

4/23/66

Dear Arthur,

I've just put Nancy on the bus. I write before returning to my own work to apologize for my inability to go to Washington and bring her here. Perhaps if there is another time or if you should come, my situation will be better. We are about an hour from either the Washington or the Baltimore airports. Nancy knows why I couldn't leave today, but it made a rough day for her.

She is a very pleasant girl, quite obviously deeply interested in what she is doing (you are lucky this way).

I gave her a few things to show you. They are for your eyes only, save for those - have published. The blue Thermofaxes and those she wanted as duplicates you may keep, ~~take~~ the others you may copy but not use in any way until I publish them. I explained the reasons.

If she remembers half of what I told her she is also very bright. She has but a glimmer of the archives I am building and a fair idea of its extent, in tapes, pictures and documents of various kinds. There just was no time for more, even though we didn't have lunch, just cheese and crackers. And she was unavoidably late getting here.

I explained to her what work I am engaged in and loaned you a copy of one of the three limited editions - have published to protect my rights. My work on the autopsy will be three books, of which I have done two and researched the third. That is a story like none in our history. Criminality, not just obfuscation, is involved. If there are genuine friends of the Kennedy family (not only those who loved the President), they will never forgive themselves for not lending a hand. You have never seen anything like this or what I have in hand on it. What you have is the first of these three books. I have no copy of the third but will lend it to you when I do. She will Xerox it for you. I should be getting one back soon. There you will see what you will not in your reading of the file you got from the Department of Justice. It is so very meaningful the lawyers had no idea what they had or were talking about. It is the largest unbugging of eaves. There are a number of reasons why I ask you to make no mention of this material, even that which is technically published, the most obvious being they are among my few assets, one of the few ways I can hope to effect printing of this work. Another is that my work is being stolen wholesale by those with fewer problems. When you Xerox these books for yourself, if you could make copies for me I'd appreciate it, for there are several people working with me who'd like to be able to let have copies for help in their own researches.

Arthur, if you want your archive to have meaning and significance, to be a living and essential part of our history and a genuine, scholarly asset at Yale you will see for yourself what I have. If you do, I have no doubt of your subsequent course. I have gone into fields you cannot dream of. We have actualities that would not be credited in a novel, collateral commentaries that will become a vital part of the study of government and its functioning, how what makes it tick. I am not reporting what I visualize but what I have. It will mean at Yale and elsewhere what rare books cannot. The name of such an archive will be and will remain

one of rekrown. There will not be another like it. And that is the right place for it.

But everybody is afraid, and of so many things - but most of all of truth. Maybe you will yet be an exception.

In sending you what has been destroyed in every place it was required to be (I got a misfiled copy) of the autopsy authorization, I am entrusting you with a document of rare value. On any other subject LEE would spend a fortune on it. It is improperly executed. It is an illegal authorization. But it is the only one. I have pointed a few things out to Nancy (if she remembers any appreciable part of what I told her, praise her, for in so short a period, she had too much to try and assimilate). One is that this had to be destroyed, for without it the pictures and X-rays could not be suppressed, and with it existing Bobby could never have been framed with responsibility for the deficiencies of the investigation. It is but a small part of what I have on that single small aspect. He was framed, part of the means of silencing him - and part of the stigma that may yet attach to his and the President's name. I have shown her a number of other things also destroyed. And I have shown her the proof of who destroyed what, how, when and where.

Imagine, Arthur, in the United States of America, and when a President is murdered - and by the government!

As you know, I trust you. Nancy has a problem in not being familiar with this subject, but she is bright and sincere. If you want her to return and rummage through my files, okay. She will see much she will not understand, but she may get an idea of what I already have, its extent and possibly its significance. We can cut her up, which will reduce your cost. My one stipulation is that you maintain my confidence, for I'm dearer in debt than you know. This material represents my one way of getting out. Also, I want to control the way it is used, for there has been too much error and deliberate dishonesty on all sides.

Some of the things, like those documents relating to Mary Moorman, are not too unusual. They merely document how we got our money accounting, how it was made acceptable, how government functioned (malfunctioned). Others may not make immediate sense to you, like the excerpts from the Executive Sessions. (How I wish I could do a separate book on them. If I were part of a University Department of Government I could make a full career on this one file.) If you want to know what they mean, phone me.

This thing was so crooked, even the members of the Commission became its victims. Nancy may recall a story about this. Please do not repeat it. I've got the proof, know and am recording it and the meaning where that has been obscured.

While I try and just avoid interruptions in my work, this one came at a time when I am not productive. Nancy is so pleasant, obviously of sincere interests and pretty to look at, so it was one of the more desirable interruptions. Especially if you get even a faint idea of what I have and what it can mean for your archive and its value and permanence.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg