

1/14/67

Dear Bill,

Thanks very much for your appraisal of how I did. One can learn from these things (after learning how to sublimate or control emotion).

In haste, and I'm afraid I'm always in haste for I'm always behind what I plan, I probably was not clear on frame 317. It is in the slides alone, not in the printed exhibit. And it is gross and flagrant. Moorman and Hill are in it. I had the projectionist check it in the presence of Mike Berlin of the NYP, st. He confirmed it was not merely misplaced but was misnumbered. They'll rectify it. He showed it to Johnson while we were there. My point in reporting it was so that others using the archive and seeing the slides would be aware of it.

There is too much, and it is getting too diffuse for me as, I suspect, my mind is fatiguing as is my body. Yesterday I wrote Ray and thanked him for telling me of Allyea's picture, which I could not recall. Last night I finally finished clearing the accumulation from my desk and there was the Hoover letter on Allyea (and other interesting things) that I'd ~~had~~ her type not only for use, but as the basis for asking questions of the archivist.

When I had a nice letter from Maggie to answer I enclosed a bunch of stuff with it.

I've had a number of letters on the Lomax show from people in Calif unknown to me. None is an intellectual. All were much on my side. It is something I have yet to fully comprehend myself, but those decent citizens not intellectuals very much resent my being abused and it makes them my partisans. I believe as long as the underlying fact is comprehensible through the abuse it really is attractive to the average audience. There was a moderate dose of this with Elmer Gertz last Friday on WBBM-TV in Chicago. There were an assortment of other intellectuals on the show, a couple of psychiatrists, two professors, an ambassador, etc. At the end of the show the leading psychiatrist drew me aside and said "You'd be more effective if you were cooler". He should see the mail, two more letters today, and what the people, including some who are intellectuals from their letters, say of HIM and me. I do not understand it and I'd rather have it cool, but at a certain point autopilot takes over and all the heritage of a different culture, all the generations without freedom, all that is involved in the one thing, assert themselves....Am I wrong in thinking that in spite of Lomax I got the essence in on Liebelar? He is not appearing on the new New York Special. As of day before yesterday, Specter hadn't agreed (and all my files on the two of them are lost between Chicago and here, through a fluke and the ill-temper and self importance of a member of the board of education who barged in late and made imperious demands that the staff honored then left the files out when they packed my briefcase while I was on camera. My big one tore and I had to get the attache case I'd deferred buying and this was the first time I'd used it.).

I hope Sylvia gets there. The day of the second night of her appearance on Barry Gray (I'm to be with him Wednesday night) she phoned in distress over Schiller and at that time she was still planning her trip. It is wonderful about her book getting out. And it will be faster than she first indicated. I asked her how I could make my newest material available to her so she could update and she says it is too late....Penn will have interesting things to tell you about the False False Oswald.

This morning I mailed Maggie a copy of my letter to Bill, delayed because Lil was just too busy to type it neatly. It is blunt enough. We'll see what this great man hiding behind the robes of the chief justice has to say in his own name. Indications are that the Times misquoted him or he was wrong in saying other medical papers were returned to the government. I've already checked. This is the great value of all these

much frightened men sounding off. I wish I could see what is in your papers for it is often more and other than what appears here, especially because you have these lawyers out there who are and make news. For example, I didn't know the "working papers" are available (and I do not know when I'll get a chance to look at them).

I was never more wrong than with Schiller. He apparently was nasty about me in New York but he didn't dare in Washington, even when he was asked, from what little I've heard. It seems that with the buying public they've laid an egg. I think we can attract attention to him by not ignoring him. I told Maggie about the total lack of response on KCBS twice. I had another show there by phone Wednesday night. What you say about Pyne is unclear to me. Are you referring to the show I taped and what happened before and after it, or has something been aired out there that I do not know about? When you mention the stolen transcript that "had been stolen from the safe", is that because of what Schiller told the two of us or something from the air? If the latter, it has not been aired here or no one has told me of it. If it is the latter, please tell me as much as you can. Maggie also has misgivings about my going on his show with the new book when it is done. We'll have to all chew that over and see what the situation is then, for now I'm behind my planned schedule on it and there are some developments on suppression that may make me want to delay it. But if Pyne is at all like he was on the radio thing (and I understand this is not something to plan on) it will not be bad...The little reaction I've gotten from the pros is that the record is so awfully one-sided, so withdrawn from the subject it is self-defeating.

