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9/17

Dear wonderful, sweet-talkin' Jones,

Grabbing a moment at the end of a good week (thought there is no beginning or end in here, every day being a working day) before the mail comes, I must again thank you for the kind words.

I hope you see Drew Pearson's column. Today's tells the efforts of the Kennedy family to suppress such books as mine. Mrs. K.'s thoughts and beliefs are shocking. Not even modern royalty would attempt that. Only she knows and will say what may or may not be known, said or believed, and only her creature Manchester is wise enough, all-knowing and trustworthy enough to let us peasants know. Only he can be heard in history, and only from him (read her) can those who would write about this get their word. It is incredible, sad and the scandalous thing I have tried to avoid. If you'd seen my correspondence, including with friends of the family, one-way with the family, with Harper's, etc., you'd know. I have avoided this, but now it is out and I suppose it is good, but I hate such scandals for the presidency and anything related to it involves the national integrity.

People keep telling me I ought to sue Popkin and Avon and the NY Rev. I'm not doing anything now. I have merely written a lawyer who is expert in the field and am awaiting an answer. How people can be so vile on such a subject. This is not the only one. I'm sure you know of more and know of the use of your own materials. It is just possible some decent person in the press, and there are some left, will blow the whistle on him. While others scream at me that he has plagiarized, I think what they have done is worse. A week ago I was told that Avon was holding off on their big publicity for me to file suit!! They actually seem to have asked people who know people who know me to try and find out, and to talk me into it! How strange the love of country manifests itself. I haven't seen the book yet.

I hope before your young friend went looking for the information you got my second letter. It is not now necessary. I've got that chapter done - in fact-shhh! all of the are done. The book is in rough. I've got to go over the chapter on the autopsy, much of which has now been stolen from me, and then I'll read the rough, patch it up, etc.

Don't put words in my mouth. I meant candid and straightforward. I don't think you get conned very often. not by Penn or anyone else. And on the personal basis, are both pairs of us not indeed blessed?

You will not have to be terrified of our geese, nor will you have to seek them. They will not bite and will come on call. They're the wildest wild geese you'll ever see. Lil, took in a rescuer who was losing his home because he was became a bad boy. So we have one Emden, who learned how to milk cows. He stays right behind the house, will not go on the road, etc.

I value your opinion and ask you to consider this, re Subtitle: If I use the same cover, changing the upper line to "The Book That MUST Be Printed", adding II after WHITEWASH, and keeping the rest the same, with the hollow-lettered white "who Did It." not a question, overlaid diagonally, with the words "The Report on the

Warren Report " showing through, will you still think the same about your 1. point?

Sales are now up to a few under 12,500. I wish some of the dough would come home so we can cut into some of the 6% going out and pay the printer, who is still waiting for most of the second printing with the third half gone, and so we could do a few things, too. Got a cabled request for an option from France this week, referred to my London agent.

I now hear conflicting stories about Ramparts, anything from October to December. Those call from Lisbon Monday. Last word from WNEH is middle next month, preceded by adv. and promotion.

Sure wish you were nearer so you could read ms. of II, of which we were not able to make enough copies. We still have the pennies to pinch, and there is the question of time. Lil is only one person. Have a pending offer from a small publisher, for both books. It is possible the Pearson column will poke a few of them in their most tender nerve, the pocketbook nerve. Best to you both, sincerely,

on 11/11/50 I have written a letter to you and your wife and your children. I have written a letter to you and your wife and your children. I have written a letter to you and your wife and your children.

I hope to see you again very soon. I have written a letter to you and your wife and your children. I have written a letter to you and your wife and your children.

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PENN JONES, JR., EDITOR

September Something, no doubt

Dear Harold,

About every ten years I get so mad about something that I could explode or have a fit on the floor. Poor Penn usually has to listen to my rantings. But, unfortunately, he is not at home at the moment.

The reason I am so cock-eyed furious is that I am partially through Popkin's book. How COULD he be so completely unscrupulous? THE VERY IDEA! He ought to be ashamed of himself.

Get a load of this: "Thomas Buchan, in his otherwise far-fetched work" That one I can swallow...."Mark Lane, for example, in his uneven RUSH TO JUDGMENT"..un-even it might be, but Professor Popkins relies heavily on Mark's legwork. And to cap it off, here we have "Harold Weisberg's noisy, tendentious WHITEWASH."

Does this nut think he is the only person in the world who can write? He's beginning to sound like a Time magazine critic, and not a very good one at that. So far, he has treated Eptein with some respect, but I'll bet you 2¢ Epstein ends up as being "a sweet, but rather idiotic child, writing an innocent thing which he really knows nothing about."

Well, maybe I can settle down now, having gotten that off my chest.

So far as the information you requested, Penn would be thrown out on his ear. But we have a young friend visiting us (very knowledgeable kid) who will try Monday morning. We told him, "Look dumb. Look like a college kid, which he is, and do the best you can."

Thank you very much for the kind things you have said to us and written to us. Meeting you was a great experience. We both agree that as of this date, you have far the best book. Angled differently from ours, but still much better.

I was somewhat amused - and somewhat pleased - when you referred to me as candid or straight forward. I didn't realize I possessed these qualities. What you may have meant, and were too kind to say, is that I can ask extremely personal questions.

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PENN JONES, JR., EDITOR

All right, if we're getting into the Candid Department, when we read your book, we agreed it was excellent, even if it did knock out the old eyeballs. But I told Penn at that time, "Here is a guy who is absolutely crazy about his wife." Penn agreed. Our further conversations with you proved that to be so true.

Good for you, my dear, Penn and I have very much the same thing going in that department. Penn is such a decent guy - good husband, good father. Completely honest. Tremendous courage.

Well, the next time you and Penn get together (and this is supposed to be funny), I am going to stop off and stay with your wife. Maybe I could help feed the geese, or fill in somewhere. I am terrified of geese, as a child I was once flopped (or flapped?) by one. But I am willing to throw some corn over the fence.

I am glad that you two came in that morning. Was it 5:20? And if your wife ever asks what I looked like you can reply in all honesty that so far as my hair was concerned, I somewhat resembled a Zulu.

Please think a little more about your sub-title. You have two choices on the one you have chosen.

1. You are going to catch hell from the critics. They are going to ~~ha~~ give you the "too cheap and flashy" treatment.
2. You may very well pick up new readers - the people who read who-done-its in bus stations, drug stores, that type of person. Well, in the long run, that is the type of reader you need. Critics and scholars are going to read it anyway.

Our very best wishes to you and your wife. And please come to see us.

With friendship,

L. G.