving this at little cost: a series on the JFK assassination, of suppressed evidence. With each story they consider important, what to them is a page-one, a Washington press conference coinciding with publication with copies of this evidence given to the press. Up to the dictator this has been liked. He has flipped over the first story with which my old friend returned. (He should have. The proofs include handwritten CIA notes.)

I knew in advance that the Church committee was going to buck the whole thing to the new oversight committee. Hart told me. I still wonder where he comes from but he was correct. I did not know that McNoye would say this would take six months before he could get to it but that works out fine for me and what I can do, I think.

If Pope, who owns and is the Enquirer, goes for the press conference plan in a month we'll have a test of whether it pays off for him his way. That will, possibly, mean what it can mean for me. My hunch is that with what I have the uptight major media will not be able to ignore this first story if I have a press conference on it. I feel this strongly enough to go into debt another hundred bucks for what one at the Press Club will cost me if Pope doesn't bear the costs.

Whatever does or does not happen it is now certain that the subject of assassinations is not going to fade away. And for whatever ownership can mean in the era of rip-offs, I own most of the worthwhile material and work. What I can do with it and the know-how may be another matter. As I think you understand my most immediate need is some kind of security in it. I'll latch on to the first decent proposal.

For the past month I've been more uncomfortable, physically. I don't know what if anything it means. I see Turner at GHA Tuesday. I expect nothing from him on this. I've asked Jim to ask his wife, who is a radiologist, to set up an appointment with either the man Segal recommended or her own hospital's expert because her hospital has my X-rays and other hospitalization records. She was away at a convention of radiologists and he is now away on a case for a rich man. He was hired by the firm that has the case and the client is entranced by how he works and what he produces. If she does not set something up I'll opt the Segal recommendation, which came from his talking to other New York doctors, as I recall it.

Before I go out to see if the mail is here, a little more on this story may entertain you. Jim is of the generation of the 60s. He care little about his appearance but is always fairly neat in court. He had one good suit and didn't want more. But this rich client, entranced by what he produces, was so insistent on Jim's in-court appearance that in Miami two weeks ago he grabbed him, dragged him to a clothing store and outfitted him for a one-time appearance, tied to shoes. The real reason is not how Jim looked in court but the client's tiredness of seeing the one suit in court all the time. Meanwhile, the client is using xeroxes of what Jim turns out like calling cards. He gave one set to a New York wheeler-dealer lawyer who has a Washington office. That one gave Jim the offer of a swanky office and the use of his library for Jim to do no more than work on a promising contingency case he has. And all of this comes from what Jim has done in my cases, beginning with the affidavits he drafts for me to execute. Redrafts, I guess.

I expect to be up to date by 6/11 and to have all of it retyped by then.

Best,

Postscript of 5/30/76

Yesterday's mail held a tape from Jerry Ray, his typical blend of information, disinformation, ultra political and racial expressions, some of his own "singing" to me and even background music from a Chicago radio station.

The signals are clear: something is up. I can guess some of it but won't.

Whatever for it takes I think it will not be hurtful to the book and probably will be helpful. It will make my independence clear at the least.

There is the virtual certainty of some kind of civil suit, to be filed by a new lawyer. He has not seen fit to be in touch with other counsel, which is only one of the reasons I have doubts about him. Whoever he may be.

Aside from this I regard the planned suit as premature. I believe there should have been such suits in the past and should be in the future.

If Jerry's are the typical extremist right views it may interest you to know there is disenchantment with Wallace, the former hero. He should have quit in favor of Reagan Jerry's line is. Wallace, of course, is still great. Only because he is crippled he has no chance and his vote could have assured Reagan's victory.

My suspicion is that new counsel was arranged by or through J.B. Stoner, head of the self-styled National States Rights Party. Their belief is that what is wrong with giggers is Jews. They wrote Ray when he was first arrested in England offering a defense. He did not accept. Later, when his own lawyers were responsible for the prejudicial publicity he sought Stoner out to file never-filed libel suits. There were a few joking gestures the nature of which I do not recall.

During the past week Stoner has bad-mouthed me to several reporters, something he has not done from the first. I find meaning in this change.