

Whalen
1/20/76

Dear Dick,

I thought of you often during the writing of the third part of Post Mortem in particular. How I longed for editing with this kind of unprecedented material! But once again I had to publish a retyped rough draft. It simply was not possible to do any of it over. It wasn't even easy to publish. But I felt with the nuts taking Congress over and with Congress not being able to conduct an independent investigation, if so disposed, without taking much time, I had no real citizen's rather than author's choice.

I then went this far: I showed Schweiker some of the documents (his name in confidence, please, for others, too, have not done well) and told him I'd give him all this documentation and more; that he didn't have to credit me with anything (he has used my work often enough without mentioning his source anyway); that he could even pretend the work didn't exist and say nothing about how he got the evidence; but that his prospects were poor and society would be ill served if he did not begin by totally destroying the official account.

It was a double agony. My doctors had ignored the symptoms of phlebitis for a long time. But by the two days two shifts of which I worked 60 miles from home to get the negatives shot I knew I had something serious. I could barely move. I was on crutches when I saw Schweiker and in sharp pain. His invitation to see him coincided with the doctor's recognition that something was wrong. They were the same day. But I spent the morning with him. I offered the opinion that unless he were to demolish the official account he would lack support in the Congress and in the major media. I told him the job was done and his - no strings. After this, I suggested, there could be a real investigation, with the Church committee, with or without Church, continued for this needed investigation. The Members and staff, I suggested, had learned much and were best qualified for the task. I thought he agreed. He asked me about four "theories" he was pursuing and that I knock them down. I did, one by one and then told him all came from my work and did require investigation. But that no one would either solve the case nor justify a real investigation. He thanked me profusely.

The next week I was in the hospital and he was in Pennsylvania chasing the same geese. The book was printed out of town while I was hospitalized.

Knowing CBS was up to its own whitewashing I held a press conference in November in the Press Club. It was well attended. I had previously given copies to the Times and Post (the Star was unresponsive) and got clear readings that neither would touch it. AP and UPI ran major A-wire stories but none of these papers carried either, thus denying what little they said to the Congress. By this time I was certain that nobody would deal with the substance. So, to try to break through, in the press conference I took a different approach. I did display the essence of the evidence. Then I followed by reporting that the book charges perjury and its subornation and challenged any and all against whom a charge was made to appear with me before any duly constituted committee, oath-to-oath and subject to charges of perjury. This was carried.

The conference was on the Friday before November 19, so Sunday use. The 19th I had a debate with Belin at Vanderbilt scheduled. Belin got a copy of the book from me and had begun to read it by the time he got there. He misquoted some. My speech, one prepared and read despite this liability to be explicit and accurate and extemporaneous speaking sometimes is not, laid out a case of Belin's subornation of perjury. It included evidence disproving his part of the Report that he personally suppressed. But he is a hard-head and a psycho. He refused to join me in demanding a Congressional investigation, as of Wednesday midnight. Then he finished Post Mortem and on Saturday came out for one, self-servingly, of course.

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It was my first trip after leaving the hospital. I could not lace my shoes when I left, could barely take them off that night, and couldn't get them on the next morning. I came home in soft moccasins, which much assistance. The airline was wonderful and I had a student with me, fearing something like this. They loaded me onto the plane separately, having put me in a wheelchair as soon as I got to the ticket window. They rearranged seating so they could put me in the back and fold the seat in front down to enable me to keep my feet raised. And had a wheelchair waiting for me at National. So, this is what I went through to get at Belin. Since then I've challenged ~~Belin~~ Slawson and Specter, neither of whom has responded. I gave each the right to pick his own turf and moderator and format, too.

Because this is an issue that means the same to genuine conservatives and genuine liberals, this summer I got representatives of both sides from colleges together in the hope of getting them to work together. The conservatives agreed to draft a bill or particulars. But they didn't and since then have done nothing. So, I'm here if the kids want to consult me and I leave them alone when they don't. I can't keep up with what I want to do and stay so busy I can't get back to what I want most, getting more on paper. Regardless of how but down and available.

You may not have kept up with it but I've filed more FOIA suits than anyone else with my technical losses becoming the greatest victories. I've won all, one way or another. Two new ones are in district court and a third is under appeal. Others are pending. They take time but maybe the courts will yet do what the Congress and press have not. Some institution of representative society must work or the form of society will change, not for the better.

Because there never are reviews I've stopped sending review copies out. I offered one to Publishers Weekly, which refused to note the appearance of the book. After Xerox bought Bowker this began. They have not noted the existence of the previous book, built around that 1/27/64 executive session transcript. But they did all the earlier ones - before Xerox.

Jim Lesar borrowed the money to pay the printer for Whitewash IV. We've repaid that and the interest and the cost of a mailing without being able to place an ad or a review or a story that told people how to get the book. What I'd been stashing away from the sale of the first books to be able to reprint them plus what I got from a couple of consultancies paid for printing Pest Mortem and that mailing. (Boy, the stamps I licked sitting with my legs propped up and blanketed!) With considerably less attention and almost no radio talk-shows by phone, a major factor before, we've recovered about a third of the printing and flyer costs. I make packages during rest periods, legs lapped into a workbench.

Meanwhile, I continue to work on the King case. Frame-Up provided Ray's defense. I'm his unpaid investigator and I've enormously more now. There will be oral arguments before 6th circuit (on a trial) 2/3.

The hurried update is partly because I think you retain some interest - certainly in the state of society - and partly because you may be able to turn some responsible conservatives on.

Lil joins in best wishes to you, Joan and the kids who probably no longer remember "Uncle Harold." If we're lucky Lil will find time to correct the typos.

Sincerely,