

Griscom Morgan

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August 1, 1970

Dear Hal:

It looks as though I am pestering you with letters. But I feel the imperative of getting your work published before more assassinations make things more hopeless. And as you appear to be winding up at least the basic document you want published, however impossible you may think its publication to be, I want to give some more views on what that document needs to be and do.

The ten thousand dollars and the length I do not regard as insuperable. But the document itself I feel has handicaps that would make it ineffectual for now, serving more as a documentation of what happened for historians if there were any living decades or centuries hence -- and the small circle of people who will read.

What I would like to see added to what you have is what many reviewers of assassination literature have criticized it for not having, which is a brief resume of the evidence as it shapes up to a picture that makes sense, and which would be supported by the great documentation and detailed story as you give it. Again and again I have found this resume needed -- and effective with people who do not have the time to devote to reading and study in an area about which they are not convinced they should investigate. For example, a historian particularly versed in the affairs of South East Asia and America's involvement there was teaching about the sequence of developments in the Vietnam war. I challenged his statement that the Kennedy's would have followed the same course as Johnson. He is a vigorous and capable man. He was at first incredulous and antagonistic to the too him inconclusive and voluminous literature which had left him with no clear idea about the assassination. When I showed him the brief documentation and summary of the case I had assembled for such a purpose he was deeply impressed. I did the same with the American editor of the Christian Science Monitor and he was convinced to the point that he sent a man to see Garrison, and from then his endeavor failed.

In such a beginning of your book I would like to see hard factual material free from accusations and verbiage attacking people. For example, you did not answer Sparrow in your discussion of him, but only attacked him and the way his material had gotten presented to the public. In my brief statement on Sparrow I picked out the only statement of his position that had any meat in it and used it to make a stronger point about the evidence. Like Jui Jitsu I used the opponent's own arguments to destroy the opponent's position and make my case, and did not need to use verbal invective against him -- which would have been a waste of words, and for such a brief overview of the case I had to economize in words to the very limit possible. Similarly in the statement I wrote leading off with Vince's evidence from the Zapruder movie I used a quotation from Lewis's The Scavengers to prove my point against Lewis. Without Lewis it would be less convincing. This involved no waste of words against Lewis. There is place for invective and all that, but in an introductory overview that the public needs such economy is crucial. A primary enemy is the reader's and the reviewer's being surfeited with books and words, and careful reading has largely ceased to exist. Your bulk of words augment the problem even though your detailed treatment has its value. You need to get past that obstacle. That is why I see as

important such an introductory survey and some means such as I suggested of helping the reader skim or skip through the bulk of the material to get an edited version without having to eliminate most of the detailed treatment for the reader who desired to read in greater detail. You did not comment on my suggestion that such editing be established in the margin. I would not worry much as to just which portions were marked for cursory reading, as that there be some means of directing the more hurried and hurried reader how to get through the material if he has limited time.

Conceivably a summary of the case could be in the conclusion rather than in the beginning. But I feel that the beginning needs some of this other kind of treatment that will do a job for the critical but time-poor reader.

Some months ago I spoke to Marcus Raskin of the Institute of Policy Studies about the assassinations. He mentioned that you had written him asking for help to keep some work on the assassination from being published. Is there a possibility that I could approach Raskin for help? Some of the Antioch students have wealth and I might find if any of them could tap sources that would help. I see real problems in this, and suppose that only in some rare instances should it be followed up. One such instance is a student I particularly trust and value who has offered to help us find financing for our organization Community Service, Inc.

So much for now.

Best wishes,

Gris

Griscom Morgan

P.S. I have a clipping of May 1968 by Carl Rowan telling in effect of "leaks" from the FBI and CIA that they suspect the black nationalists and red China and Cuba of the King assassination. That is comparable to the leaks associating Cuba with the JFK assassination, now pushed further by one of the most recent books on the subject. All this when the FBI knew the real source or suspects of the assassinations -- you can document briefly and without editorializing in the first of the book succinctly to make the case. Well, and another suggestion, we might be able to get some able young history students under an able Antioch history prof I trust to work on something for you -- as a fellow who has independent means.

