

9/17/66

Dear Bill, In some ways the ending week has been a very good one. The Drew Pearson column this morning tells quite a story. It is the scandal I have feared and tried in what ways were open to prevent. It will get worse when the Manchester book is out. I hear, without confirmation, that he has had a recurrence of his nervous disorder. My sequel will be out first, one way or another. I have finished the rough draft. I have gone over one of the two earlier chapters and integrated it. As soon as the mail is ready (my wife is finishing up today's packages) I'm going to get on that. I have interest from a small publisher whose writer-son was here day before yesterday. He read only the conclusions. I loved the way he rolled around on his tongue, like a rich wine.

works

If we come to terms it will call for the immediate appearance of WHITEWASH II in the form of WHITEWASH, with the announcement that it is because the subject demands haste and will be followed by a regular hardbacked edition, printed (and in accord with all the anachronisms of the backward-looking publishing business). They are actually talking about taking over WHITEWASH the way it is, doing a hardbacked edition for libraries and schools and those who want a fine printing to keep, going to paperback when indicated (with a major distributor handling, in the drug-stores, etc.) and doing the same with II. If they meet my terms, which include control over doctrine and advertising and public relations, we'll soon have a deal. I will not now wait for big publisher interest, which the Pearson story may inspire, if I have a firm commitment from them. I believe this is the requirement of the subject matter and its potentialities. And I will not go for wild pr stuff such as I keep hearing of by others and do not at all approve. At some time, when this situation goes farther in the direction it is now headed, some of these powerful people who are interested may retaliate. Some of the stuff that has been pulled is so unnecessary and so shabby it plays into their hands and weakens us all.

Some of my material will appear elsewhere and in a questionable context before my book can come out. I do not want any more of this, and I shall have to keep tight control over the ms to accomplish it. Let me know if you and Lillian have the time and interest for if you can read it rapidly and make suggestions, it could be quite helpful. But I'd want you to keep it under control also. We do not know each other, but I know you two and Maggie, who could certainly be helpful, are motivated by decent principles and are trustworthy. If any or all of the three of you can and will do this, please let me know. I have everything referred to in my possession. I'd like an monster big appendix if it can be paid for, because these documents tell an additional story that is, I believe, important to the country, aside from their direct relationship to the subject matter.

While I want normal publication, we'll be taking no chances. As soon as the ms is edited my wife will start typing it for offset, but this time designed for a 6x9 page so it will be legible. Now, although enough money has not yet come in to pay for the second printing and we are (happily) half-way through the third, we can buy new ribbons when the typewriter requires it, etc., so the book will be legible. It will, perforce, have to be larger. With the appendix, it may also have to be more expensive, and that is what worries me about the appendix. I'm thinking of perhaps making that a separate volume, with a coupon for ordering it bound in the book. We'll

not know for sure until the book is designed. Then we'll have a pretty good idea of the number of pages required and can calculate an appendix. I cannot increase the cost and the success of WHITEWASH, while it will take me out of debt, gives me no profit and nothing for the enormous time we have both put into it. So, I'm really just thinking out loud with you. We also have a new typewriter, so the lines will be regular and neat. Some of the documentation is quite exciting.

This Manchester thing is a further national disgrace. It has worried me from the first. I'd love to hear from Maggie what she detected of the climate in Europe. I find increasing publisher interest. Got a cabled request for an option from a French publisher, delayed two days by the printer, that I referred to my London agent by cable yesterday, followed with a letter today. Four Italian publishers have expressed interest, one having, I believe, an option.

I think you will also find in II a justification for Warren. Not an excuse, for what he did is wrong and cannot be excused. But when you have read it I think you will find a different bete noire who you may have even suspected. The Commission should have escaped the box, perhaps could have had they wanted. But they were rather well boxed in. And, as I believe I have told you, I continue to fear the Reichstag potential in all of this. There is pending a book by Larry Brown. When I know more I'll tell you. Please tell me whatever you hear of this and others. He was to have collaborated in my book, backed out when I discovered he was radical right and would not allow his dogmas into it, and has no proper right using anything, because he still has perhaps a third of a million words of my notes and other materials.

This has been in the hands of a lawyer for a year and a half. The other recent attentions, I hope you have noticed, are evolving a defense of the government by asking if Oswald, who they agree was in and thus make the Commission and the Government right, had help. This is also an evil doctrine. It would be less evil if there was serious consideration of the evidence on him.

I am making no widespread announcement of the new book and believe it is wiser thus. I'll tell those of the researchers I want to know and I'd prefer silence for the rest until this is ready to come out. I think it is better and perhaps necessary and when you learn all the things of dubious integrity that have happened, you'll understand. Until then, please take my word for it. The chances of survival will thus also be better.

Most of the coming week I'll be gone. Let me know what you would like to do and as soon as I can I'll mail it to you, if this is your desire. You may, if you'll keep this in strictest confidence, make copies to speed it up. I'd like to have copies I cannot afford to send abroad and to have copies to show US publishers. I will never again with anything of current importance make a singular submission. Incidentally, with the big zerox we learned how to use both sides of the paper, which can then be bound. This means less size, less mailing cost where airmail is so expensive, and has other advantages. Let the sheet cool off and get most of the static electricity out before you run them through. Stack them face up, with the first page on the bottom, and run every other page through. Then the pile is ready for the odds or evens, which ever were skipped the first time. It is important to check each page of the second run to be sure there are no skips or pages stuck together by electricity because that zerox throws everything that follows off. It sounds complicated, but should you ever be interested, let me know and I'll write the details for you. Best to you all.

sincerely,