

Barker

Dear Sam,

11/11/74

Taylor Branch was here through supper and a half gallon of wine and left 45 minutes before he had a nine o'clock appointment in DC, with all four of the Whitewash books. All in all it was pleasant. He expects to be back and I expect him.

What is new to the point, he hopes to have an answer on ancillary rights by Friday

He sees common interest, as I do. The question is will they combine. Time will tell.

He skinned the new book while I made a couple of steps on the way to get 'til. Not much time. He was entertained by the guide on the back cover. He followed it while waiting.

Among his projects is a biography of Bernard Barker. I think it will be worthwhile. I expressed the opinion it would be if it portrayed the man who projected himself on the tube via Ervin. Seems that's the pitch.

In the course of this he had a conversation with Bringuier who told him that an FBI agent had been to see him after Oswald left New Orleans and before the assassination. He reasons not to believe this unreported report. Figures.

Woodward and Bernstein have just contracted for The Last 100 Days of Richard Nixon. Simon & Schuster, advance \$300,000.

He seems interested in my WC book after hearing my description of its needs. He was unaware of such of the content.

Told him pub date is 11/22.

And a little of the history of the new one. He enjoyed the phone call in which I told you to ignore your responsibilities to me and to be an officer of the court with Silbert in determining whether Haukin or I were the perjurer, followed by the sailing of the transcript.

His FOI interests are not clear or certain, possibly because he may regard it as separate and more complicated. As of now, without having read. He did read the Cong. Record with some interest and noted the date.

We found him a pleasant, well-informed young man.

We also talked about Russell a bit.

Hunt's own friends, including Artimo, say he is now crazy. So there!

Hunt tried to recruit a former CIA guy named Stewart for the Plumbers. Stewart declined and warned Barker against it. This and other things, like his Mansferer stories, from his extensive interviews on the Barker biography.

His descriptions of the goings on at the WC trial are amusing. What suits one defense lawyer doesn't another, but when something doesn't please one another grabs at it. In short, although charged as fellow conspirators, they are at each others' throats. Frates and Hundley in particular, I gather. (I haven't yet worked my way to these clips.)

He and his colleague on the WC issue have an organized-crime special in the works for next summer.

He found the number of former Hoffa prosecutors and WC lawyers on the various sides in WC interesting. Joubert, he says, is suddenly recapturing his youth. Or youthful interests. Because a lady's man on Judiciary. (He wonder he was also more licid!)

I'll keep you posted.