8/5/70

Dear Gris,

Today is an especially bad day, and daily, as the fatigue grows, so do the number ~~xxxx~~ and complexity of the things with which I must deal. I hope you will not consider the brevity of this response to your letter of 8/1 as brusqueness or lack of interest and appreciation.

If I have not made it clear, then I must. I believe all my work should be edited. I believe one of the handicaps is the invective. I also believe it is not possible to satisfy the reviewers, and would consider neither writing nor editing with this as an end or the objective. There are better reasons, and those I acknowledge. What it boils down to is what I do with my time, and the least effective way I can spend it, in my view, is in editing. Maybe I'm wrong, but the burden of getting onto paper, in any form, what I have and what you cannot imagine is already intolerable.

Penitentially, I also work in other areas of which you have no knowledge. Other subjects that I regard as part of the same one.

Example: all of this new stuff of O'Donnell's is not new. I had it in 1965 and it will be in a book already researched, with more than O'D has and in context. I also have one of the generals on tape on it, with permission, and detail!

The marginal notes is a mechanical impossibility because it would require a reduction in the text size, which is already too small. If I can ever get this entire work printed, with only the final chapter on the suit and the required additions to the appendix, it will now run 640 pages. Can it be made larger?

Either I didn't make clear that I was driving at with Sparrow or your misunderstood it, for it is not that to which you address yourself. My purpose was not to refute Sparrow's article or book. And that Z stuff, although you didn't know it, was already dated when Vince did it. Had been since April or May, 1966.

The second paragraph of your article for Penn was wrong when you wrote it but you had no way of knowing it. I had it researched, the study done, two years before you wrote it. The question, again, is the order of priorities, what can find acceptability when, and the time for writing and the funds for printing.

The comment you added to the commentary on Vince is correct, but you simply do not and apparently cannot put yourself into the context in which I have to live and work, the fact that I do not even have time to properly outline and organize the writing, and the multitude of things I must simultaneously keep in mind, work on and keep going while I write. This is a matter of editing. Please try and remember that everything you have seen is the rough draft, there being no time for anything else, except at the cost of the writing of another book, and here I will not consider that alternative.

Your point on simplification is correct and it is a desirable condition. On the other side, however, I tell you that the extensive correspondence I have received refutes it is more cases than you can imagine. However, I am of your view. It is simply a physical impossibility for me.

It would be not only a waste of time to write Raskin, but at this point would be to abuse him. He has his own hangups, as we all do, and these we must tolerate and understand and accommodate. It is not that I have written him, I have seen him at least dozens of times, going back to 1966 and intensively beginning in mid-1968. He has been promising to make the 45-minute trip to here for almost

A Reexamination of the evidence on the Kennedy assassination,
The Warren Report, and the work of its critics.

by Grissom Morgan

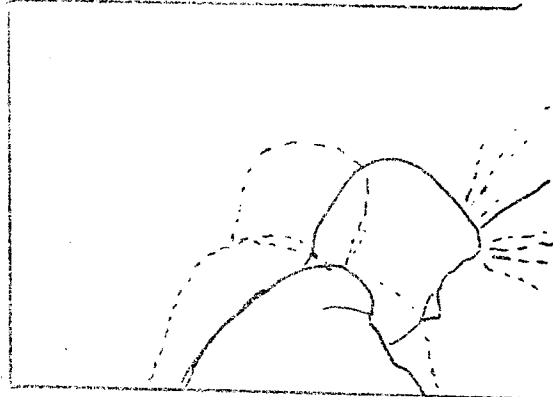
The evidence for and against the Warren Report is so detailed and extensive that most articles and books have left a cumbersome and cloudy picture of the case as a whole, one not easily followed by the casual reader. To avoid this difficulty we here undertake to deal with only a few high spots in the case definitively in such a way that there should be no question with regard to crucial aspects of the case upon which the Warren Report must stand or fall.

In his widely reprinted attack on critics of the Warren report, The Scavengers, Richard Warren Lewis dealt with one of the crucial bits of evidence upon which the Warren Report must stand or fall, which was the motion of President Kennedy's head immediately following the impact of the fatal bullet. Mr. Lewis writes, "Vincent Salandria, . . . by superimposing critical frames of the moving picture on each other . . . suggests that the President's head lurched backward and to the left. Such conclusions would clearly suggest the presence of a systemic assassin. But Salandria, like most skeptics, overlooks the forward rush of the motorcade following the impact of the fatal bullet -- a movement which clearly destroys his supposition." This is a clear issue of fact that can be confirmed or disproved by consideration of the evidence.

