

NEW ADDRESS: Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701:::301/473-0186

12/4/67

Dear both,

I've about gotten out from under the accumulation, kept up with everything since my return, and hope to be able to return to constructive work in a day or two, maybe for but a day or two if I got to N.O. again. Jim asked me to return as soon as possible. I spoke to Tom today. He's to call me back if he can this evening so I'll know whether to make a reservation on the Saturday morning plane. If I go, I can stay as much as a week this time.

Maybe its because I'm so naive, but I seem to turn some of the characters in this case on. I've a list of people in New Orleans waiting to talk to me who apparently do not communicate with the fuzz. My trip the early part of last month was very productive, if 10% of the stuff checks out, as much of it seems to. Only time will tell.

I've developed a number of new witnesses on the west coast, one who knew several of the important characters. Just today I got a letter from a guy who read of one in O in N.O. and has more data on him. I have Hal checking it out. He and his boys have done superb work. I turned a witness over to him two weeks ago, with nothing but a P.O. box office where he has a box. He has located the man (who talked to me freely on the radio-at 4 a.m.!), taped an interview, and has a 26-page transcript I cannot wait to see. He has made positive identification of one of the key figures in my False Oswald story!

This trip I was also able to enlist the services of a few more decent newsmen, like Bob Scott in Boston. I have one of them thoroughly briefed on another aspect of the same story, with dozens of pages of documents to refer to, and I can only hope he comes up with something.

Everything went so well, even Joe Pyne was nice to me. In fact, he broke his hitherto unbroken policy against using a guest who had been on the same station earlier to use me. And then he asked me to stay over to do his radio show, too. The TV thing was on in NY last night, California a week ago, and Washington this weekend. Maybe it 'll do a little good.

There was only one rough spot, a self-important tough reporter, the fellow responsible for that obscenity with Reagan and the homosexuals. He filmed me for a nighttime newscast an hour before they splice their film together. He began with a quiet, right-down-the-middle, impartial question, "Don't you think the American people are sick and tired of your constant regurgitation of the Kennedy Assassination?" Without stopping to think, I responded, "I'll give you an honest answer to a dishonest question" and then bing. right in his fat mouth. But he had memorized his questions, never anticipated I'd take the offensive immediately, and he was like one snake swallowing another: he couldn't stop and he didn't want to go forward. But he had a film to deliver. In two minutes during which I really slaughtered him without losing my cool, he had enough and, bewildered, he so said. He first mumbled, "That's it", then dropped his mike and at the same time his jaw, turned and walked into the camera and lights with both drooping, barely able to walk, like a man stunned, and the camera caught all of it. It was a ball! They didn't dare use the film, but they wanted to. Apparently his peers feel about his as decent people should. We sat in the studio to preview the news, but it wasn't on, though the news staff expected it. The news director wrote an intro in the blind,



not having seen it and his star not showing his face (he didn't, for two days that I know of). After the news was previewed, all the news staff poured into a little place they have for looking at film and ran it. Everybody, including me, enjoyed it. The people there respected me so much for it that they've invited me back (at their expense) to do an hour show early next year. I spent a total of about 7 hours on their radio and TV while I was there, which is quite much for just a couple of days. I think I'll not be interviewed next time!

They are going to ask Liebel and/or Ball to face me, at my suggestion. I did have a confrontation with Liebel on a local show that Ray arranged, almost costing me the Pyne show thereby. They altered the format that we'd agreed on in advance, then violated the one content stipulation I'd made, that we not go into what I'd promised the Pyne show (this, of course, could be made to look as though I were reluctant to go into what I really wanted most of all to go into, and then Pyne got wound up on other stuff and never got into it!). So, although I didn't come out as well as I might because of this, I think I scored the points. The next day, after the taping but before the airing, I said something about him on another TV show. The moderator asked if what I said was fair and I assured him it was. "Call him up and let him deny it to my face, by phone," I said. They did phone Wesley J., and he refused. I made them say this ~~xxxx~~ on the air. I'm needing him a little, too, over his squawk to the UC paper on their reports of my speech. I wrote them a letter commending them on their journalistic achievement in reporting the transformation of Wesley J. Liebel from the fox who got himself ~~skinned~~ to guard the chicken house into the pig who got stuck.

I'd just gotten home when I started this, having had to go to town to make the outgoing mail and run a few errands. Lil had supper on and there was no time to work. I've been wanting to write and wish you well, to tell you that we do hope for a better coming year and a happy holiday for you, and I know we will not have time to mail cards out.

I guess there is nothing really new. Sylvia has been silent since I wrote her a very pointed letter. She appears to have been close to that cop-out Thompson, who has evolved a crooked formula the government and its apologists may well find acceptable. My letter was not on this, which was not then public, but her continuing distribs over Jim and all the rest of us, with lies about me and what I had said (and, of course, hadn't), etc. In more than a month she has been silent. I'm very sorry about how it turned out. She has come unhinged on this.

Maggie's broken arm seems to be doing well. Steve is absolutely incredible, he is so mature and performed so magnificently. It is hard to believe he is only 18 years old. Bill was tied and working hard on his "special", so I saw little of him. Ray was preparing for the speech in the Los Angeles Free Press and was he sore about Thompson. It seems that not only did I print Thompson's "discovery" a year ago, but Ray had told him about it at about the same time! Ray and I reached the same conclusion by different means and entirely independently.

If you speak to Shirley, our best. I gather from LA's last that she has more problems than the tragedy of her daughter. I'd love to meet her sometime.

If I go to NO I'll try and let you know in advance so we can get together.

Best from us both,