

2/28/69

Dear Al,

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Although Art Kevin had told me you had done an excellent job in your cross-examination of that fink Finck, not until the New Orleans papers arrived, with their extensive quotes from the transcript, did I realize how very, very well you did, especially because of the imposed handicaps. If only one thing of genuine importance emerges from the trial, I predict this will be it. I do congratulate you on this excellent work.

There is no doubt in my mind he committed perjury. I have heard you anticipated this. If he is to be charged, I hope you can delay until I have had a chance to read that transcript in full, for I also believe there were perjuries you might not be able to detect. If you get the transcript, would you please ask Louis to have it Xeroxed for me (I'd like it to quote in my writing anyway, extensively). Within a day of getting it I would be able to pinpoint what I believe are his perjurious statements, with citations to the proof.

Should he be charged, this would certainly bring pressures to require the production of the pictures and X-rays and other suppressed evidence, including his and the other notes. At that moment his interest separates from that of the government or, it endangers his. That should be a very interesting situation. Such a charge would also be a means of putting the other autopsy doctors under oath and many others, including the panel. Not one of them can survive it. I am aware of the general paranoia on this, but it is no more than that. I have completed and published in a very limited edition my book on that aspect.

At this moment, I have even less expectation of a conviction. However, your fine work diminishes the cost we will pay for this. And I do think doing something about Finck, doing it thoroughly, responsibly and without the unwarranted paranoid fears by those who really do not know anything about it, would, in the end, be of more significance than a conviction in the Shaw case.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg