

Dear JDW,

5/8/75

There is new measure of change, and because I rested much yesterday I've enough time this a.m. to note them.

It may be in the papers by the time you get this. CBS is doing a two-hour new look at the assassinations for November. I heard from the young reporter with whom I've been working yesterday. He had been told and it is to be announced. Midgeley, who did the four-part videowhitewash, made the decision and is in direct charge.

While this can mean another whitewash, if it does it will have to be of an entirely different character. I am now confident, as some of my recent enclosures have indicated, that I'll be able to bring enough change about long before then. With any real support I can do it almost instantly, but I'm not pressing and I'm cooling it.

(If I've sent any of the material on Mike Wallace, they have spent a young fortune on the trivial and are spinning wheels. Which is fairly much what I predicted to the one in charge of research several weeks ago. I called their scheme a loser. But I offered to help and predicted they'd waste much money without it. Now that ought not hurt.)

If Bud hadn't messed it up, this could have been done in 1970, despite the difference in national attitudes, with the same suit and the one that would have followed, for the NAA, included in the current one.

My young friend had advice for me: be patient. They'll come to you. Later in the conversation he added he relayed this advice from someone, unnamed, in what he called high position. I take it he did not mean Midgeley.

I've heard nothing from Playboy.

But the so-called responsible media have been in touch. The phone has taken very much time. Yesterday several hours on these calls from USNews & WR.

I can attribute a certain amount of this to my NYC press conference and speech, ~~USNews~~ USNews and New Times, (which apologized) directly.

Meanwhile, although in terms of the weeklies it is premature to say, I think my quite, understated and overly-subtle intervention in what I call Ripoff Associates' thievery Monday seems to have ruined it. Two TV crews there, no coverage. Virtually nothing elsewhere and no single call about them or that.

What prompted the USNews call is that the reporter was at my press conference and had been assigned to do a story on my suit and its meaning.

After that I asked him if there is anything else on his mind and he said Croden's interpretation of the Z film about that rifleman is. So, I told him that was not new, was far out only if one said that positively there was a rifle in the man's hand, that I had published it in 1966 and it had been confirmed in 1967 by Itek and would they like the different picture in which I discovered it on the chance they could bring it out clearly enough to show in print? They are coming tomorrow for it. (The 5th Willis slide.)

I know that what a reporter signals by his questions and interests and what appears in the magazine are not necessarily the same, but in all cases the nature of the questions and conversation is radically different now. As in two hours there was no nastiness or even suggestion of it in NY, there hasn't been in a single one of the many calls.

With this man, Oster, it was not only the impression I made on him and what he said. He had gotten and read WWIV. That transcript is impressive and I've discussed in general with him other such.

I remember the Saturday Evening Post, whose first is to be a rehash of the old Whalen piece on which I rescued them back in 1966. I tried to discourage but that snake, too, has started to swallow. Perhaps there will be better pieces to follow. There now is interest, and interestingly no single reference to or question about Gregory or any of them or the Lane gang.

If the college kids pull their June thing in DC I think the same (kind of?) speech will get more attention.

Another meaningful sign, as I read it, is Lardner's spending his weekend off, the first nice one of the season, forcing the Post to do a story when his national desk had turned it down. He has been a leader of the reportorial debunkers.

There are possibilities by working with less than the major media. I expect things from both Village Voice and New Times, to both of whom I can give comprehensible stories. (Anson is off on the organized-crime connection and is to be in touch this week, which is mostly gone, if he gets time.) Rosenbaum is to come when he cleans up his present assignments. Either one can attract the major media.

Meanwhile, I do have confidence that if I can keep the whoring down or out I'll be able to do something with this suit with all the mistakes the government had no choice but to make. I'll probably try to attract some journalistic interest in the pro forma hearing of 5/21 and, if there is interest, have a few comments on leaving it if JL can't get enough done in court. I've given him enough, as you will have detected if what I wrote was comprehensible. Too bad I can't get to and stay with one thing and concentrate, particularly that I was still ill and feverish when I had to start that long memo for him. He, meanwhile, had Ray work to distract him.

I'll have no reluctance to charge FBI perjury as the reason for refusing to give me the assurances I want that I have been given all I've sued for. You've seen a basis and maybe today that will make the papers and there are now those in Congress from whom I'm staying away, meaning taking no initiative. (The butterfly at NYU turned off one Judiciary member and I don't know if I've overcome it by indirection.) The guy who beat Sandman, a Democrat, Hughes.

I've sent word to the organizer of the Maryland thing and planner of a June meeting to get together with the Univ. Va. kids, one of whom called me, and to arrange for them to join him and him to join them with the Rules committee, with an offer for me to be there.

For this or other use this is what is in the works:

I've gotten JL to arrange with the Archives to take a picture of my direction of the curbstone and to get copies of the two the FBI used to locate that curbstone (Dhaneyfelt 29 in the 26). I'll have a right-angles shot of the curbstone with at least one rule, horizontal, in it. If possible one vertical also. If I could be there I'd have both. But the photog is a friend of mine from the past, an honest man near retirement, and I expect him to do well for me. With this and with a 4x5 negative I'll do the rest locally. I have the FBI's sketch of the part they tested and I'll do as I had Newcomb do with the Oswald-rifle pictures, make two negatives of the same size and overlay them. This will show, as without the overlays will be clear, that the FBI deliberately tested the wrong place.

If it doesn't get attention of the media of the Congress I'll give the kids copies. The kinds of kids who could gather the Virginia House delegation together for a Z showing and the kind who could wreck the operation of a Congresswoman's office when she would not see them ought to be able to do something!

One of the more encouraging things is also a problem. Sales are very high, only not of IV. Yesterday they were less than half of the day before but more than two dozen. The day before I had to ask the mailman to come to the house because no box would hold them. I had one wholesale order that would not fit in the large mailbox we had plus an overflowing grocery bag, the largest, of small and individual orders. If we can live on Lil's \$100 a month retirement we'll be able to reprint the first to go out of print, WW I. We are getting to that point. I'm not counting because I've got them in individual stacks.

If this gives you the impression that I'm pushing too hard, I'm not. When I tired a bit yesterday I merely sat and read the accumulation of law-review articles, copies of laws, etc. and let the outside work go. Grass a foot high, too. Since the pneumonia I've had daily, usually nightly, attacks of what seems like sinus. One after supper and I merely sat back and slept for two hours after taking something for it. And then went to bed.

As my copies have shown, I have a feeling that we are getting close to the prog. I'm saving myself for it!

We had more damage during the cyclonic winds than I'd realized. The house roof started to come off right at my office! How we'll fix this I don't know. Discovered it yesterday when a carpenter whose taxes Bill had done come to get a rare type of traverse rod we wanted to get rid of on our galvanized porch and did other work for us. He saw it. While Bill was working I got a small air conditioner for the living room. He put it in. Best,