

2/11/73

ter,

p Please pardon my thoughtlessness. I'm so adjusted to pinching pennies I put you in an intolerable position. Here I've been telling you what Romero says and obviously I haven't seen the unpublished book or the ms. I told you my sources, but you should not have to depend upon that, nor should anyone to whom you have talked or might.

The enclosed wire service story is not the first I got but it is a version of my first knowledge, an extra copy so I use it instead of making another.

The full translation of L'Ayore story is from Computers for January 1973 (on assassinations they are nuts).

The front-page story from the scandal sheet and part of the carryover are also included, issue dated 11/19/72. If you want a copy of all of it, ask. Ditto for what I quoted Hemington on saying about sighting-in a rifle. Here I can also offer the National Rifle Association, which should be a fairly dependable source if there is one who might not so regard Hemington, huh?

I can't afford legal-size paper for my machine. It is a size I rarely use, so I pasted the front-page part together, nothing omitted. The only reason for sending you part of the second was to show the claim of an INSIDER interview in Rome and Romero's posture, a strange thing for a man who has double-crossed such powerful people, clipped so much money from them and yet advertises himself, not fearing retribution.

As I think I've told you, I don't care whether or not Bantam prints this book. I'm satisfied that if your people don't someone else will anyway. Nor do I intend to do anything about it on appearance. Should Marc think some controversy will help sell it, I might consider playing Khrushchev for him and denounce it! But without this desire I see no reason or need to. With the Insider having used the original story, maybe I could speak to a friend at a competitor, The National Enquirer?

Marc has done some fine things, and for these I respect him. I just don't want him to get hurt. If he knows the possibilities and makes a decision, I guess he knows what he is doing.

But as you know, such things fascinate me. Remember Ockie? Which I think would still make a great novel!

If there is any formal announcement of the book, I'd appreciate knowing about it. I plan to do nothing and I won't if it is not announced. But when it is I may want to write someone, not about the book but using that as a peg for another matter.

I'll keep my eyes open. If there is anything you want me to know, please tell me. So far as I am concerned, all of this is confidential. The only reason I haven't included the technical data on the rifle and the sighting is because it might tend to box Marc in and I don't want to do it or even to suggest to him that I might, hence my unsolicited promise of confidentiality.

Best regards,