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10/11/66

Dear Bill,

When I finished WHITEWASH I fell apart. While I was working on it a 44-45 hr. day was no sweat and I stayed alert. Then I did the rest, I was suddenly both physically and emotionally exhausted. Now that I've finished WHITEWASH II I'm almost that way, complicated by an apparent gall-bladder problem of unknown nature that hit me last Thursday when I was on the turnpike driving to New York. Please take no offense, but I'm really writing you because I'm not in fit condition to work.

The Metromedia tape of the six of us has been edited down to 3:15 and they are going to cut the additional 15 minutes. I think that for the most part this will help, for they'll eliminate the cross-talk and redundancy. Just so they don't purge my fine repeats of Cohen nest. It is scheduled to be aired November 12, including the LA Metromedia station. Their announcement got a good play, I understand in Variety and with a 4-col. head in the NYTimes. I wish it were sooner. They have been wonderful.

I have roughed out a dozen more pages on Arlen Specter's special issue of the USNews. I have several tough comments on the press, including by name, in the new book, and hope it will not too seriously interfere with its prospects. In fact, I use much of what you saw on LOOK-Knebel-Epstein-Rowland-Specter as an example of how the press made the whitewash possible and as a case study of the kind of evidence the staff frustrated with Rowland. There is also a rather strong epilogue which is subtitled a personal statement, and it is. There is publisher interest in New York and England, but I cannot evaluate how serious. I believe that unless I can make immediate arrangements for its immediate publication, I may do another private printing, difficult as that is for us, painful and costly, with a preface saying it is available to the first publisher making a decent offer who will take it over until his own printed edition is out. At least, I've been thinking this way. I hate to do this again, yet I hate for the content to wait. I've lost a little of it already and the rest, I believe, should be available before this thing starts to come apart the wrong way. I know some of you people disagree with what I've told you. I make no claim for immiscience, but I do hope you will suspend judgement until you see what I have and what it means.

While you were still in Texas I sent you the WNEW tape, insured. If it hasn't reached you, please let me know. If it has, I am anxious to hear it myself and would appreciate its return when convenient.

Is there anything one can do from this distance for Lillian? Suffering and tragedies are such personal things, yet the knowledge that others, no matter how slightly and less personally also feel them may sometimes help.

For some time I have felt that the Kennedy's are going to in some way have to disassociate themselves from the Manchester book. I feel this more strongly now. I have no tangible thing to go on, but the feeling is now strong. I understand from an editor who said he read the book that M. says only two bullets were fired. That would be a blessing greater than Specter's remarkable lies.

Hope the rest of you are well. Regards to all.