

Dear Jim,

More on Post Mortem and the current situation 3/4/75

Nine hours after I got up was sort of late to read the morning paper but after your call I could not concentrate, so I clipped it for later reading. The several things that you said that troubled me were confirmation of my suspicions and analysis: Lane is really far out of it and these types are out to tap other people's money (I've never known them to do otherwise).

There has never been a time when Post Mortem could not have had a real impact. Now the situation is ideal for it. But there has never been a time when the situation switched to the favorable that there has not been some self-seeker ready to mess everything up. What else was Garrison and what else did he do? If Bud had not been so ego oriented can you imagine what he could have done? Skip up the present events: Gregory. Once there was a willingness to use the Zapruder film in public (as I told Robert often enough over the many years) it could not be used alone; could not, no matter how persuasive to those willing to believe its clear evidence, be expected to have the same results with those unwilling; and that if such efforts were made they would be counterproductive where there is real influence. Without the insanity of the Gregory approach this would have been true. With all the craziness it is more true and it has been beneficial to bad people as misused.

So what is really disturbing is the possible of not probable counterproductivity of this new Lane effort. You have seen for yourself how little informed he really is. Yet of that whole crew he is the most informed. Can you begin to realize what the end can be when they start foaling around in court with such great ignorance of fact alone?

This means many things but first of all two: it is necessary to beat them into court and it is necessary, if at all possible, as you seem to realize, to do what can be done immediately to render their self-seeking impotent in terms of the Gregory-type of hurt they can do. This in effect means cracking the case and that as of now seems to rest on the chances with Post Mortem.

I am inclined to think that despite its liabilities and his ego and other serious problems one of the best chances is with and through Bud. I'd be only too happy to give full credit in the book to the one who after so long a time was the only one with the dedication to make its printing possible. If as I think it can today it does break the case, this would be Bud's one authentic claim to fame in the case (he's fucked everything else up incredibly, whether he realizes it or not) and the one way he can keep all he's done and spent from being a futility at best.

Mr. Maio is coming and I may stop at any point, particularly if I can get him to take the envelope to the post office when he goes back to town. I do want you to be thinking about speaking to Bud, preferably to Bud and Bill both together. I'll be reluctant to show Bud anything but not Bill, separately if he is willing to preserve confidence so he could counsel Bud, if Bud wants counsel other than yours. A faster way is Ed Kabak, who is a publishing lawyer and has a fair factual knowledge. The Bud problem is that as he acknowledges, he can't keep his jaw from flapping and can't keep secrets. I'll not let this be blown under any circumstances.

Details can come later, like could Bud get others to pitch in and how if at all to repay. (I'm not unwilling although I do believe that if these were sincere people they'd not ask it of me.)

The problem with Bud making pitches is that they can always come back to him or always have in their minds his own ability to do it alone.

I've done all I can do with the wealthy and the foundations. Others might succeed where I've failed because one always is weakest making an approach with his own hat in hand. I believe that among those who might be helpful now is Gene McCarthy, who encouraged me to keep in touch although I haven't and didn't even ask where he can be reached. Aside from questions of principle what I've done can be valuable to him in his present life. Are you might be able to do something with a non-toll call.

I've been thinking of going back to Tom Susman merely for direction and possible suggestions. If I would not want to make a Teddy pitch I would think that the Gregory ploy and the reaction of the Kennedy women ought make some of their people willing to see that their selfish interest requires cleaning this up and bringing all the hurt and embarrassment to an end. It can be.

Then there are those anxious to clean up the FBI. One of them of means or one a victim could have an interest and such evidence is in this book and not focuses on the individual Hoover as all the current stuff is. I suggest that the campaign against St. Edgar's

memory has as its purpose exculpating all FBI survivors. I further suggest that it is succeeding because the blame for everything is being laid on him. Well, he could not have destroyed the evidence proof of the destruction of which is in Post Mortem.

Maio left too late and in too much of a hurry for me to ask him to go to the post office and the saving in time would have been negligible.

Our problems are many. Immediately they are from our having been independent, having done our own work, and having not made careers of spending the money of other people. Thus we are without experience in approaching them for it save for the few efforts I made in the past.

It is because we lack the experience that I suggest who could have an interest. I believe if we knew the field we'd be able to think of some of those who helped McGovern who might want to see this material available and might want for what it can bring about.

This is why I spoke to Don Freed about is long ago, as I told you today.

An other possible angle, again beyond my knowledge, would be one of Bud's ambitions and without his dismal record or without his hangups. Considerable credit can accrue to the one who makes it possible, one of the reasons I said I' include this credit.

We'll know better after the Thursday ABC show, but if one could reason with Gregory he could bring it about and on his recent record has ample reason for wanting to. He probably will not admit to himself that he has messed it all up. But inwardly he has to know.

You haven't said so but I think your recent interest in getting Post Mortem out comes from your realization that some solid fact has to be introduced into all of this and at this time. So, instead of trying to think further along this line in the time I have before I go for Lil let me instead, just in case, tell you what remains to be done. Lil can't now do it. Part she would not in any event. That would be preparing the rest, meaning essentially the appendix. That can't be done until we know what is possible in terms of size. The problem will be what to eliminate. Once the appendix is more or less set (the indefiniteness comes from not knowing how many pages the index will take) it can be added to the index with some documents in reserve above the space estimate. When the index is typed we know exactly how much space we have, can add those documents at the end of the appendix and then add them to the index. The typing of the index will require a good typist. I'll make indentations, etc., when I edit it on cards. That is, edit the cards prior to the typing. In time it is not great. Adding cross-references could take some time and I'd be inclined to do it only at the point where the document is referred to for the first time. Hopefully the index would simplify this.

If you read my letter to McInley with care you may see that I was holding some prospect out to him and trying to interest him in using his connections. Whether or not I can get any help from Martin is a question. I'm inclined to doubt it. And his saying he will come this weekend does not mean he will.

We are too close to this to have detached opinions. However, I do believe that the journalistic opportunities presented are really great. That we can exploit them is a real question. On the basis of the past the answer is no. The reason is attitudes, preconceptions and prejudices, not fact.

Best,