¶ We show here the diagram that was drawn from Vincent Salandria's study of the motion picture evidence. In the words of Gaetano Fozzi, who reported this

study, "With the excellent cooperation of the National Archives staff, two slide projectors (were) set up and, from one, frame 313^{was} projected on a screen. From the other, frames 314, 315 and 316 can be individually superimposed over the image of 313. (Each frame represents a time lapse of only about 1/18th of a second.) It then becomes clearly evident

that the hit produced no forward motion of the head or body at all. Kennedy's head flew back and to the left, his shoulders and torso spun to the left, the top-right part of his head was blown apart." As the appended diagram shows, Kennedy's head spun around, and within the very brief period of one sixth of a second. The motion of the forehead was approximately one foot. We suggest to the reader that he move his head in a similar motion even within a period of one second. The conclusion should be obvious that no forward motion of the presidential limousine could have caused this motion of the head. And obviously a shot from the rear could not have caused it. As further evidence of a shot from the right



some know the direction of the window the Presidential Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy has published and the fact that Oswald was firing his assassination bullets at the late President. This particular view is in line with the western end of the Depository Building, that is, the opposite end of the building from where Oswald was shooting at the late President.

This testimony and evidence points up a clear misstatement of fact in the Warren Report and to another chain of misrepresentation of evidence.

Among the many occasions in which the Warren Commission misrepresented evidence to make its case, its dealing with the testimony of Arnold Rowland is most glaring. The detailed procedure by which the Commission's key investigator Arlen Specter set about discrediting Arnold Rowland's testimony must be read at length to be appreciated. For that reason it is appended with this brief survey.

Arnold Rowland was a major obstacle to the Warren Commission's case because he steadfastly asserted that he had observed a rifleman at the western end of the sixth floor of the Depository Building. Moreover, he was the only witness who had noted the absence of a telescopic sight to the rifle. In seeming support of Rowland's assertion in its report that "the far east corner of the sixth floor of the Depository (is) the only open window on that floor." Yet photographs taken at the time of the assassination show the far west window to have been wide open just as Arnold Rowland said it was. All the arguments tending to show that Rowland was an honest and dependable witness have been fully disproved (as shown in the appended discussion and repetition of testimony), so now we have no reason for disregarding the evidence of witnesses of a bullet hitting the pavement to the left rear of the Continental limousine and gouging a mark that leads to the opposite window from that at which Oswald was presumed to have been aiming at the President. It is ironic that Rowland's character in his Death of a President credits Rowland with being a good witness, but ignored the fact that Rowland unaccounted for the whole basis of the Warren Report.

Not only did Arnold Rowland report seeing a man with a gun on the west end of the building, but he reported seeing two men there together, making the lone assassin theory impossible if he was right. His testimony was born out by at least two other witnesses, one of whom reported seeing two men, one with rifle, at the east end window, but these testimonies could more easily be ignored and were not mentioned in the Report. The possibility of shots being fired from both ends of the sixth floor was not mentioned in the Warren report, and evidence of it was buried in the twenty-six volumes of the hearings.

How that you have documented the FBI's suppression of the main tape and its implication of a potential revision of King as well as the firming him bonding and its simultaneous and early delivery to cast suspicion on Cuba and Red China and black nationalists as being the King's assassin, you can lay it on the introduction.

To suggest that the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was involved in the suppression of evidence with regard to was an accusation of a procedure is a serious charge.

However, there were some highly qualified journalists who had early supported this to be the case. Among these, a leading Scripps-Howard editor is outstanding. Richard Starnes had been assistant managing editor of the Scripps-Howard Washington paper and subsequently became managing editor of the New York World-Telegram. Thus he knew his way around Washington. In a column he had written, "Can we expect the FBI to explain why Oswald was not under surveillance that day in Dallas when the President's widely-heralded visit was scheduled?"

"The commission will be almost wholly dependant upon the facts made available to it by the Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Dallas Police Department.

