

Dear Les,

9/12/81

Because there is always the chance of catching you when you have a conference or some other pressing matter, I write to express my disappointment that Newsday did not see fit either to cover the press conference yesterday or to make any effort to inform itself.

Dave Wrono phoned this morning, after reading only half of the affidavit, to say, among other things, that I have now redefined the entire matter. Earlier, as I believe I told you, Earl Golz told me that for the first time he had seen it all in perspective. Both, aside from other qualifications, are subject experts, too.

There were about 15 at the press conference but it was wrecked by a rightwing has-been who has been rescued from a long overdue oblivion by the local papers. I know of no other coverage, although I expect a responsible job from the Hartford Courant which, it happens, also has a subject expert on its staff. He read the affidavit and skimmed the exhibits. That paper was responsible enough to buy xeroxes of both, to take back and keep on file. AFTER he read them and didn't need them for his story.

The fink from the local, who got there before the stated time, began asking me questions then. I told him I'd be glad to converse but 113 pages and 82 exhibits represent many words on detailed information and would not be comprehensible without background and context, which I'd prepared in a statement it would take me 15 to 20 minutes to read. But he would not stop and as a result I was not able to read. When the time came and I said I would like to begin he would not stop. Every time thereafter when I started to pick it up and proceed he again interrupted. He took up almost all of the hour and a half this way. In the end, because he knew he was expected to file on a local story, he asked for what I'd prepared and the story in the paper is, with one exception, entirely from it. With what nice stuff he could work in and a cover for the FBI, that it "had no immediate comment." I'd anticipated that and had said that because it was only fair to give the FBI time to prepare response I'd delayed a week and a half after filing for the press conference.

This fink also had to embarrass me. When in my prepared statement I apologized for not being able to have free copies of about 400 pages of xeroxing for them but would wait for them to make copies of anything they wanted, he, pretending to quote directly, substituted "I'm broke" for "I can ill afford the costs when my only regular income is Social Security."

As I told you, the Post was not there. They kept Lardner at the Cooke trial- and carried no story on it.

Jim McManus of CBS-TV News was interested. He got both the affidavit and the transcript, to inform himself, and said he'd try to be there. Before I left to go

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home I phoned to ask him if he had any questions of if I could help him in any way. He said, "They're sending me out to Andrews," where the Cooke trial is. But he ~~was~~ was decent enough ~~to~~ to say, "I'm sorry." CBS had someone else there. I took in last night's evening and this morning news.

Someone from AP was there but he wound up speaking quietly with Jim, the only way he had of learning anything. If AP carried anything and you still have it I'd appreciate a copy. With one Washington paper I have no way of knowing.

By any traditional or rational standard this was news, significant news.

The ~~editors~~ <sup>editors</sup> who ignored it deserve the kind of world they are getting and will leave for their children.

They practise the kind of journalism I remember from my own reporting youth, the kind that gave us Hitler and all that followed.

I'm disappointed that <sup>the</sup> Tony did not keep his word. If he'd not given it to me, when I had time I'd have made other efforts to be sure that someone who might consider a story would be there. There is, as you know, a limit to what I can do now.

I'm not able to afford making a copy in the event you or Newsday want one but Jim can get xeroxing done for less if by any chance Newsday would like copies. His new address is 1000 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington 22209. This is just across the river from Georgetown, the new "in" section. The office phone is 276-9297. Jim's separate one is 276-0404.

I've had a call from the Courant reporter. He did not see it but his editors told him that AP did file a story. And I've just heard from <sup>the</sup> Marina Oswald Poster about it. If you still have the AP story I'd appreciate a copy.

Best to you all,