

MAR 20 1972

3/20 These letters to Jerry Ray may not interest you, but I made copies in case they would. First of all I seem to have made a major breakthrough with Stoner, who has promised to send me the leads he has been sitting on for more than a year and to date, as I suspect, has not done a damned thing about them. In fact, he has not seen James since James gave them to him. I am aware of the hazards involved, and when James tells me that Stoner is making a trip to see James, I can wonder if its real purpose is to talk James into telling him not to let me have them. Time alone will tell, and that can be confronted if and when necessary...Stoner, Jerry and I are to confront Frank in St. Louis 5/7, the other refs...With McMillan, an elaborate ploy that has perhaps a 1-1,000 chance, but a chance I think worth taking. Also, it builds a record for the future. What McMillan doesn't know is that I have what he has been writing about me. He is really boxed in every way, living off the second wealthy wife, stuck with a stinking contract that could have made him rich if he hadn't whored, and with Frank to skim off what "duie" left. All this kind of thing does take time, is hard on the nerves, may be a waste, but I think must be done...There is reason to believe that other "critics" have learned what got Lattimer interested in supporting the Warren stuff and have told all the others in confidence to box me in on it. I don't really care except for what it reflects. But it is a commentary on the "critical community". ~~But~~ When Jerry phoned last night, as I usually do, I tape it to protect us both. I was preparing to tape the CBS 60 Minutes show, which had been billed as having some entertaining stuff on the Irving caper. So, when I went to the phone with the TC40, I forgot to plug the pickup in and hence have no dupe on cassette on the conversation. So, enclosed is the 1 7/8 reel of my conversation with Jerry which will give you a bit of the flavor, of so many hours of it! When you have finished with it, please return. No rush. And I don't know if it will interest you.

Best, H