

5/21/67

Dear Jim,

Your phone call Wednesday got me in the midst of turmoil and confusion. Dell had just declined to do CIA WHITEWASH. Hence I thought it safer to refer you to Sylvio, whose mind was then undoubtedly clearer. Thereafter I wrote others who in the past had interest in that photo and other things related to it and as soon as I hear from them I'll be in touch with you.

The coincidence between the delay in delivery of the manuscript and the changed decision at Dell is unmistakable. During that period, of course, the angled stories had a chance to do their work.

I am please that you think well of the new book. John Starr is now introducing it to other publishers.

There are several research projects that may be of value to you that I have asked others working in the field to prepare. One is on the relations between the United States Government and the exile groups. Another is on the interrelations of the exile groups and their personnel. Still another is to go further than I was able to on Oswald's files in relations to the various intelligence agencies. I hope to have all of this before I return.

After I got home I picked up WHITEWASH III again. I had intended subtitling it "The Archive". I now thing I'll subtitle it "The Secret Documents", "Suppression", or combine them. In any event, I think it important to get this out to the people, and I think if I can do it fast enough it will help you materially. When I was in New York I gave Dick Billings a few of the documents and told him of others, in confidence. After you see this, I think you will better understand my belief that you might do well to depend as little as possible on Dell's eyewitnesses. There will be nothing credible remaining of the Report and many of those who participated in it. Especially if Sprague can do what I hope he will with what I gave him. It is also my opinion, for whatever it is worth, that you will have a lot less trouble with the press when this is available and in context.

My experience with Dell convinces my wife and me (and there is tremendous work in it for her) that we must prepare for a private printing while hoping it can be avoided. My preparation will, to the degree possible, be for both a private and a regular printing from the same material. I speak to the Ohio News Directors Association in Cincinnati on June 10. I hope to have the writing done by then. I'd like to be able to bring a set of "blue prints", if you understand offset printing, with me. They are sort of proofs that can be read. That is, when next I go to N.O.

It fascinates me that Bringuier filed his frivolous suit against me and Saga but not against Dell. I will have to have a dependable New Orleans lawyer and have already discussed this with Saga. I hope Cerlos is not persuaded by the few possibly sane people with whom he associates to drop the suit, for offh, those discovery proceedings! Would you care to recommend, or can you properly suggest, a local lawyer? I am also making inquiries through other channels, as I presume Saga is.

The enclosure relates to the clipping I sent you on CIA payments. I'll make a clearer copy when I have access to something other than my worn-out Thermofax. I really need but cannot afford a good electrostatic machine. Best regard and good luck,