

6/15/74

Dear Arvin,

When Jim Lesar phoned me last night about other matters, he reported a conversation with Bud, whose court appearance I presume you heard of and read about. Bud thinks it might be possible to get financing of a printing of what I believe is far and away the most definitive work on the JFK assassination and of official dishonesties that in many areas exceed even Watergate. Anxious as I am to have this work out, I am concerned about the possibility of interference with the project that means more to me than any other and I think will to everyone else in the long run. Not trusting my own judgement in this I seek yours.

While everything in this book is still new and topical, I began writing it before the "second wave" of Warren Commission books were out. I completed the first of three parts in August, 1967; then when I could do nothing with it, removed parts to use in a second part of the book as I continued my investigations. When we forced the government to produce a suppressed official analysis of the autopsy, in about two weeks, to prepare Bud and our technical expert, a pathologist who did not understand it, ~~xxxxxx~~ I wrote the second part to prepare Bud and the expert for his testimony in court. (We won, but Garrison blew it, mooting it.) I then visualized it as the third part but my continuing work, and the inability to find any publisher interest, gave time for good work, yielded such sensational stuff in the final form I have switched the last two parts.

It is a prolix, passionate, sometimes emotional work in which I also seek to allocate blame for the miscarriages of justice. I do inveigh against the press. I have softened some of this in preparing final copy for the offset camera. Honesty, however, requires exposure of the failures of the press, as does comprehension. How else could it all have happened? Probably some of it could be out out now but the cost of doing that is greater. If these be liabilities to reviewers and intellectuals, they are appealing to the average person and my mail continues to bring expressions of it - and strangely no adverse comment.

Several years ago, through one I regarded as a friend, I made an arrangement with a wealthy young man who professed deep concerns for society for him to pay for a single 5,000 printing of the unabridged work and for him to do a short popularization which we would own jointly. The sole stipulations I made ~~xxx~~ were fidelity to the work, including not politicizing it, and a size that could then be sold for \$5.00. What I did not then know is that he sat on the board of a CIA foundation with a man who had been close to Bobby Kennedy but had actually screwed him. When this man came to the chapter, "Hades, Not Paradise," he sought to convert it and the doctrine of the rest of the book into an attack on the victim, to suit his own prejudices. This was the beginning of the end

of that deal. There is nothing that can entice me into what I regard as the corrupting of work which I believe in time will be regarded as important in the interest of history and a free and decent society. (This atavism underlies some of the attitudes toward me and my work because it is "old fashioned" today, when "success" is the major concern and standard.)

After our pleasant visit I had visits from two top correspondents, both specialists for the London Sunday Times. The first is their medical correspondent, the second their chief investigative reporter. I made each a separate but similar offer. Both were interested. One has been rejected, the one on Watergate. They are still considering the article I did on my secret relations with Senator Russell and his disagreement with the Report he signed.

(Incidentally, they expressed admiration for what I had done that they did not on Watergate.)

In each case the offer was an "advance" of a 5,000 printing of "underground" edition of the full work in return for the rights to condense and popularize and the world rights to the rest of the property under normal terms of sharing. The last I heard from <sup>U</sup>liver Gillie, the medical correspondent, is that he wants to do the condensation of Post Mortem but he has two months of assignments ahead of him. He did not address the basic condition, an unabridged printing and because it is premature I have not asked him. He has the full, unedited work and has seen enough of the original documentation. He agrees with everyone else who has seen the stuff that it is so sensational no popularization can be accepted without the backstopping of the complete work.

My own experience is that there is residual interest long after a book is no longer on sale. I am still getting orders for my original "underground" works but rarely for the book on the King assassination, which was <sup>published</sup> ~~printed~~ commercially and was "reviewed." This is in every way a different subject, something I have learned is so extraordinary experienced people simple can't believe it. So I know I can depend upon continuing interest in the work, from students and educational institutions in particular. Libraries are continuing to replace worn-out copies. This is still another reason for the unabridged edition, the only one that will continue to be available in the future.

When I completed the now first two parts I was able to have a number of xerox copies made. One part I believe is reduced in size. I have no spare copy of the third part but somehow would arrange to make a xerox if you would like to read it. It would be risky to xerox the corrected and slightly-edited master copy because it has to be preserved for photographing if I can ever arrange publication and corrections could be disturbed and lost.

Except for a sketch, the text is camera-ready and indexed. I want to include a documentary appendix of the kind of documents you have seen. Until I know what may be possible I can't prepare the appendix or decide what to eliminate. Just printing all

the relevant, important and once-secret documents I have obtained would make a book that could exceed bindery capacity.

There has been no point in getting estimates, but based on those I received last this would cost something like \$15,000 just to print.

I am continuing to work on the <sup>new</sup> Watergate book knowing that no publisher will touch it, in the hope that it can be something more than an archival record. Tentatively I have titled it The Unimpeachment of Richard Nixon. It is to do two things above all, explain how (at least for so long) it didn't happen and bring to light what was suppressed in the areas of which you know, centered around the spooks and the spooking. It will be a new CIA exposure and already is, I have gotten that far into it. Developments are not dating it and I do expect the suppressions to continue. I guess I have about 75,000 words on paper or more.

(I am both pleased and disappointed that the longer, definitive and complete work I laid aside after doing between 150,000 and 200,000 words has not been dated by events, pleased because it is an ~~implicit~~ endorsement of my analysis and understanding and sad because it has not been done and will not be ever. And because the country still suffers for it. Right now it looks like far into the future, too.)

This one will cost much less to print, if that is ever possible. It will be much smaller.

I appreciate the call from Martin Price. I hope to see him Thursday, when we have to go to Washington for dental appointments. I know he has difficulty believing there is a shibboleth like these with which I work.

And what the publishers have done in the past is hard to believe, too. When I can't afford a lawyer there is not much I can do. The most recent example is my inability, despite contracts, to get an account<sup>ant</sup> from Dell. Yesterday, in response to the fourth request since about last fall I got a letter in which they tell me they are nice guys. And honest. Meanwhile, I have copies of an edition they have never acknowledged printing, without it they admit two printings when they had almost half the original quarter million printing unsold, and they have yet to explain how, after buying 8,000 copies of the underground edition from me and then doing nothing with them they contrived to put this on their books as a "joint venture." Their books are so crooked they show only half this 8,000 copies and I have proof of the shipment and the receipt of all 8,000. Who would believe this? But whatever lies behind it, they know I can't afford a lawyer.

If you know one in New York who is decent enough to do more than go through the motions on a contingency basis, I sure would like to know him! (My experience with the firms specializing in this kind of law is that they will represent publishers only. I have a friend with one firm and I have approached several others, including the ACLU types.)

If you have time for advice, I'd appreciate it.

Thanks and best regards to you both,