

7/22/37

Dear Bill,

Many thanks for your kind words and the Liebeler tape. I'm kind of tired today, having done a three-hour show to Boston last night, with a repeat tonight, each lasting until 1 a.m., so I think I'll listen to it this p.m. and try and get a nap, having him to think of while I'm falling, I hope, asleep. The fatigue makes me feel very old, physically.

Sylvia's attitude toward Garrison, I feel, is beginning to change. He is the kind of man we are, I believe, none of use adjusted to. I have no doubt of his basic accuracy, none of his seriousness, and from the federal end alone, believe Shaw is Bertrand.

Pressures here will increase. Parallax has had its own problems, and despite my friendship with the board chairman, a good friend and wonderful fellow, they have been dragging their feet on Oswald in New Orleans. The finally told me they could have it out in September and I told them no good. Three weeks now or send it back. They are to let me know Monday, when I'll not be home, and if they send it back Tuesday, I'll not be here Wed or Thurs, so I'll not be able to get cracking on it until the following Monday. I've already made arrangements to have it retyped for offset and proofread in a week! It will cost but I will do it. I've got the appendix largely done—all of it is paged up on layout sheets and some of the explanatory footnotes are in. The biggest jobs, once we get it in the hands of the stenographers, will be the backreferencing of the appendix, since I'll not be able to do it the other way, and the index. I suspect if I have to do it we'll print without an index, bind a few, and add the index (which again will be only name) to the later bindings. But this slows down my output on other work, which I'd planned to have done by the end of August.

However, if Parallax does return my H.O. book, I would again encourage Maggie to get in touch with Richard Callen, P. Pub. Co., 231 E 51. He is also a lawyer, expert in this field, and he can talk to Cerf. I am certain they will look with favor on Maggie's book if they do not do mine. As an alternative, I encourage her to do it herself. It should come out. This mensa attitude of publishers on this subject is subversive. I have fears for Sylvia's book because of this attitude and what it does to the willingness of publishers to do something with it. On the other hand, I am encouraged that they are going to do some radio advertising on it, for a friend of mine is handling that.

My last word on the cryptic bit was cryptic: first the man in question was quite obviously afraid and then that everything is okay. I presume Ococa made contact 7/19. for the man had promised to seek you out, after first phoning, that day. I spoke to him 7/18. My present arrangement with Billings is that as soon as he gets the data he will have a list of all the names in it mentioned. I will send this list, without indication of what it represents, to all who might know something and seek their knowledge. I think it is essential that to the degree we can keep this quiet. It may already be too late because of the gentleman's well-intentioned blunder. It can be vastly important. We have found a missing key witness, and important one, several to whom he has talked, and, I have a sneaking suspicion, under the right circumstances, assuming he and they survive, I have a notion all will talk. If this is a frame, I think that also will help make things clear and get truth. Gotte ruskush for mail

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July 20, 1967



Dear Harold:

I am sorry to be so tardy in acknowledging 1) the specially inscribed copy of "Photographic Whitewash" which did arrive special delivery shortly after we spoke, and 2) the shipment of the same book in quantity from the printer. The postage on the latter was something like \$25.00 and I certainly feel awful about you or them having to incur that sum!

Let me say straight away that I am not disappointed in the new book which I find, on the whole, to be very exciting indeed! Whatever little quibbles I might have over this point or that are really miniscule compared to what surely must be called the "historical" or "documentary" value of the volume. Like your other two volumes, this one is, quite simply, of invaluable worth to all serious students and researchers on the case/ I don't think anything, however, will eclipse "Whitewash I" which seems to me the quitesential piece of scholarship on the whole area of study and investigation. (I was dipping into it again last night in the pursuit of certain facts surrounding the "paper bag controversy") But the new one is certainly a worthy companion piece and "fleshing out" of certain aspects of the sub-strata which takes a proud place on the bookshelf next to its distinguished predecessors. Many, many thanks.

The Bill Turner memorandum is now in my possession. Thayer Waldo made available Bill's notes and I'm transcribing a copy for you and after a brief re-interview of the subject this week I'll send them along with my comments. There were, quite frankly, certain things in Bill's recollection of the interview with subject that do not jibe with my own impressions. As for my meetings with Thayer (who was at Maggie's for a few days) I think that will have to wait.

Sylvia phoned me yesterday about another matter and had some very warm and cordial things to say not only about your book, but about you as a person. She seems to be coming along quite well with "Accessories...."

I wish I could say the same for Maggie. The loss of a publisher was a terrible blow to her and now I find her driving herself unmercifully. She never lets up. Nor has she to this date received even a formal notification of abandonment of her contract. Not even a release from Chris Cerf so that she can seek other avenues of publication! Only a verbal term-

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ination to her agent. Then too, Ray is now in Boston with Letha and the children. And you know how close she is to Ray. His absence, therefore, in terms of the case and related areas is tantamount to a kind of spiritual and philosophical deprivation. Frankly, and this is between you and me, I wish Maggie were not quite so dependant upon Ray in the area of the case. She's got a fine mind of her own, but too often tends to treat his pronouncements as oracular and that is quite unnecessary. And I don't denigrate Ray as a primary researcher or original thinker either. The Garrison issue has caused, as you may have guessed, a terrible falling ~~about~~ between Sylvia and Ray and to a lesser degree between Maggie and Sylvia. I prefer simply not to be drawn into this. I don't really think we can do much to "support" Garrison as Maggie seems to think we should. I think we should support justice and if Garrison is on the side of justice he will surely benefit. I oppose the vicious attacks on his work and feel we ~~just~~ ^{must} suspend judgement until the accused persons are given their day in court. Beyond that I am reserved about the whole New Orleans development. And differences among critics should be a healthy thing in the sense of causing one another to reexamine the bases of the thought process of each of us.

My back is coming along fine and the corset will be taken off the end of August. And I think I have two film jobs coming up next month. Please give my love to Lil.

Best wishes,

Bill

11:00 a.m. 20 July 1967

P.S. Your letter just reached me on the Billings -
Olea matter which is happily & fortuitously
a timely occurrence. I think it wise to
be closed mouthed about this & we will
not mention it even to Bill Turner.
My next door neighbor knows & trusts Billings.
They are old friends.