"In a sense, of course, the special commission is investigating the role played by each of these agencies, and it is manifestly naive to expect these cops to bear witness against themselves, or, indeed, each other.

"If you believe the Dallas police will ever give up the truth about how Rubenstein got a clear shot at Oswald you will believe anything."

The entire Warren Report, with most of its work done by the FBI, is full of conclusions based on evidence that had been warped and twisted by the investigators. For example, not only does the Altgens photograph appear to show that Oswald was near the front door of the Depository Building at the time of the assassination, but a fellow employee testified that Lovelady had been sitting down at his feet at the time, and the Altgens photograph shows a man sitting there, his head barely showing. Furthermore, another employee testified that she had caught a glimpse of Oswald as she was leaving the building about this time. She did not retract this testimony on cross examination, but the Warren Commission staff got around it by using her statement that she did not see Lee Oswald after she left the building to infer contradiction in her testimony.

It was essential to the Warren Report to conclude that only three shots had been fired, and that all had been fired from the far sixth floor window to the east of the Depository Building. Yet a number of witnesses independently stated that they saw a bullet hit the pavement to the left and rear of the presidential limousine, one of them saying that sparks flew up from this spot.

One observer who saw only the television picture of this pressed the Commission about it, and the FBI then located a spot in apparently the area the direct witnesses indicated where the pavement had been gouged out as if from a bullet. This was described by the FBI report as "an approximately four inches long by one-half inch wide dug-out scar, which could possibly have been made by some blunt-end instrument or projectile. It is noted that this scar lies in such a direction that if it had been a bullet, it could not have

forward. The bullet which was believed to have struck Kennedy's head was thrown in the last seconds of the attack, splintering the two motorcycle escorts riding abreast at the left rear of the presidential limousine. As yet further evidence of this motion not being the backward motion that could have been caused by forward motion of the limousine, Life magazine placed a caption under one of these pictures with the words, "causing a massive wound and snapping his head to one side."

The evidence we have just surveyed disproves the Warren Report and substantiates the testimony of a majority of the witnesses that they heard, saw or smelled gunfire or/and smoke from the area of the wooded knoll to the front right of the presidential limousine. The discounting of such evidence by the FBI and the Warren Commission was part of deliberate design, and was just as definite as is this case of Richard Warren Lewis giving a very misleading report of the facts in his book The Scavengers.

Next in our list of the crucial evidence is the story of the Altman photograph which shows what appears to be Lee Harvey Oswald in the doorway of the Depository Building at the time of the assassination of President Kennedy. The FBI and the Warren Commission staff used fraudulent means to discount this evidence, means that its authors must have known were fraudulent. If fraud was required to make the case against Oswald, Oswald cannot be presumed to be guilty. The evidence is as follows:

Various observers thought they recognized Lee Oswald in the Associated Press picture of a photograph by photographer Altgens showing the presidential limousine moments after the first shot. If this was Oswald, it would have definitely eliminated him from suspicion as an assassin. In response to inquiries about this photograph, the FBI asserted that the individual observed there was a fellow employee named Billy Lovelady. The FBI produced a picture of Lovelady standing in a similar pose with his shirt unbuttoned in a manner similar to that of the man in the doorway. ^{presumably} The FBI's picture of Lovelady wearing the same shirt he had worn on that day, shows a broad red and white striped short sleeved shirt which Lovelady had testified he had worn buttoned up to his neck on that day. The man who looks like Oswald in the doorway is clearly wearing a strikingly different shirt, one that appears to be identical to that which is shown on Oswald on the day of the assassination. This was a long-sleeved light flecked dark shirt whose upper buttons were missing so that there is clear view of the undershirt.

The importance of this identification of the man shown in the doorway of the Depository Building is evidenced by the fact that J. Edgar Hoover himself answered an inquiry about comparison of shirts in relation to this photograph. When the Warren Commission directed the Warren Commission's investigators raised the question in an oblique way. Hoover's evasive, misleading answer to Councilor Rankin's question was substantially that Lee Oswald was wearing his own shirt on the day of the assassination. (documentation in Biographic Sketch by Harold Weisberg--in full photostatic form)

MIDLOTHIAN MIRROR

Editor..... Penn Jones Jr.
Publisher..... The Midlothian Mirror, Inc.

