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Dear John,

The inside back cover of Publishers' Weekly for 10/2 has an ad (full page) for "Lee", ghosted for Robert Oswald by Myrick and Barbara Land. Coward-McCann says this is "an extraordinary book that is destined to make international headlines".

Any man who, in the absence of any proof whatsoever and only when that fishy fiction is in jeopardy, calls his brother an assassin and the nonexistent evidence, in the word of the blurb, "impressive", certainly deserves help in the making of "international headlines". Let's help him!

The first thing that will, according the (how appropriate the name - they wouldn't even look at WHITEWASH!) Coward-McCann blurb, make these headlines is "Robert's efforts to protect Marina from promoters". How did he do this (not according to C-McC but according to me)? By taking 10% himself, off the top!

Marina was milked like a prize cow, a total of 35%. Another 10 went to Lawyer Thirn and 15% to Business Agent Martin, arranged by the Secret Service (the beginning of this story is in "Scheherezada", first chapter of WWII). Fresh from the brickyard, Robert became Marina's "adviser".

At some point very early in the game, this became a quiet scandal, for by February 26, 1964, the Secret Service completed an investigation carefully cloaked as an inquiry her "business transactions". Not long thereafter Marina complained, changed her lawyer, bought up contracts (10year ones, too!), and I do not know whether she ever bought Robert out of what. I believe she told the Commission her lawyers' fees were about \$35,000, pretty stiff for a woman under the protection of the Secret Service and charged with nothing.

We have moved. The correct address is above. Your ~~2x~~ 10/9 letter to John was forwarded and reached here today. Our conditions are rather primitive, including transition in electrical service that prevents the photocopy machine from making a better

copy than the enclosed. The Xerox I got from the Commission's files in this case is pretty clear. This copy is from the made-up appendix I will be using in Manchester Machiavelli. I tell you this in case you can develop interest. There will be no gray blotches.

It is possible to make out a case of first separating Marina from her only friends (and boy, was Ruth Paine kept away from her while she spent three months in protective custody!) undermining her confidence in her only friends, so she had no one to turn to but Robert. Note his statements (page 2) that the woman who had taken Marina in, the Quaker, mildly liberal, ~~xx~~ was a "bad influence on Marina".

Next, Martin, picked out by the Secret Service, invites Marina to his home. She at first demurs, seeking assurances she'd be welcome ("wished to know if the Martin family liked her"). So, the Secret Service, no doubt literally, translated Mr. Martin's assurance that his family liked her". How long could she stay? Indefinitely, and with no charge at all. Fine, American hospitality (top page 2).

Marina, of course, "trusted Robert completely" (worth 10%, or a third of the total take!).

Just how really anxious was the Martin family to have Marina live with them indefinitely, and free? (top page 3) "...the Reporting Agent met Mrs. James Martin who appeared somewhat perturbed with Marina's presence in the household because of the neighbor's possible feelings of animosity toward her", and she suggested camouflage, the real mark of Southern hospitality. I mean, this poor woman was that overjoyed at having Marina she wanted her to change her appearance and her name.

Just how loyal, trusted, honest Bob earned his 10%, I think, is clear. He swung the deal and kept Marina happy, at least for a while, until she began to wise up. You'll find the details at the bottom of page 4 and following.

And this is how Robert, who Marina "trusted completely", in that fine Coward-McCann understatement, "protected" her from the "promoters"!

So, can we help Robert in his destiny, making "international headlines"? There was once a time this would have made a helluva fine story and a good fee. I mentioned it to Peter Kinss today (not that I expect the Times to pay but in case we cannot sell it). I also wrote the President of Coward McCann an excessively polite



letter of thanks for his great public service and offered him a copy. I do not expect him to be overjoyed. But, if he should reply, I'll tell him you have a copy.  
day before

Peter Workman called me/yesterday to say he had mailed me a copy of the book, of the two they had last Friday. Of course, a week is not enough time for mail that has 250 miles to go, so I haven't gotten it yet. He wanted me to come up to New York to plan the trip that now looks as though it will begin about 11/1. I suggested that instead of this cost and time-waster, he get his PR gal and the three of us talk it over by phone. I told him I'd do a few things immediately, so I could report back. He hasn't called. I won't be home tomorrow, as I told him, if he does. I'll be gone one day in the early part of the week, probably not Monday. But we should start not wasting time. I've got the top Chicago TV show lined up, and when we know the date, they'll speak to the Kup show, which I understand is the top talk show if not of the entire day, after the morning. I actually arranged this months ago. I've phoned Jack McKinney, who has, I have found, the most effective east-coast talk show, clear-channel Radio WCAU, Philadelphia, to see if I can do that on the way back from the press conference they are supposed to have for me in NYC. I spoke to Kihss on this rather than the right people on the Times because he has arranged it so that, on each of the previous two books, I got fantastic news play, a third of a page on WWI and 40 inches on PW. He will be away for several days, but if Peter hasn't gotten a copy to him, personally, by the time he is back he'll phone and send a messenger. Salisbury is busy on a Russian bit they are doing, but he is now on my side and should have a copy. Also, for the chief of the national desk, whose name I've forgotten. I told Kihss that if the Times wants any of the documents, I have more than 300 pages of them and he need only ask for whatever they want, if they do, to illustrate the story. I recommended the Wall 47-word investigation of the Cuban outfit with which Oswald was connected (and which had been organized by the CIA) through the return address and I offered my pictures that show the address is the FBI report is the camouflaged address that Oswald used as his return. This is also the Benister-Arcacha-stacked munitions across from the Post Office! (and I think FBI and Secret Service) bit.