With the working papers now available, perhaps the memo of which Raskin told me is also available. But its length precludes my buying it, at 20 cents a page. It'll run about \$50.00

I'll try and find time to think of some good questions for Ball. Perhaps getting him to specify the charges against me, from the record (thus getting him off of Lane) is one. Another is an accounting of how it is possible to make such a report without close examination of the crucial Frame 210, regardless of what the reason for its nonappearance. Another is the delay and fakery in the story of the False, False Oswald. Go after him on the failure of all the major lawyers to comply with the minimum requirements of their calling in the introduction of evidence and witnesses, and I suggest emphasis on Liebel and the photographic stuff, as per my stuff. He'll perhaps try and evade by pleading they were not required to abide by the standards of the law, which is right, but it will hurt him among lawyers to do this, and it will embarrass him as he has to say why they didn't anyway. If he tries to pin it on the members and pleads, as does Liebel, that they wouldn't do what had to be done, ask him why he didn't resign. Why are the transcripts allegedly printed still top secret in typescript (and this does not mean only those with off-the-record stuff in them. It is 100% of them. Why wasn't the spectrographic analysis of the bullet and the various fragments entered into evidence, why is it still secret? Why wasn't the "Oswald is 'All Right'" document put into evidence and the Mellers confront with it? Markham and perjury; the doctors and the phone calls to Dallas; why was Moorman's picture returned when so many unclear ones dot the record, when there was space for Ruby's cheesecake; why the Lovelady picture and that report are not in evidence, if ever seen by the members—ask if it was, especially because he is supposed to have devil's advocated that part; why hasn't he appeared on any of the shows where he can confront me instead of insulting me with the safe width of the continent between us, why he's not in the coming Metromedia show, wasn't on the first. Even to Ball, Liebel and what is now needed is an impartial study—were they not to have done just this in their Report? And a bad joke: if his project is still alive, why doesn't someone write Reagan and ask him to economize with it?

Generally speaking, I think the time has come to make these men face the realities of their performances. Did they do what their training and the standards of their profession require. Almost invariably none did.

I was to see Raskin this week, but the chances now are slight. I'm too far behind to go to Washington just for that, and I've reduced my sleep to the minimum I dare, yet I get farther behind. I was interrupted two hours ago by a rather interesting call from a Mrs. Brussel in Caramel, who is working in the field and is convinced of the largest conspiracy of which I've heard, going back to the USSR and Marines being recruited by official and unofficial CIA types, including especially Lydia Dambryk but all the Russian community in Texas and a number of corporation-connected people in the US. There is much of this and it is interesting but time-consuming. I'm going to NYC Tuesday and cannot return before Thursday p.m. at the earliest. I may see him Friday. If I get any more on that memo I'll let you know.

I have no copy of either version of 70 Hrs and 30 mins. Can you get me one?

Wrote Maggie about the scarf. My fault. I always did want it but didn't make this clear in the confusion of trying to assure you not to worry about not having sent it because I was not 100% empty-handed.

The news from Dell and Italy continues good. Feltrinelli actually cabled me yesterday to ask that I get my agent to release his pressure on a quick decision on WHITEWASH II! He's doing One, and I'd prefer an excuse to slow things down because if another publisher makes a better offer the two will come out too close together and because as time passes values increase. Dell is more than pleased with how the book is doing (it is doing only where I've publicized it, but it is on their sales lists on the top ten even for the incomplete month it was out. They say they now want II). Even Manchester's Italian publisher is among the four of whom I know, for they've been in touch with me, who are competing. I think all of this is a reflection of the progress we've all made.

Ray will do well on Dolan's show. I wrote Dolan a plug when I heard Ray was to be there. He is under a misapprehension I corrected. Raymar has no exclusive and, as you've probably seen, does no work. He merely fills orders. Any place Ray or anyone else can place the book helps. If the store doesn't want to get them from Raymar we mail quite a few every day. I was stunned today to get a wholesale order for WHITEWASH, even though it is in paperback! Thought Sahl was going away for six weeks. He said he was coming to see me. The girl who was there, I believe her name is Crane, said she'd write but hasn't. Don't know what she had in mind, but I think promotion.

Any news or clues on Pyne can be important. Your P.S. on Liebelier is fascinating. He is really running now! He told the people at WNEW, apparently, that the reason he cannot appear there is because of the Lane litigation. To the best of my knowledge that still does not exist and the situation that did not preclude their previous confrontations hasn't changed. Maybe I'll have to keep the pressure on him when I can.

Our best wishes to you all (and don't forget your charming grandmother, who is so entirely and beautifully grandmotherly she looks like she spent a lifetime rehearsing the role). Hope, also, your job continued.

January 9, 1966

Dear Harold:

Inasmuch as I owe you a couple of letters I was further shamed by those that arrived from you this morning. So I am getting off this reply straightaway.