"The Only 'History of Midlothian' Being Written"
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

Entered as second-class matter Jan. 25, 1944, at the post office
Midlothian, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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Winner of the 1963 Elijah Parish Lovejoy Award for
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FORGIVE MY GRIEF

VOL. II

By PENN JONES and SHIRLEY MARTIN

WINDOW DRESSING

by Griscom Morgan

Note: Although this book will be authored by Penn Jones Jr and Shirley Martin, some installments are by others working on the assassination of President Kennedy. These authors names will appear at the top of their contributions.

This installment is written by Griscom Morgan of Yellow Springs, Ohio, and we are proud to offer this fine work to our readers.

The literature on the Kennedy assassination is inadequate not so much because of there being insufficient wealth of detailed evidence as because no study has given an adequately substantiated suggestion as to why and how President Kennedy was killed and why the Warren Report failed in its job.

Beyond a shadow of doubt the Warren Commission subordinated consideration of objective truth (to which it had given verbal commitment) to political considerations, if only to the extent of rushing its Report to publication before important leads had been resolved. Its staff, according to

Edward Epstein's INQUEST, had been so dissatisfied with this procedure as to be at times in revolt. This political motivation is understandable and to be expected, but its nature and dimensions require careful and intensive study.

The major books on the Warren Report have not answered the crucial questions asked by the public. Mark Lane's RUSH TO JUDGEMENT, Weisberg's WHITEWASH, and Sylvan Fox's UNANSWERED QUESTIONS rightly marshal evidence and raise insistent questions and leave the questions unanswered. Edward Epstein's lucid INQUEST attains much of its importance from Epstein's being the first author to be accepted into the confidence of the Warren Commission members and staff. It is not surprising that his conclusions are a justification for the findings of the Warren Commission on the basis of political expediency, or "national interest."

In this study we seek to find the answers to crucial questions about the Kennedy assassination without fear of the implications of such an inquiry.

We seek to do this in a brief overview of the case without involvement in the vast range of details of evidence (which we have so far found consistent with the overview we have developed.) It is not necessary to prove the conspiracy theory many times; one conclusive evidence should suffice. ~~It is not necessary here to show that Lee Oswald shot at President Kennedy*~~ if there was a conspiracy, it is the source and motivation of the conspiracy that must be discovered. Some steps of our argument are admittedly speculative, but speculation is inescapable until the case is closed.

* Toward the end of the investigation Marina Oswald informed the Warren Commission staff that she felt it more likely that her husband had shot at Governor Connally than at the President. The attorney Carroll Jarnigan had written the FBI on December 4, 1963 of his overhearing Ruby planning with Oswald for Oswald to shoot at Connally in consideration of a large payment from a party Ruby was working for. This is consistent with Oswald's preoccupation with personal and financial difficulties and his having a grudge against the Governor. To get Oswald involved in shooting at the time of the assassination of the President would give the true assassins a perfect cover for their motives and actions.

The Warren Report confidently asserted that there was no acquaintance between Oswald and Ruby, and that at the time of Oswald's murder "it is doubtful even that Oswald could have seen Jack Ruby sufficiently to discern his identity." In flat contradiction to this assertion are the testimonies of two officers close to Oswald at the time of his death. D. R. Archer (XIXH20) testified "I distinctly heard the suspect shout a phrase, the only words I could make out were, 'son of a bitch, don't.'" Detective Billy Corbet separately testified he heard Oswald say "Jack Ruby, you son of a bitch, don't" (XIX350). The lie

detector test Ruby took to clear himself of conspiring, is itself incriminating because it makes a case for Ruby's integrity that the evidence disproves. The government has classified evidence obtained by the Defense Department that, in the words of a New York Times report, "there is no scientific evidence to show that lie detector tests were worthwhile" and that "persons could be trained to fool the devices" (NYT 6-18-64).

The subject matter of the Warren Commission's investigation is the technical field of FORENSIC SCIENCE. This is the study of evidence, as for court use, and it involves various disciplines of science and technology. For example, FORENSIC BALLISTICS is that branch of criminal investigation dealing with identification of firearms and bullets, and study of the trajectory and effects of bullets. Diverse disciplines are involved, such as psychiatry, physiology, and spectroscopy.

