

9/11/69

Mr. Ronald Hobbs
Room 303
211 E 43rd St.
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Ron,

Your silence, after about four months, is a disappointment.

I write to give you a progress report on the addition to *COUR D'ETAT*. As I told you, it deals entirely with the King/Ray case.

It is written. That is, I have finished the writing, have read and corrected it in haste, and my wife is retyping it. My estimate of its length is probably conservative. I now think this addition will run about 200,000 words. A little less than a third if retyped. From now on it will go slower because beginning next week two days each will be taken up by other things my wife will have to do for much of the rest of the year.

In writing it I have had in mind most of all making the historical record I regret so much no block has seen fit to undertake. It is more inclusive than a commercial book need be. I believe it will be no difficult chore, in the event commercial interest can be sponsored, to cut large hunks out. I have had this in mind in its organization. However, I have also had in mind replacing cross-examination in a legal proceeding, the destruction of the prosecution case. Here I think I have succeeded overwhelmingly. My intent was not to defend Ray, which was inevitable, but to prove the crime is unsolved and is unsolved only because this was the predetermination of public authority -all of it from the attorney general down. That Ray was framed is, I believe, beyond question. That public authority also framed him is obvious. The same is true of his lawyers -all of them. It is simply incredible but it is true beyond question. I think that, given the non-existing disposition to do something about it, there is enough in this work to get all the lawyers involved disbarred or disciplined and a new trial for Ray. Meaning a chance to solve the crime, force the government to go after the assassin and those who had to have conspired with him.

A lecture bureau is going to offer me. This comes after their list for the year is completed and published, so, aside from any reduced interest in the subject (and the New Orleans fiasco has caused some), my chances will be reduced also. But if I am booked at any colleges, I intend to go into this. I would welcome opportunities to speak on this score. If I get them, I think I'll stir the kids up a bit.

The last words in the work are an incomplete sentence: "The awful crime of silence". Germany 1932. Orwell. Only not Jews alone give us the Judenrat this time. Nor is it only the leaders of government whose tongues are clamped.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg