

10/23/71

Dear Ed,

Hate always to say how rushed I am. It is worse than ever.

Your 21 is helpful in several areas, on this history with Bishop, which I'd have anticipated, on The Mafia Is Not, for that is something I will not now have to check. My interest is limited to Percy Foreman's Mafia involvement, and if it is real, it does exist, and Ray is not the only convicted client by any means.

The problems you point out are real. I am and have been aware of them. However, I also must ignore them and proceed to my personal disadvantage to accomplish, to the degree one man can, the overall objectives. Primarily, precisely because of what you point out, this must begin with the making of as full as possible a record, if only for history.

There are elements involved with PM for which I just haven't time to explain. It has an immediate political urgency that, if it has not come to pass by the next time we meet, I'll explain. And, once and for all, it will lay to rest the liberal copout of no "new evidence".

Part of the problem is the silence of the Baldwins when such a book as FRAME-UP appears. It has been one of the most unpleasant of the things so hard to live with. There are at least 100+ have approached, not including him (I didn't know how to and wouldn't take the time). I haven't even had a thank you note from any of the black caucus in Congress, each of whom got a freebie. Or from Jesse Jackson, who took two.

There is no aspect of the subject not taboo. This has been true since at the most recent JG, at the earliest the TV/press reaction to him. He killed us more than any one thing, much more than our open opponents.

I was working on both AGENT OSWALD and TIGER when I suspended to complete PM. I think that next I'll return to AO, because I think it has commercial possibilities as a non-fiction detective story, and will have an added topicality either because of the campaign against Hoover or because it has finally succeeded. TIGER is more timeless and I think developments of the campaign may add to its topicality. I am aware of its commercial potential. In the summer of 1967 Ted Kupperman said he estimated it could go to 400,000 in hardback, and I knew what that meant then.

What I am saying is that I have sacrificed so much that, whether my priorities are in the right order or not, until I am persuaded they are not I must make the record that is the cause of these sacrifices, the reason for the work, for I am not timeless. Right now I think the first priority is the making of the record, the undercutting of the opposition, the making-it-safe for the cowardly and fearsome politicians who are, secretly, on our side, not excepting the terrified Kennedys.

The tip on Capp, which confirms the suspicions I conveyed to Jerry Ray only last night when he called, is also as helpful as it is timely. Many thanks.

ALLIED STORES CORPORATION
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NEW YORK

10/21/71

Dear Harold:

I never doubted that P.M. would have new material. Your work always does. My evaluation was based on purely commercial considerations i.e.: any assassination material.

Although books represent only one area of my market responsibility, I can observe (as Paul Butters used to say) that "strange things are happening". Example. Bishop's Days has received poor media treatment and no attention out of keeping in terms of previous Bishop works and Putnam's usual efforts.

Frank's efforts and those of his "sponsors" are

stupid when such diverse figures as Maddox and James Baldwin as well as the public reject the "No Conspiracy" routine out of frame. The only debate is "patriot or paid killer". What a commentary!

The Media Is Not ---
ly Nicholas Gage does not refer to the indicated areas of interest.

The Capp Show is on ice until the real charges against him are determined.

Best Wishes,

