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Dear Lonnie and,

If I did not have a couple of medical problems that have me leading convoluted hours to cope with them I'd have called you some night after you are at work. But I am asleep before you get to work, so that would not work. I did miss getting an Xmas card and I've wondered ever since if you were just too busy, decided not to send one, or whether you have some kind of problem that would make us unhappy. In any event, we hope you are all fine and stay that way.

For us we are OK. Lil had a fantastically successful cataract removal in which the ophthalmologist corrected her life-long astigmatism in that eye. Second cataract off we do not know when but then all the astigmatism will be corrected.

These days I'm lucky if I sleep to 1 a.m. Haven't in about a week. So I try to retire about six and last night did make that but I tired this morning in my early-morning walking, which is more resting than walking, and an hour from our now rather early supper sat and asked myself what I've been wanting to find time for to do that instead of returning to reading and correcting the draft of a book I laid aside seven months ago to do a different one. If schedules are kept I have a book coming out in April and another in September. The April one is less than half of what I wrote and the September one is close to a quarter of a million words and could have been out last July. They decided to save it for the 31st anniversary.

Aside from wanting to hear that you are all OK, I've been intending to write you since shortly after Thanksgiving to alert you to something that is going to happen and about which you should know.

I've asked you a couple of times to please tell me about the correct so-called Oswald numbers instead of the one you made up. I knew you know it for two reasons. One is that I got it from a Commission record all the so-called researchers missed, and you had to have been the source for the Commission's source. Another is that on Thanksgiving day I discovered that that record and quite a bit more was stolen from me. Without any real question, the thief was a Baltimore cop named Richard Waybright who was also working for a really sick-in-the-head man writing supposedly on the JFK assassination, Harrison Edward Livingstone. Waybright was also working for David Lifton, who wrote one of the most terribly bad of all the very bad books. Livingstone in in that same class and they hate each other.

Lifton has a book on Oswald contracted, to appear this year. What was stolen from me for him includes the files of greatest interest to him. He is bad medicine. Both are.

A fine man, Major John Newman, Army intelligence, was here for Thanksgiving dinner with his wife. Newman has done some fine work in the records the CIA made available the end of last year, on Oswald and on the CIA's interest in him that predates establishing

the 201 file on him. Then to help him with that research, and he has since contracted a book, I took him into my office, turned the copier on, and that is when I discovered that about two inches of files indicating some Oswald government connection were gone. I know of nobody other than Waybright ~~him~~ who could have taken them and other records I know have been stolen. So I told Newman, told him the number, identified that document to him, and a few days later he phoned to tell me he had found that record. So he knew the number from me and now has the record with ~~it~~ given *in it*.

When you were with Hearst in Baltimore and before you and Mary came here for the first time when that business was in the news I primed a Post reporter who was going to phone you and when you spoke to him you said you were uncertain about the number but gave him four correct numbers. The correct number is 110669. And that is not an FBI number, as I think you know, and I think you also know what it is consistent with.

So what I am saying is that if you have not yet had any reflections of any interest, expect some, friend. I have a high opinion of Newman and the exact opposite of Lifton. You cannot trust Lifton in any way, other than to write what he wants believed other than whatever the fact and truth may be. He has even boasted of stealing. And I have that.

I'm sorry you did not want to go into it with me. I'm still interested, of course!

The theft from me is not recent so the word could have gotten around a little. I've had the record with that number since late 1966. Had, that is!

And I hate for a no-good to be the first to use it, if it works out that way. He will undoubtedly misuse it, as he has just about everything.

I did not make notes on what Newman told me he had found in the new CIA records but I believe my recollection is clear, that three CIA offices expressed an interest in Oswald before they set that ~~201~~ 201 file up. One deals with USSR spies, another with ours and I think the third deals with both, maybe double-agents. And Oswald was interviewed after he returned, by the CIA. Despite the story that he was not interviewed.

Richard Gallen/Carroll & Graf have issued Selections from Whitewash as a quality paperback. The selected <sup>are</sup> from the four Whitewash books and Post Mortem and the selections and organization are excellent. No promotion or advertising of which I know. If you want a review copy, the address of C & G is 260 Fifth Ave, NYC, 10001. I'm not aware of an advertising or promotion.

I had a phone call from Newman a little while ago. He'll be up soon unless his plans change. The Army has him teaching at Maryland. He lives in Odenton. I'll probably learn more about his coming book then. <sup>years</sup> Aside from being an honest and more than merely competent man, he is a pro. I think his 20 <sup>years</sup> are in later this year and he'll then retire from the Army. He writes more than just well and he organizes his writing superbly. I have a high opinion of his JFK and Viet Nam. In which he favored neither the Army nor JFK. An impressively straight book, I think. And an important one.

If you were to come here now you'd have no reason to believe you'd left Buffalo.

We have had a snow cover since before Xmas. With too much ice between the snows. This morning was the first in a long time when it was above freezing and that is to change back tonight.

If you remember the row of pines between the house and the pond, a couple of <sup>w</sup>weeks ago the snow under them had disappeared. A small herd of deer were coming there daily to brows <sup>e</sup>/where there was no snow and rest there. I had a friend bring a bale of hay and put it there for them. The next day we had a heavy snow that still covers the hay and we've not seen a deer since. We had been seeing many daily. I suppose they are higher on the mountain where there are more trees for them to find what they can eat.

The squirrels are making themselves caves in the snow ~~where~~ where there are sunflower seeds the birds wasted. Cute to <sup>watch</sup> ~~watch~~ them <sup>stick</sup> ~~take~~ a head out.

As you can see, my typing has not improved and alas, cannot!

But these convoluted hours give me big uninterrupted chunks and that lets me get more work done. I was surprised at how rapidly I can churn it out and still have it stack.

I do not remember whether I told you but Hood College here in Frederick awarded ~~Bill~~ and me honorary doctorates this past August. It was very nice and it went very well. A few friends, three college professors, and family came and all enjoyed it and how well they were treated.

If you see the annual US News ratings, peer ratings, you know how well the college is regarded.

We do hope you are all well.

Our best,

Harold