

4/27/71

Dear Js,

The anger and frustration I now feel may, in a way, address your pertinent and quite correct comment about p'i-ch'i, to which I'll return. I think enough of it is clear in the confidential memo dated today that is enclosed. The deal on which I am working is with Bantam, where I have a friend who is a vice-president. That means nothing there. The man who makes the decisions is out of the country or has just returned. The tentative arrangement, if they are interest, is that some of them would come here to see this material and much more, but this is the essence of the hot stuff, meaning the hottest. It is all hot. The deal discussed is that they would place hardback advantageously, I'd do the book fast for them to edit, and they'd have paperback rights and control over and interest in all subsidiary rights. The fact is I expect to saty part of the time in NY C with this v-p friend, we are that close, and he is wild for the book. But publication of this one thing, as you know, could take enough off the edge to hurt the book, even foreclose contracting for it. It would almost certainly kill all subsidiary rights.

And can you imagine how it is to live this way? Not knowing who to trust, to want to help others with their work and having to fear some ambitious incompetent will seek greatness at the cost of killing an ongoing investigation? There are three places I have to go, possibly four, to complete what will be possible in this investigation. The packahe included that expense. I have been inx contact with the right people at the key places. I have done all I can do short of going there. And I have had and can still depend upon a key public official's cooperation-Henry Wade's! He has become my friend, and we are on a first-name basis and have been for years. I've been working on this so long, have som much in it.

Anyway, I live with such frustrations, such angers, such pressures. And endless literary theivery by the ambitious incompetents who can do nothing on their own, regardless of their resources, and without exception misuse what they steal-and console themselves that they serve the public good with such theft. So, when you add the time pressures, for as you know, I don't anymore take the time to read and correct my awful typing, you can understand why I didn't go over the Barkham letter as I should. Unfortunately, I can't get it out except the way I feel it. If I try to edit myself as I wrote, I just take an enormous amount of time and can't do it well. For years I have dreamed of an editor-inresidence. I need one. I have been aware of the truth and wisdom od what you say for a long time. It is a liability. But the choice is letting something else go undone. I take more time reading my rough drafts of books that I do writing them, and I still don't catch all I should. However, wha the record does show, on the other side (which might still be true were I to make them cooler), is that the whores lose their interest in this aspect of the calling after one such letter. In some cases, it changes them (as I think it did with Gavzer). If Barkham again addresses himself to any assassination writing as he did this time, he'll be the firmst. Even when I was at my worst, on the Crane show, I silenced Liebeler. There is something about the passion that gets through. Which is not to say it couldn't or wouldn't cooler. It's just the way I am, I fear.

Your little note: do not apologize for delays in response. I do not expect ather. Mostly these things are just to inform you anyway. While I haven't swung shifts for years, I did as a boy, and if there is obertime, I know what it can be. It must be harder just before retirement than a t the beginning....PW review: enclosed....If you do not get the book soon, I'll send. I sent one to Hal. The publishers are, as the kids say, something else. But in this case it may be just the norm of an inefficient industry. Dutton distributes....Check on Hal. I do not disclose nature of our mutual concern, though in my last I gave a glimmer of my own, I hope not unwisely....Hermes: agreed, great machine. But the platens are, apprently, of an inferior material. If I can get brackets put on my wifess machine, I'll Probably do with this. They are valuable, and I'd have more use for them than some of the other keys. Glad to know it can be done. I'd I'd known of the suitcase model at the time I bought this, I'd probably have gotten it and replaced my old Underwood with a second-hand

upright. What we dream of is being able to get Lil the IBM with the different balls, for doing what might be underground editions (financillay now impossible) and me inheriting her good Royal electric, in the hope that I might someday learn not to take my passions out on the keyboard. I learned hunt-and-peck as a high-school "journalist" and have never felt I could take the time to learn touch. So I beat the hell out of any machine, It is a kind of catharsis sometimes, and when I get to pouring it on and out——!

Media: I have the report I wanted. It adds little (and is of interest on Oswald as an agent only). So, my interest is limited, I think I now have all the Times and Phila. papers have used, and it is only for the future, should you see such things. Don't take time to wade through anything. (One of Bud's bullyboys, Sprague, blundered into something I'd long been working on on this and I've told my source what I never have before, that I'll not be part of anything that can get somebody hurt, he'll cut off from everyone else or neither write me again nor send me anything, which is the way I think it can be. His source can be hurt by one set of enemies, killed by another.)

Ginsburg: he did this for ACLC radio and TV at least. My own awareness came from noting the Cubans arrested in the dope trade. Most recent arrests have been of them. I had only general knowledge, really rumor, of CIA-SE Asia, but I'd have assumed it anyway. I have no great interest in this. But as you should have become aware, I am developing a new Mafia interest, and there it is live.

I'm delighted with the Sony. I can use it the few times I need to hide it, which is very rare. I don't think I've even wanted to a dozen times in seven years. I just don't work or think that way. But your previous explanations on the adaptations will be helpful. I have a switcheed tie-clasp mike, with plugs as with what you said of the Craig. When I can see my way clear, I'll do it, and with the mike, too. Sony has not yet answered my inquiries, but I attribute that to the efficiencies of modern industry. I may have time to seek the patchcords in NYC. There is no such thing as a Sony dealer here, and when I'm in DC, I've always too much to do. I'll need several. Timer is a good idea. I have a dozen in my chickenhouses at Hyattstown, but I think we have a defroster one from an old refri that might do. But I'm usually awake.

Lil has lunch ready, and I think after that I'd best go outside and try and work some of this worry, apprehension, disgust, sickness—everything but hate—off working on the grounds. I transplanted a wheelbarrow of saylilies while awaiting the mail, and I've three small tress to move. I have other mail to get out tonight, so I'll probably go into town afterward, and then may feel a little ~~more~~ less frustrated. But at the moment, were I writing AGENT OSWALD, I'd begin with a hiding introduction of all the self-seekers and the harm they've done. If Bud ruins it is, I may get! I'm that far past tolerance. You've no idea what I've swallowed on the Ray case alone, where I did the impossible, got him his client, gave him his case, refused a profitable publishing offer to do a sgort, sensationally-written book on what I'd done, just to make him look good, and then he backed out on his part of the bargain, got extensive publicity on his committee doing what it had not and I had, and atop that tried to ring in his sycophant, that plagiarist Flammonde as "the investigator". He took Flammonde to Europe, and together they brought back nothing, but didn't keep other promises to me....Can you imagine what having to be silent about all of this, atop Garrison, ~~xxx~~ has done, can do, to my self-respect?

Thanks,
Best,