

9/4/68

Dear Trent,

Your letter of 9/1 arrives at a moment of rather more than the usual physical fatigue. That awful row of monster floribunda roses is now gone, with much work remaining before winter to make the place more accessible and more habitable. It also follows a number of visits, some of which you know about and others unknown to you, which have the net result of depressing me somewhat. The more people approve my unpublished work the more I come to resent those things that have helped make me and them unpublishable.

I agree that there should be more on Malcolm X. Tell me where and how to get it. I've tried every source ~~if~~ I can think of, on both coasts. When the black militants say "Sure, we know the CIA did it: so what?" and presume that because they so believe most of their people and the white majority will assume as they do, they merely abdicate.... Even Bing did not answer my letters, never even sent me a pro forma thanks for all four books. The trouble is we really have nothing on that assassination. Several have said they could develop some information. Early this morning I again wrote such a person, who promised me earlier and again in July that he'd come up with something, and hasn't replied to my last inquiry in ~~at~~ two months.

I appreciate your offer of help. They are few and far between. Post Mortem requires an addition I will make as soon as possible. Soup distasteful is now in New York, with the only copy I have to spare of PM. If anything develops either way I'll let you know. Meanwhile, just talking about them might do some good.

Flo also offered to help. She hasn't responded to any of my letters. She sent me to the Tunstler law firm for help. Inexpensive as they are, they said I'd hear in two days. It hasn't happened yet. Flo is gone the essence of the contents of OOP DINK. I know she stays busy. But I have yet to find the one who stays as busy as I do, and I am dejected that she hasn't taken the time to answer one of the three letters I wrote. Such offers of "help" are better unmade, for they rouse false hopes and waste time.

A recent exchange of letters with Sylvia also depresses. Vince told me she had given Thornley \$100 for his legal defense. Now I have reason to believe that Thornley has no problems with his legal defense and will use her money for purposes she might not want. In fact, I believe he already has, and has used it to hurt me. I didn't tell her this, but I did try and alert her to what her unbridled emotions were driving her to. I think that if she learns her money was used for such purposes, she will be embarrassed. Her response was to tell me she could spend her money as she desired. Indeed she can! I can only regret that if she can spare such sums for such scum, she might have parted with a little when I couldn't find the money to pay for documents in the Archives. That would have bought us 500 pages of them, perhaps 2,000 in microfilm. I cannot say all that I knew about Thornley, not only because there will be a trial in New Orleans but because he and Lifton have been making noises about suing me (with Sylvia's money?). But, as she should be able to realize, after she has given him the money there is nothing she can do that will do me any good. I sought only to help her get in a position where she might reduce the ultimate embarrassment to herself over what she did, thinking, I have no doubt, that she was pursuing principle. Sylvia is the last of us I'd have expected to follow principles this way, or as she did in her book, by knowingly misrepresenting the dates of appearance of the various books. I say "knowingly" because she knew without my telling her and also because, while she was still correcting proofs, I told her. This sort of thing is not at all encouraging.... Is she indexing and annotating Epstein's Garrison book? I'd be unhappy but not surprised.

I am only too aware of the vile things Mark is and has been doing. Some of those he thinks receptive are not and inform me. Garrison will be lucky enough to survive himself. He will never survive the combination of himself, Mark and Mort. This will make problems for all of us. What Mark has done and is doing is hurtful in many ways. Much as I resent his endless thievery, even more do I object to the rotten little things that interfere with work. If he is so goddamned lazy he will not do any (which may be a blessing, for he has a unique blend of incompetence and dishonesty which is frightening), the least one might expect of him is leaving others alone. He has, for example, campaigned up and down the west coast in a number of ways, one of which has the effect of supporting Thornley and agreeing with Lifton. This has turned off a number of sources.

Well, these are not the thoughts you asked for, but with interest on my enormous indebtedness due and not on hand, with three unpublished manuscripts and three half-done ones, they are the kind that do not contribute to constructive work and do intrude on my conscious thought too much.

I have tried to help Eric Norden despite resentment at the injustices his own ignorance of the subject prevents his knowing he did me, without so intending. He thinks he was kind. Playboy even said they'd pay me for some of the work. They haven't, and I flew to Chicago, etc. I have called him a half-dozen times without getting any response. I had quite a stack of evidence for him in a field in which he was writing. I have gotten three reports of troubles with his book and have tried to call him about this, to at least let him know. No response. I had a lot of Minutemen and National States Rights Party stuff for him - original and unpublished. Here is where he and Playboy asked for help. If he is doing a book on Malcolm X, fine. I am certainly needed. But I cannot waste this kind of time trying to help those who will not be helped.

Hope you can do Gary some good. He's a great guy, I wrote him yesterday.

Frankly, I despair of getting a publisher and if I have the kind I had with Canyon, progressive that is, I think I'd rather be unpublished until I can bring my own work out. The magnitude of that potential disaster is not yet apparent, except to me. To save a possible - not certain - few lousy bucks they are knuckling in to Bringuier's blackmail, with all the evil inherent in it. They have never done a thing with the book. In fact, signed no trade announcement, even belatedly, when I asked it. The one thing they did you were present for, and half of that was my expense. I cannot go deeper in debt to bring my own work out. Here is where help against Dell might have helped, for they do owe me considerable money, I could pay off some of my indebtedness and publish a book for part of it.

If I cannot get help from the black organizations on COUP D'ETAT, which I know is very important to them, I simply will do no more work in that area. There is too much to do in too many fields. I have, to this day, in more than two months, not gotten a single one of them even to read the book. In fact, I've not gotten a single response. I think they can, without it costing them a single cent, make it possible for me to bring this book out. But if wonderful people like Flo will not even respond, what can I expect?

