

*I've got  
more to say - but  
I'll wait until tonight  
for a longer letter.*

23 June 1968

Dear Harold,

I just got back--about 12 hours ago--(it is actually 1 AM the 24th) from Chicago. My folks took four of the kids for the summer--or a part of the summer. So I am back, and start teaching again in seven hours.

*or weeks* I'm fairly certain that I can find a place for you to stay for next week--not this week--that is, the week beginning 1 July. I teach five days a week during the summer, from 8 to 10:40 AM. The rest of my time is spent here in the apartment, writing and working, etc. My thoughts are not at all clear. Not at all. I've had the flu, and still have it--I'm sort of played out, weak. If you can wait for another week, I'm sure that I can get you a place. But tomorrow morning, I can ask a number of people ~~u~~ up at Loyola if they can get you a place. If that isn't okay, then I'll just keep hunting around. Surely I can find something.

God, yes! I am in the Warren Commission. I know. I read the testimony of Bob Bienvenu. No one called on me. No one asked me to corroborate his testimony; and the horrible thing about it is that Bienvenu's testimony looks as if he stayed alone with me. He failed to mention that my wife and five kids were in the apartment: further, part of that testimony is perjured: if you met Bob Bienvenu--a great guy, no doubt--you'd know he was homosexual within three minutes. The only thing we agreed on was that the ass is attractive, but we disagreed on genres. But he did tell Rochelle Estrin, who told me, that he had seen Ruby in one of the queer bars in New Orleans. I got a kick out of the way the Feebees accepted his denial. No wonder they weren't able to accomplish anything. I'm surprised they didn't accept Ruby's word he didn't shoot Oswald. Anyway, Tom Bethal brought that to my attention, and I talked to Louie about it.

At any rate, I was ticked off no end about it. (Am I mentioned some place else? Because I gave no statements because I wasn't asked.)

I want to thank you for the corrections on the review. What I wrote about your books I sincerely believe. I have not tried to flatter you; you are thus far about the only honest writer on the subject. (Which is precisely why everyone is really trying to shut you out.) The review, by the way, was only supposed to be 3 or 4 pages long; my Chairman, Tom Preston, was really thrilled with the review--with a draft--and made suggestions (for clarities sake) so that I had to lengthen it. It was about 8 pages when he read it. But <sup>he</sup> it liked the hell out of it, and thinks that it should cause a little bit of a stir. I hope so. When the editors hand it back to me with whatever corrections they may have, I'll change the address and make the other corrections. But it was lots of fun writing, and I hope more people begin reading you.

Literary and scholarly theivery are not really universal--it's just that when one deals with so many students, that one is not surprised to find the scholarly world doing the same thing. It is shocking in one sense; and in another it is not. I am still a believer in Original Sin, and the corruption of man. ~~But, With~~ St. Augustine, I think that all men are liars but that one should neither love them nor shun them the less. ~~And~~ Some men are much weaker than others; and we all have our own weaknesses. I simply grew up in an atmosphere at Tulane that believed in honesty and in integrity and in honor. But the students, even at Loyola, don't believe in that. Virtue, it seems, is only something to parade if and when it adds to your bank account or to your status. Morality is equated with keeping your pants zipped. Maybe I am guilty of moral superiority, though that is a joke. I just cannot equate morality with a zipped up fly.

On ~~NEW~~ Oswald in New Orleans--it is the editor's job to make corrections. Canyon should have done that. Or--they should have had someone go over the galley sheets with you. That is not your fault as much as it is theirs. But all that is pedantry. When I re-read it, I think it is a much better job--after reading Whitewash I, II. Anyway, it is close to 2 AM, and I have a lecture to go over for this morning: I hope I either see you or hear from you soon. I'm going to whip this over to the P.O. so that it gets out with the 5:30 mail.

Sincerely

John Joerg