Last February the highest professional body in the nation exactly concerned with the field of the WARREN REPORT ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY had a panel of specialists analyze the Warren Report at its annual meeting. This body, the AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCE, like other staid and scientific professional bodies, has its own journal, and that journal has at last published the studies of the specialists that had participated on the panel. This issue of the JOURNAL OF FORENSIC SCIENCES is dated July 1966, but was sent out about two months late.

The significance of this study of the Warren Report is that it is the first objective study by competent scientists that cannot be said to be the work of self-appointed amateurs. Moreover, it is highly significant that the editor of the Journal, Morton F. Mason, is employed at the very hospital to which President Kennedy was taken after he was shot in Dallas.

The editor of the special section of the Journal dealing with the Warren Report observes of the studies by specialists in forensic science that they are the product of scientific discipline and not written with any intent to discredit the Warren Commission or the government. He asserts that where these well qualified specialists find discreditable features in the Warren Report it is only because the evidence made these findings necessary.

These studies are important to the nation today because sound politics requires a basis in objectivity in science free from political bias. If

we scramble politics and science we will be ill served by both.

Among the specialists studying the Warren Report some assumed with regard to areas in which they were not specialists that the Report had effectively accomplished its general purpose. But some of these specialists found as regards their special areas of competence that the Warren Report was not satisfactory. The criminologist, Osterberg, develops evidence that the majority of the public for whom the Warren Report was prepared had not been convinced by it--a poor showing for a legal case. The psychiatrist, Dr. Maier Tuchler asserted (as the New York Times quoted him in its report of the meeting at which he gave his study) that with regard to the establishment of motivation he was "appalled at the conclusions reached without the benefit of trained professional thinking." We might note here that Edward Jay Epstein in his INQUEST shows that psychiatrists WERE called in by the Warren Commission staff, but "there was insufficient basis for drawing psychological conclusions about Oswald," so this was not mentioned in the Report. The only occasions on record of Lee Oswald expressing his attitude toward President Kennedy are expressions of respect, as when he answered his wife's questioning about Kennedy with the response that he was "a good president," and in the words of the Warren Report, "shortly before the assassination Oswald expressed approval of President Kennedy's role in the area of civil rights."

The panel's specialist in pathology, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, similarly concurred with the Warren Report but finds fault with the government's use only of military pathologists in performing the autopsy of President Kennedy's body. A military pathologist being under military orders cannot be assumed to be bound exclusively by professional considerations as a qualified civilian should have been. Those acquainted with the history of militarily ordered diagnosis of insanity in the army know that the army medical corps are not free from controls that may be in conflict with professional standards.

It was the attorney, Jay Schwartz, who analyzed the Warren Report in depth. His article taking legal exception to the Warren Report raises basic issues of fact that would be within the knowledge of the editor of the Journal located at the hospital at which some of the issues of fact were best known. The editor would have been in the position to correct them if they were mistaken. Schwartz finds

the Warren Report essentially a political instrument for achieving confidence in what was essentially the already discredited FBI report on the Kennedy assassination. Schwartz finds the Warren Report faulty, inadequate, hasty and that it does not stand up under close examination. In the words of the New York Times report of the meeting at which Schwartz' critique was given:

Continued Next Week

two years. So has Richard Barnett. He has not taken the time to read any of the work, and the trip here was to show him the unpublished material. I showed him one file the day I got it and it left him speechless, the only time I've seen him that way. I think nothing ever shook him as much., if he can remain immobile in the light of this, the thing to do is leave him alone, at least for the time being.

Besides all of this, the sheer labor of retyping large parts of the work and renumbering the pages and redoing the index rule all of that outk, for me, even if the cost is printing. The book can succeed in its present form, although it could also be improved upon, and if this is the reason given for financing not being available, it is an excuse, not a reason. Again, the cost is doing another two books in the time this would take, in addition to which my wife and I are now past exhaustion.

The 1962 Rowan clip is evaluable and I'd like to have it and try and include it, if only in the appendix.

Please also remember that in addition to all of this I'm drafting and filing lawsuits, which have done some good and can and will do more. One is not filed or to be, another is being retyped for this purpose, two others are drafted and to be revised and edited.

And I am so weary, so broke-and in so many ways, so all alone.

Sincere thanks,