You ask if I will help at the time of the anniversary. Of course, but I'll require my costs returned - at the present rate, possibly even advanced. The one complication I can anticipate is a commitment to go to California. The San Diego group wants me to speak there and can arrange some of my transportation costs. As soon as the rest can be arranged and there is time for the necessary promotions, I will go, because there is much that must communicate to others working out there that I dare not by phone or mail, and there are remnants of my previous work out there not followed up on. I never get out there without significant results. Last time I turned Hall, Howard and others on and have got

my promised expenses refunded. That one cost me over \$500. And it is not the only one to Calif. for which I did not get the promised expenses refunded. Mark has been busy stealing and defaming, but when Liebelser had him on the ropes and running and Maggie and Bill O'Connell begged me to come out and take the heat off, I abandoned WHITEWASH II, torn coming off the presses, and did just that. However, there is much fruitful work to be done out there and as soon as it is possible I will have to go there. These are the only two things I can now anticipate that could prevent my being in New York.

I am working in more areas than you could imagine, and every lead is panning out, which merely adds to my unease about my personal situation. There is a greater hazard to me in COUP than in any of my other work, as you will see. Since I had seen here I have done what I projected as an addition to it that is half book length. I am undecided where to use it, or how. I am getting it on paper. I could do a book on Oswald as an agent with what I have and nothing else. I could do a book on other aspects alone, either of these in less than two weeks. Vince, Gary and Paul want me to do a book on Epstein. I agreed, under certain conditions that I specified. They have not responded so I cannot do it. I asked that certain things be done so that when Viking brings his thing out I can get the opportunity to oppose it and him on the media, as now one else of us can. Silence. I feel very much alone, Trent. The two things I do not really need are praise and sympathy. Meaningful help is rarely forthcoming, except from wonderful people like Hal and Gary. Steve Burton goes wonders when I am out there.

You do not begin to know or understand how difficult this all is in the Garrison area and it is perhaps just as good that you do not. It is a major, dominating, controlling problem. Sylvia has been responsible for more harm than she can realize, for she has made other evil things possible. But she "scares" on the least of it. The ineptness and incompetence of the other side is all that saves it.

I rumble. On the picture: I think I can use it either as a cover on COUP, with hollow white letters for the printing, or as a back cover, or an inside cover. The picture was taken by a Houston photographer. Matt Herron has promised to put me in touch but hasn't. In six cents, the poster Carol sent me is the only copy I've been able to get....We have little wall space, as you know. We have the poster on the inside of the livingroom door, tell Carol. People do see it.

These moods never held me for long. As soon as I clean up a little on the draft of COUP I plan to complete EM. A friend is trying to introduce both in New York. Both are now in the hands of one man who did express interest. My fears for both, ever and above my original liabilities and the additional ones Mark is so lustily adding, are simple: both are very tough books.

If you promise to keep the contents of both confidential, save as you might have to discuss them with possible publishers, I will try and arrange to make copies available in New York. How long will it take you to read them? COUP is about 300 double-spaced pages, EM about 135 single-spaced, legal pages. You have a difficult position, having to try and maintain one of neutrality, hence I put it this way. Some of what I let others see in confidence wound up in Thompson's book. In fact, this is 100% of what he had that was not published earlier. It is from EM.

Best to Carol, and again, thanks for the offer of help. Best to Jerry.

Sincerely,

**KENNEDY ASSASSINATION
INQUIRY COMMITTEE
G.P.O. BOX 2691, NYC, 10001**

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick
Maryland 21701

Sept. 1, 1968.

Dear Harold:

I saw your letter to Carol, and I am answering it for her, as I was set to write to you about now.

Carol will be sending you the other poster; she's delighted you like it. And I will try to find out about that other photo for you. And how would Carol's poster do for a back book cover?!

No, I haven't heard from Bernebei. Immediately after I returned from Toronto, he bombarded Gary Murr and Dick Sprague with questions about what I had learned there, and they both told him to write to me if he wanted any information. And of course he hasn't...perhaps by now he is aware many people regard him with great suspicion.

I am currently trying to represent Gary Murr with the publishers here, and see if I can do anything with his book on Similas. Perhaps I might be able to aid you at the same time, if you want me to try. No guarantees, of course, but someone has to keep up the pressure. Hal tells me your Post-Mortem book is really marvellous; I would like to see it, and see what might really be done with it here, both to get a publisher, and see that it is really marketed. Your Coup D'etat sounds like it might really sell, in addition to being good; but I would express the same reservation that Hal did...Malcolm X should get some good coverage in it. Did you know that Eric Norden, who did the Realist article, is doing a whole book on the subject? In any case, let me have your thoughts, suggestions, etc.

Now for the main subject of the letter. With whatever resources are at our command at the time, we intend to make a big thing out of the coming fifth anniversary of the assassination, centering on November, 21, 22, and 23. I plan for a big public program on the night of the 22nd, with a continual round of radio and television interview shows organized for the researchers on all three days. And, of course, public petitioning, pasting, leafleting, etc. In short, with the anniversary upon us, and the trials of Ray (?) and Sirhan set to begin in Nov., we will make the most out of it. We will try to get backing for a new investigation from prominent people, we will arrange demonstrations wherever necessary, and if possible, new evidence will be released through press conferences. And, for the benefit of the researchers, we are trying to get everyone here, and have a sort of private convention, with an exchange of information.

I don't have to tell you how difficult this all is in the Garrison era, what with all the squabbles etc., but I will do the best job possible, using, as I say, whatever resources are available. So, please consider being here then, (when we will make the greatest use ever of the media, I hope!), and try to keep those dates free. Meanwhile, keep well, and you will be hearing from me again very soon.

All the best,

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