

8/31/68

Dear Shirley,

If one requires an excuse to write a friend from whom one hasn't heard in a while, mine is that I just do not feel like working. Perhaps some of it is the lingering malaise from the convention (we're Democrats - or at least were). Another excuse is that we were chatting for a while and there isn't really enough time before bed to crank the mind up again before having to cut it off. Also, we've been talking about you, wondering why we haven't heard, whether you are okay, etc. We stay pretty busy and don't just sit and chat as much as we should. Wednesday we went to Washington, which gave us two hours of talkin' time.

I just haven't been taking time for personal letters because as time goes on there are more things I want to do, things I think should be done and feel perhaps I just ought to take time to do.

One idea that is now in my mind is writing a not-too-long book (they all start that way) on Oswald as an agent. I do not know whether I will, but I have new and important material on this. Maybe all of a sudden I will, and then I'll want to remember all those things I'll not be able to, like when he was how large where, how tall, what there is in Ruth Paine's calendar that might be relevant, what in the USSR, etc. As time passes my memory shortens.

I now have three unpublished manuscripts. The one you helped with has been ready for the press since shortly after you were with us. I knew then I'd have to be adding to it, but instead of writing what might have to be changed again, I've been postponing it. I want to get back to it soon. I expected to before this, but, aside from the personal investigations that have taken much time and worsened out financial condition by that much, I've drafted two other books. One is on all the assassinations. I call it COUP D'ETAT. More or less half of another book done and wonder whether I should finish it now, which I can in not too much time, or get back on POST MODERN.

Several people want me to do one on Epstein and his work, particularly his New Yorker dishonesty which next month is scheduled to appear as a Viking book and will get much hurtful attention. I could do that in a week, but should I, without some prospect of publication? Does it really serve a constructive purpose, and, if it does, more than other things I can do with that time?

Well, gives you an idea of what keeps me occupied. Back of my mind is the desire to get busy on TIGER TO RISE. Too much.

We are both okay, aging rather more rapidly than we should, keeping a schedule young folks couldn't, and not happy about the state of the world and our country.

There seems to be no immediate prospect for publication of any of these books, but I am trying commercial publishers because I just cannot afford to go deeper in debt to publish myself.

It has been beautiful here. I've been home for seven consecutive weeks and enjoyed it. Until our real hot spell broke, we'd been going swimming for short periods about three times a day, which was good (with Lil, who cannot float, it was hardly swimming, but she enjoyed it). Now the air tells us fall approaches. It has been down to 50 the past several nights.

Let us hear that you are well.

Best from us both,