

Dear Jim,

8/18/75

Thanks for the interesting clips with your 8/14 and the suggestions on subtitle. I've got to come up with something

Check on the raulfia and the novel, etc.

It occurred to me that ~~it~~ had not made so many references to Post Mortem and if I were more confident that something definitive would now happen I'd take a chance perhaps and call it WHITEWASH V: POST MORTEM. Any thoughts on this? There is no problem with copyright of the copyrighted parts with a new title. The question is about the title/subtitle.

I like your idea about suggesting the end, the collapse, the crumbling of the coverup. Do you think that used in this sense Post Mortem suggests it while also being a reference to the major content. (There will not be more on the ballistics, which is not unrelated to the medical.)

I was not aware of the second Whitney Young autopsy. Hm. How many can there be of these kinds of things and all be natural or coincidental? (I met him once. He had an impressive presence.)

Don't remember for whom I intended that copy of the letter to the CIA but thanks. I rush too much.

Forrestal: don't know how much more that friend can now do. He's into much and soon school will begin again.

That our mail now gets here about two hours earlier is going to be an advantage. I think. I can time my morning walk now to bring the mail back in with me and when Lil is working there will be less break in my day's work. We get a new carrier with it. What remains of Rt. 8 is still the old carrier's. Two days it has been here by 10. Two other days are ~~always~~ ^{always} later, loaded with local junk mail and weeklies.

I've put carbons in so I can return to the possibilities of the title WHITEWASH V: POST MORTEM ~~and~~ take it up with Jim and Howard. These considerations will not effect ^{whether} or not it is a good title but they are more in my thinking because of some very constructive criticisms from a reporter friend with the National Enquirer at supper last night. But in order to escape some of these writing problems and liabilities without changing the conditions of my life, which I cannot, I have to change to the degree I can the conditions of my work. Among the benefits possible is that I might not have to write books about breaking stories when magazines with large staffs have trouble doing that. I can't endlessly rewrite books as there are developments, either. The time must come when I can sit down and plan and outline a book and organize it as one should. And get the opinions and advice of friends. With much of TIGER TO RIDE, almost all, I can do this when I can get back to it. There can be some problems with AGENT OSWALD because there is new info and I may get more. But I think the basic organization I did work on before I began writing will work so that there can be adds. Aside from this the reporter friend is not the only one who has asked me this year about a consolidation/contraction of all the WHITEWASH series. Until after Post Mortem this is premature. But if the series ends then it is possible. It would be awkward to have this condensation and then a new work in that series...I think, too, that with all the other work I have to do I have to try to reorganize and simplify that, around what can't be avoided. I have to look forward to the possibilities of an involvement, if only informal, in an official investigation. One now is not impossible. And to slowing down a bit, living differently. So, aside from the symbolism, I wonder if there is an advantage in this title? ...The other works I plan and actually have researched, aside from the partly-written books I've had to lay aside, need not be called part of this series. (In substance they are all part of the overall concept, though.) I don't know if the gesture and the symbolism could bring or help bring these needed changes about but I'd welcome your thoughts on the title, separately. Best, HW