I also told Kihss that when I am in New York I'd like to be able to speak to Salisbury and him and, if they desired, the head of the national desk, to bring them up to date on my unpublished material. The last time I saw Salisbury, with a copy of the ms of WHITEWASH II, he followed with the Times' investigation. That aborted & a) when S went to Hanoi and b) those prize reporters, like Gene Roberts, the man who bought the Oswald-rifle picture for the Detroit paper he then worked for, couldn't find a single thing in the Archives that I hadn't by then and couldn't even find most of what I gave sources to. (Kihss also told me this, later)

There is a certain element of risk in my telling what I know that no one else does - you cannot begin to imagine how shocking, after all I have already done, POST MORTEM really is - but it is a risk I think worth running and that I really must. The effort to suppress is greater than ever before. I'm hurting, financially. I think the time is now, because I also think there is little likelihood the New Orleans trials will begin this year. This, I think, is very good for us and may help us make up a little of the loss from those awful delays. We lost a pot by the time wasted, because this book could have come out - and should have - during all the controversy.

Right now I need backstopping to publish POST MORTEM. This may be one way I can get some help. I'm going to try it.

Just how tight the situation is on this subject I can imagine. Nonetheless, from what I have heard of it, I think Jim's foreword might interest some mag. If you haven't read it, please do. I don't think he'll mind. I think he'd like to reciprocate further.

John, if I can get any kind of an audience on this, I've got the stuff to fight with, and I don't really care who I fight with, including some of the media, if necessary (but not for nothing). Now is when we should start doing something with the fairness doctrine and the FCC. Dick is the lawyer and the publisher. He should find some time for this, and preferably before I am up there. I've laid a foundation (and I won't single out your clients; may not even mention them). I have in mind Metromedia and Alan Burke if they refuse to make a firm commitment to the program, because I doubled the rating of his show and really made it when it was nothing. They have made and broken countless promises since. I don't mind saying, publicly, that he is afraid to have me back, that



he and his producers act as though they have been given orders (which I am confident is the case, for I know them well).

Now, how about Dick and Dell? Weeks drag into months and you haven't done what you each said you would. It is on the basis of the promise to you, relayed to me, that I borrowed the money to buy this house. That was due in September, and I promised the bank a payment in September and didn't make it. Lets sue the bastards right away, with sensational charges that are true, and get the collateral benefit. ~~Had~~ maybe the money. There is goddamned little they can say when they have a contract and didn't change a single word in either of the two books they reprinted.

The London Times, ultimately, got the copy of the ms from me, read it, liked it, found it persuasive, came to see me, I showed them some of the documents, and the daily paper staff even wrote to the Sunday edition (which pays so well). The response was to keep close to me, keep them posted, and if the climate changes, they could be interested. We are staying in touch.

I really cannot go to New York unless it is essential. We are virtually camping. I found the house without hot water (which we may have for the first time tonight - I'll learn when I finish this and try and bathe), with a leaking roof and other repairs that require immediate attention, and the urgent need for rewiring, which is undertaken. I cannot go off and leave an unwell wife these things to cope with unless it is essential. I must get them all tended to before I leave on this trip. Now, by the way, would be a good time to speak to Stella Warner again (I enclose an extra copy of the Times story on PW for sweetening), for a few speeches where I'm going would help. I can set San Francisco and Los Angeles afire with what I have on prominent local barristers - documents! And I'll have exposure to advertise the speeches she might be able to line up. One in New Orleans would be excellent, for I can say things there and I think I could take a pretty good names to such a meeting.

I have given Workman and Joy Meerns, the pr gal, some things I can do before or after the trip, just a few hours from here, and there is more of it we should discuss. I can do Boston, Phila, NY and be in any one of the places and back the same day, maybe even two in a day.... I hope you can make this out, for it is too late to read it and I have to leave early in the am for my medical checkup. Please let me hear from you (plural) about these things. Best regards

*Handwritten signature*