

Dear Gerry,

8/7/92

Were it not for the many interruptions, including medical, I'd have completed the draft of "Twenty-Eight Years of Silence" weeks ago. Now I have an additional delay. The sleep-disturbance specialists at Johns Hopkins have told me to stay awake at least until 10 p.m., to take no naps, and not to have my mind on work after before I eat supper. This has not resulted in my getting more sleep but it has eliminated my early-morning work period before I go walking and I'm not permitted to use the time I get in return for work. I'll have to find out if this does not accomplish whatever they may hope for if their intent was to regularize my hours for social purposes. I'd adjusted to the new hours from the sleep apnea and found I am more productive in them.

On Specter, I encourage you to reread in Whitewash I & II the chapters on The Number of Shots and The Doctors and the Autopsy. You can pick up one helluva case of overt corruption. Like telling all the doctors when he questioned them about 399, "not this bullet, a bullet," or any bullet, and then a hypothetical generality close to but not identical with 399's he invented. They were specific in saying 399 could not have done what he attributed to it and their responses had no relationship to 399. But it appeared in the part of the report Specter wrote as their all confirming his invention of 399's career.

If you mean he should have demanded of the Commission that it get and use the pictures and X-rays of the autopsy, you have a case (he had short of an absolute demand to cover his own ass) but he had no need to demand the production of them because he wrote the Commission that Bobby K said it could have anything it really did need: Hades, not Camelot, Pots Morten.

I think you have an excellent idea and I hope it is well received in Panna.

The response you get may be influenced by the polling, and if the Dems are ahead they may well be afraid. But the papers should be interested. I urge the Phila Inquirer and if they do not go for it, ask Wecht what paper there to submit it to. If they are all publishing. At least one is not. He address is Dept. Pathology, Central Hospital & Medical Center, 1200 Centre St., 15219 (no typos or errors).

If you do not have it, Walden is remaindering The Cold Warrior. On blacks, an excellent lengthy oped piece in the Times you'll get either from Dave or from me to send to him. Its understatement makes it even better. As you'll recognize re Jesse Jackson.

And on Bush's campaign difficulties, expect the dirtiest of dirty campaigns ever because without one he has no chance. Despite his earlier protests of having no connection with them. I thin he'll lead it overtly on the hull line that he is addressing Clinton's character.

Hope you are all well,

with our love to you all,

Dear Harold,

Aug. 4, 1992

Glad to hear you are making such good progress on your book. As part of my preparation for writing on Specter, I am reading through Post Mortem again carefully. It has been at least five years since I last read it. What I am planning to do is write two short and well-documented articles. The theme and content of each will be somewhat different.

In the first article I plan to use Specter's role during the Thomas confirmation hearings as the backdrop. I recall many news commentators playing up Specter's expertise as a prosecutor. Then, I will suggest that if he is such a cracker-jack lawyer why did he fail to do so many things during his tenure as Warren Commission counsel. For example, I will note his failure to question Dr. Humes' further regarding the destruction of the first draft of the autopsy; his failure to call Sibert and O'Neill as witnesses and any of the ~~other~~ military personnel in the autopsy room; also, the significant omission of Dr. Burkley; his failure to demand the production of the autopsy photos and X-rays; among a few other items.

In the second article I plan to highlight his threat to sue Oliver Stone. Among other things I plan to note that this certainly is not the first time Mr. Specter has been called a liar, and that he did nothing about the strong statements you make in Post Mortem. Rather than sins of omission I plan to focus on sins of commission, that is, instances of outright deceit. The most prominent and obvious example will, of course, be the single-bullet theory, and his total misrepresentation of the ~~the~~ "evidence" on which it is allegedly based. More specifically, I will attempt to show (again, as you did redundantly) that Specter knew perfectly well that the President was shot in the back, that no effort was made to trace the track of that bullet, and that all the expert witnesses discounted the possibility of CE399 doing all that it is alleged to have done.

With a new school year rapidly approaching I want to get these done by the end of August or beginning of Sept. . I will send you a copy and I am planning to send some out to major newspapers in Pennsylvania and to Ms. Yeakel. Realistically, I do not expect much response. My effort may go nowhere publicly. Nonetheless, it will be a helpful exercise for me and I am sure I will come away from this with an even better understanding of how Specter and the Warren Commission failed us. And I will probably use it in my upcoming project on Stone in Jan. 93 ("The Fairy Tale that Shook the World").

For my classes in the fall I am currently putting a lot of thought into reworking my lecture notes on the race and ethnic relations course. Thanks for sending some articles on this, especially the one you sent in your last letter about the Crown Heights incident. I had not followed that. I am distressed to find Blacks reacting so violently and thoughtlessly. I find some evidence of that among black students here -- that they too often interpret things simplistically. I understood their despair and frustration, but as King so well underscored violence is no solution.

I am relishing Bush's campaign difficulties. My hope is that he will not just lose in November but be humiliated in the process. My regards to Lillian.

Best,