I think first of all it should be said that the reactions to the Lomax show were mixed as I expected they would be. I think, too, everyone felt you were a model of poise, control and forbearance until the penultimate moment. You made your case with a minimum of histrionics and a maximum of good sense, logic and persuasiveness. Lomax, on the other hand, came off very badly. He exposed himself for what he is and I shall not dignify that by the unkind words required for such a characterization. But it was not a fruitful exchange due to the basic condition: a moderator(sic) predisposed to an untenable position which he sought to advance in a way that was personally crude, unattractive and dishonest. So we had what might be called a negative victory here. My father criticized me for putting you on that show, but I countered with the argument that it was on this show that we had to make some kind of rebuttal to Liebler. I think all the other appearances speak for themselves and for the most part were consistently effective. I missed hearing the two interviews that I did with you, but the personnel at the station were most impressed. And that is the best compliment one can get coming as it does from the employees of the station who can be quite jaded with all they have to listen to.

Sylvia Meagher may or may not come to Los Angeles. It depends on the getting of her manuscript with citations and addenda to the publisher. Yes it was welcome news that she was lucky to get a publisher! She was hoping to go to Victoria, B.C., but that too is in doubt. Penn may be there now. He phoned Maggie to tell her he would be in Los Angeles on Wednesday of this week for a couple of days. I'm sure he will have a great deal to tell on the Ruby death and its peripheral areas.

Joseph Ball gave a news conference here that I was unable to cover; Maggie went in my place and it was the same old stuff on the case. The critics were excoriated and chastised. The Chief Justice was celebrated and exhaltated as a semi-devinity. Everything was dealt with as absolutes. He did concede the possibility of a second assassin from the rear (firing on the 6th floor that is) if the Zapruder film could be proven to show that Connally was hit by a separate shot. He is personally satisfied that it cannot be so proven. He further said the Commission's working papers are now available to scholars in the archives.

I am glad you have finally seen the light with reference to Messers. Schiller, Lewis and company. They are real bums and deserve fully the epithets you apply to them. For me the payoff came the afternoon of the Joe Pyne interview when it was immediately transparent that Schiller had made available to Pyne the confidential transcript that "had been stolen from the safe"(sic). The rather pained expression on my face for the next 12 to 20 hours was due to the fact that you had acceded in granting an exclusive to Pyne for Whitewash III!

Maggie has written a letter to Capitol Records that her husband won't let her send, but yours is the most choice. Small satisfaction when one realizes what they have done to all of us.

I should really appreciate any questions you might like me to put to either Ball, Liebler or anyone else on the Commission Staff. I shall be interviewing the first two named within the next few weeks and am compiling a list myself. But the news from Ray that Ball and Belin drafted a memorandum of some length arguing Oswald's innocence is most interesting. If Marcus Raskin or you could detail this to me in writing and permit me to put this question to Ball I would be most grateful.

The book "Seventy Hours and Thirty Minutes" has reappeared on the book racks again in a newly revised edition. It was withdrawn last summer after it was issued very briefly in a different format. The new one contains pictures and some we haven't seen before and is essential I suppose as part of our catalogue of memorabilia. It would pay to make a close comparison of the two to see if anything has been edited out in the newer version.

Lillian Castellano and I discussed your point about 317 coming immediately before 313. She feels the obvious internal evidence makes you wrong. She uses as her guide in this determination the photos on pages 70 and 71 of volume XVIII: The girl in the background (Willis' daughter perhaps) casts a shadow to her right that extends gradually into the portion of the photograph that lies in the area bounded at top and bottom by the sprocket holes of each frame. In 313 the shadow is only a small fraction of an inch from the line (for want of a better term) at the left, in frame 315, which should come next sequentially the shadow has extended over into this "other area", in frame 314 it has extended even more and in frame 316 further still. In frame 317 the girl's head is closer to the sprocket hole at the top of the picture and by 318 it has been obliterated by the hole. So only 314 and 315 are out of order unless we miss something that you see and we don't. Wasn't there correspondence on this between Hoover and David Lifton? Doesn't the Commission acknowledge this error?

I am delighted (we all are, actually) about the news of a second printing for "Whitewash" and its appearance in England as a paperback. The letter is really an important development.

Gave Ray your message about the pictures and Maggie assures me that if "you still want the scarf, she will send one". I think part of the confusion was due to the note in one letter in which you said, in effect, 'forget it', as you had purchased a book for your Lil instead. It is kind of out of my hands now as Maggie insists she will take care of it and yet probably has delayed doing so. Sorry about this.

Penn is supposed to be here on Wednesday from somewhere, but we have nothing definite. Mort Sahl hasn't answered my letters. I thanked him for having you on. Ray is supposed to go on and will also do a Joe Dolan show in San Francisco next week. Lillian will attend the Arnoni lecture Saturday and then Maggie's reception for him afterward.

*Be...  
Bill*

*P.S. Liebler declined categorically to be interviewed by me this afternoon*