

2/15/69

Dear Hal,

More than a month ago I wrote a brief note to you, put it in an envelope intending to write you when I could, then got busier than usual, and until now have not had a chance. Tonight I just do not feel like working and am at an in-between point, not wanting to start anything new, with my knees to arbitrary for me to squat and file, and awaiting the completion of the typing of a fast book I wrote several weeks ago on the content and significance on the Clark panel report. I have no idea how I can get it printed, but Lil is preparing it for that and I expect to be able to put out a very limited edition to protect my rights, if that can ever be done in this field. Probably this will wind up as part 3 of POST MORTEM. You've read the first part, now copyrighted, and have seen some of the data for the second. It thus becomes an extraordinarily large book and I think a deeply significant one, with an overt case of conspiracy within the government at the very least to hide, misrepresent, what happened.

When this part is completed I will prepare limited editions of it and COUP D'ETAT, and then I hope to reread the first part, which I haven't since I wrote it 17 months ago, and from there write the second part. Once that is done, I plan to return to AGENT OSWALD, for which I have gotten a little more since you were here. For his own reasons, self-justification and fear of facing his own cowardice, Fred Newcomb has not responded to my request for copies of his photos on the doctored 133A and B. I shall not ask him, shall not use it, and have more than enough without it. You'd never think I got him started on that, that he did this at my request, for me. But I have found what he and his photog friend have not and do not need it. What I would like very much is the real story of whether or not that pictures was sent to the SFP before the assassination, as several people, including you, have told me. Is there any chance of getting to the bottom of that?

We had a rather big day yesterday. I have no way of knowing what kind of press it got throughout the country, but CFI did move about 2,000 words and the AP story started fairly enough. We now have a court record establishing the basic invalidity of the entire Report, for destroying the autopsy, which is what we did, means that. The problem is the old one, recognition of this. From George Abbott I understand the play was good in his area. The record is beautiful in two respects, the Wecht testimony (great guy; wonderful human) and the federal desperation. Estimated cost is \$600, prohibitive, but there remains a chance we will have access. The government will require for appeal and that is close to automatic. I would like to use pages in the appendix. Then there is the very sharp comment of the very sharp judge. That is entertaining. He needled the government with great delicacy and subtlety. Where he did not rule as we asked we had made no showing. I am close to complete in accord with his ruling. There is but one, where he was himself confused and confused poor Forman (most of whose work is erroneous), where he forgot to discuss a lateral angle, assuming what might be true for the vertical hold for it, on the rear wound. The two things Wecht used so effectively are only some of what I found by a detailed analysis of these new documents. Bud did not use more to protect my rights. His judgements proved correct. He used enough. The effect on the reporters was more dramatic than their dispassionate stories reflect.

My tough line and vigorous fight on this has not endeared me to New Orleans. I have had no word in two weeks. My hard fight with Vince was not calculated to improve the situation, and my having been proved right makes it only worse. My real problem there is that I have never been wrong. Nor have I had any apologies from Vince, whose judgement on everything has, in every case of which I know, including all involving me, been 100% wrong. In this case he told me,

when last I heard from him, that Ray Marcus agreed with him. This is a reflection of less understanding and acumen than I've always attributed to Ray. I've always regarded him as an unusually sharp mind.

Nor am I encouraged by the reports I get of what is elicited from the witnesses. They seem to have followed many of my recommendations but not to have adduced what is possible, not to have gone after those who require it, like Shaneyfelt. On the other hand, some, like Mrs. Phil Willis, seem to have made an excellent record. They appear not to have clobbered that Judenrat Zapruder. Despite the big play and beneficial effect of the use of the Z film, they failed to follow through with what would have been very effective, the slides, etc. I even made arrangements for them to get a set made in N.O. before I left, at no cost to them, and this simple thing was beyond them.

I've had a few phone calls from friends in the press since writing the preceding paragraph. There is nothing I have been told that would make you feel other than sick, so I spare you. They pooped out on Shaneyfelt, who should have been a pushover (and they have all they needed in writing), they dropped Frazier as a witness, so he was immediately subpoenaed by the defense (which would be better if they knew anything or had elemental competence), and it now looks as though they cannot even keep the thing going long enough to have the action in Washington completed in time not to be moot.

But I'll bet they are all enjoying the Mardi Gras, tonight.

I may yet write another book on New Orleans!

I hear they are even dropping Connolly. Here all they need is a repetition of his Warren Commission testimony all the other stuff they have had given them, plus Wecht, who is really prepared. They even have the real 309 and the fragments to gild it with!

Need I tell you how much good Mark is doing there? Is it not enough he got his name and face in the papers? Does it require any more to win the case?

I didn't intend to get off this way....I suppose this, really, is the cause of my disquiet, my inability to get back to work tonight. I never anticipated this monumental incompetence. All they had to do with the Texas part was read a couple of books!...Now, perhaps, the real thing Turner, Lane and Boxley did becomes clear, regardless of WHY! The destruction of the Report should have been inevitable. They are doing the opposite, from what the press tells me. And I mean friends in the press.

If I have to do such a book, what do you think of LEMMING for a title?

Imagine what I am saying. I have a book done on the material I gave them as I developed it, had it done for two weeks, and it all began with them in court and they have succeeded in doing nothing with it! With any luck my wife will finish retyping it tomorrow and, save for proofreading, it will be ready for the offset camera. I did other things in this time, including working for and helping them, yet they have not been able to bring this one sensational thing to a head.

What makes it all the worse is the timing. Now, with this success in Washington, there is the chance of turning some people on. So, they turn off before this is possible!

Before I go to other things, John has been a monster. He has refused to ship me any copies of my own book, insisting that I do what I cannot, pay the cost. Is it not enough that I paid them way out there for them? I have yet to get

a single cent from Oswald in New Orleans, and now I have no copies-yet he has and insists he has not gotten a cent from the sale on any. He has not returned any of my manuscripts, has not kept his word to repay those travel costs he was responsible for my having to bear, which he said he would when he got his settlement, and a few other things. If he is around, please tell him what kind of momser he is.

The enemies are relatively little problem, but God! what friends!

Perhaps the very craziest part is that all of this happens just when the whole damned federal government came apart on the issue. Why Clark so lost himself I cannot imagine. Why they were as stupid as they were in court I can even less imagine. Their final stupidity was to have each of those involved in the various papers swear to them. Then, for no need at all, they offered them in evidence, to the judge, last thing yesterday, after it was all over. This puts each of the affiants in the position of imposing on the judge, at the very best, and of perjuring himself at the worst. I think it is possible that this is one judge they should not have so abused. He just might not like it, just might make an issue of it. I should like to help him.

Alice never fell into such a wonderland!

Sincerely,