

Dear Jim,

3/8/75

Jim McInley phoned tonight to say that Playboy's interest finally appears to be firm. I expect to hear from him tomorrow or Sunday about his coming with the Playboy managing editor, described as a strong skeptic. The deal would be for a JFK and a King article minimum.

I stipulated as my minimum condition publication of the unabridged Post Mortem, minimum 608 pp, with all ancillary rights thrown in under normal terms and adding a popularization/condensation in inexpensive hardback. For this I set as my one firm condition fidelity.

He knows that by prior arrangement Martin is coming and has agreed to my trusting Martin to confidentiality, telling him of this Playboy possible arrangement and offering it if that fails. He knows that I've been talking to Mo about this since Memphis.

I told him that Ray stuff would have to be my own work or what is in court record. He seems interested in separate story on Battle's death but this does not mean Playboy is ~~is~~.

My Hermes has never had a checking over and cleaning up since I bought it. For some things I'd also prefer a pica machine. This is an old portable sans case. If I like it and it is cheap enough, I'll get it and then there will be a machine here for you and I like to use when you may want one here.

Pica and triple-spacing are also better for manuscripts.

Only once I got used to it I got to love that small-faced Hermes!

If I had the money I'd get a Hermes Rocket in Pica. They are no longer imported. They are small enough to fit inside luggage and are tough.

HW