

1/17/75

Dear Janet,

This time of the year there is always a big hunk out of each working day. My wife is a tax consultant and twice daily I'm the transportation. The new book has made almost any other work impossible because I'm the entire publishing operations outside the bookkeeping. So, the mail-~~ing~~ order/shipping dept is overworked!

This is to explain another less than adequate response to your letter of the 14th.

It is my practise to duplicate my own work out of my possession. In most cases I have not less than two duplications elsewhere. It is the best and the safest procedure.

While Bill's mother's concern is normal, it is also self-defeating and does tend to make what would not really be dangerous somewhat of a hazard.

Jim Lesar's situation and mine are much more precarious than her's. We are active right now and in court, where we have already hurt everyone severely. But we are unmoasted. (Not that there has not been surveillance, though.)

I hope she will see it this way. Plus that the real chance to make good use of whatever Bill had is now - in court, if possible, and preparing for that.

Can you distinguish for me between what she has and what Harper & Row has? Was he doing a book for them?

On a more permanent deposit, I can assure you that without any changes, alterations or editing they can be with mine but separately. Two institutions want mine now. In addition, whatever is desired to preserve literary rights for heirs.

My interest is for use in court. I have no literary plans for this or my new work on the case. I can't find time to get back to almost-completed work.

I'm glad for the perceptiveness in your P.S? There can be importance in disinformation, whether with what is fed me, or Bill or others. The matter of the so-called tramps interests me very much. It figured in an attempted but aborted dirty trick the state tried. Before I go further with this, as I'm willing to, more when we can be together, I'd appreciate what you know so I will not be influencing your recollections. If you know Bill's source that also could be helpful. Actually, I used this in a different way within days after the sketch appeared, gave copies to the FBI, AP, Ramparts and used them in a press conference in mid-May, before Ray was arrested.

If Bill had any independent knowledge, that could have meaning. All sorts of people, including Percy Foreman, had their fingers in this.

I hope you can understand that I'm not evading. I don't want to influence you. After you put all you know down I'll tell you the rest. But it is so long a story, if I tell you all, I'd rather let it wait until we are together, including what is not public and what I've shared with Jim Lesar only.

I try to be honest and think I succeed, I am not only human, as the Village Voice piece says but I have the failings of humans. However, I also try to avoid these and to a fair degree think I succeed. If Wayne has been in touch, he may have given you his opinion. It should include that I am also forthright, saying not what his wanted but what I believe.

Thanks and best,

*Harold*

January 14, 1975

Dear Harold,

Thanks for your letter. You may be a bit baffled at the 4-part arrival of papers from me this December. But it was simply a matter of having the time and occasion to photocopy during the quiet holiday period at the office that accounts for it. With my finals done just before Christmastime, the timing seemed perfect to get out these papers and copy them for you during a time when no one was watching me at work (usually we're pretty busy and there is little privacy). I trust you have received them all .

The papers comprise all in my immediate possession.

Let me emphasize that these are only papers from the period of from April to July 1968. They were given to me during a time when Bill thought he was in danger in Memphis and I put them in a lock box. Included are a couple of pages of instructions to me that indicate Bill's feelings and his mood at the time.

Also, to the best of my knowledge, this represents the merest tip of the iceberg of his total work and/or material. I know that he developed and expanded from this base for the following two years into 1971. Unfortunately, I did not find among these papers anything pertaining to labor union activities per se.

The remainder of his work is in the possession of Harper & Row (also mostly early work) and in Texas. In addition, I have a couple of more personal letters which I think you should see. Not letters actually but transcripts of notes from telephone calls taken two months before he died.

I am in touch with his mother in Texas now and am trying to convince her that the greatest safety is to share the material, not to isolate it. Hidden and isolated, it could possibly become the object of a search. Spread among trusted & reliable persons, no one person would be in danger.

From my vantage point now and my feeling of being beyond it all, to talk of danger seems almost melodramatic. But I am removed. Bill's Mom was right in the middle of the activities surrounding his death and she doesn't trust anyone. Still, it is danger rather than fear of someone's stealing his work that she feels most acutely.

When we are able to talk at ease and in person, I would like to discuss with you the matter of more permanent deposit for Bill's papers. I appreciate your offer to help.

The interview with 'Joe' or 'Joey' in New Orleans is with Larry Solo.

In answer to your question if Bill deposited anything with Hodding Carter--absolutely not! Hodding Sr and even Hodding II and Bill were at odds at that time and never fully reconciled.

Best,

*Janet*

P.S. ONE question--Please let me know if you think there is any valid relationship of the "three tramps" in Dallas to the Kennedy assassination. Bill referred to this or to these tramps and to names <sup>he</sup> associated with them. Is this of any interest to you? (This was information or misinformation he

found on his return to Texas in the summer of 1971). *There seemed to be some connection between one of the King conspirators + one of the "tramps"*

It was quite interesting to me to read about you in the Village Voice article a few weeks past. Reassures me that you are not only serious but capable. And also, the article made you seem quite human, too. Hope to hear from you soon, JS

according to his information