

Anderson column/Jackie's suppressed testimony HW 10/31/75

Les called twice yesterday after reading the five pages in PM on this. After reading it the night before he had thought of perhaps three grafs he could get in. He said he was fascinated and couldn't cut it down and continued to the end of that section and that his wife finds it fascinating. He likes in particular that it is a first-person account of a personal investigation. I apologized for its literary quality saying that I had little choice but to print unedited first drafts. He expressed surprise.

He has been calling on me for help and finding everything I tell him pans out and everywhere I send him he finds what I tell him he will. (Getting the Hoover annotations on some of the records he did through old sources of his own.) He felt badly because in following what I had told him he had duplicated what I had published but he had not seen. I told him not to worry, that if Jack didn't want to credit to feel free to use. When Les told Jack this Jack said they'd have to find a way to give me a good plug. When Les told me this I told him (several days ago) that I have no interest in personal publicity but do have an interest in people learning about my books because people can't go to book stores and walk out with them. I suggested instead that he use something new from PM. As we talked about this he liked the notion of Jackie's suppressed testimony. I told him there can be others but right now he doesn't want to read more because he fears he'll read what he might find on his own.

He called back last night, again full of effusive praise and what seem more like apologies to himself. About me and my work. He even said it was not a plug, that it was well earned, etc. He also described what he called the most non-stop conferences on what to include and what not to about what Jackie said. They had five people in on it, from Jack and Les to interns and a secretary. Next to the last was a partial quote. The secretary then said it still was too gruesome so direct quotes are out.

It is a five-graf section for Tuesday use.

I've forgotten but I think it includes the traditional line that none of this changes the basic conclusions of the WR but that will continue for a while anyway.

I got H5 and read the part I analyze in PM. He was fascinated more by looking at one version while reading the actuality. He after all his experiences seems genuinely astounded that there would be such trickery with testimony.

Then he was more fascinated with how I had put it together. He said something about the psychology I didn't get. I didn't ask him to repeat because he was running late.

I think this past several weeks represents the beginning of what can be a major change. When Les said that Jack said something I said don't push him. There is a big black crow hanging over his head. If he swallows it fast he'll choke and think of all the good he does. We both laughed.