

10/15/68

Dear Matt,

I've postponed revising that part of COUP D'ETAT dealing with your King tapes in the expectation your notes would be here by now. If you have sent them, they haven't arrived. I can now postpone this no longer, for reasons I'll explain to you in person.

Because I was working on other things, I did not read Lil's transcriptions of the tape until early this morning. I'd heard the tapes several times. Now that I've seen it, which is different, I think using them verbatim, effective as that would be, may be too hazardous, may point too much at the witnesses. It had been my belief that by removing words and phrases I could protect them sufficiently. That may be true, but as of now, I am not convinced. Therefore, I will paraphrase, with an occasional direct quotation.

Here is a set of carbons. Perhaps you can see a way of using them more directly. Also, because you are more familiar with these voices and because you have the clearer tape, I'd appreciate it very much if you would listen and, where you can, fill in the blanks. That way we can have a better record for whatever future use there might be. There is always the chance there will be a need for this, and if that comes to pass, there will not then be enough time. When you have done this, please either send it, giving my wife the ~~xxxxx~~ opportunity of correcting the other copies before I return, or give it to me. You can have a copy, if you want. I'll then put a copy in the bank vault, with the copy of the tape.

With Kyle, I think otherwise. There is no reason not to use his tape, verbatim. I think it is worthwhile. It is human, warm, personal - and I do not shun the emotional in my writing - and in its own way of evidentiary value. I believe we discussed this and you agreed.

If Lil doesn't have the final copy on this done before I leave, she'll mail it to me, c/o you, and we can, either way, go over it together. I plan to have the complete ms, in case you'd care to read it. I think there are parts you should, that from them you may see whether there is a fit between these tapes and some of the material I have never discussed with you. I am convinced of the possibility and regard the probability as quite high.

I anticipate no warm welcomes in New Orleans, but I do look forward to again seeing your bright and shining faces. There has been silence from where I've expected silence and silence from where I've expected responses. Those Cubans who are not pleased with me have shown themselves more clearly with their Cubans for Nixon-Agnew groups, the leader of which is a long-time associate of Batista. Bringuier, who is most active in it, will have to try and serve me if he knows I am there, and this can lead to problems and the need for money I do not have. I presume you have made all the recommendations you can, but think perhaps talking to Helseth, to see if, in an emergency, there is a lawyer who will represent me without the expectation of getting paid. My debts are of such a magnitude, I just cannot promise to pay.

Do you think your agent would represent me - and would try? Mine gave up with the first week on the first ms I gave him.

One of the things I will try when I am there this time is to see Mrs. Stern and ask for copies of some of the film they have the value and importance of which they do not know. I now have pretty solid indications. In looking at film, you could be a great help - if she lets me. I will then want to have stills made of the various frames. Ditto WFL-TV. Both on Oswald and his literature distribution.