

SEP 27 1975

JDW: While it is not my purpose now, have you ever had experience with one of the spring-held arms that presses against the spool of ribbon catching on the Hermes? I have had this one trouble from the time this machine was new. It seems to vary but is always on the right side. If I don't notice it promptly from the paler letters it tends to wear the ribbons, too. It happened with the first thing I typed this a.m. after getting the new ribbon on. Marvellous machine but this onw trouble with the ribbon mechanism from the first. I've tried the full ~~16~~ 16 yd. ribbon again without the snaps in the hope that maybe one will work ok and I'll be able to work longer and faster with the fnotes. With more even shading, too.

I'm too edgy to even read the paper. <sup>It</sup> will be about 15 minutes before I can expect a call or make several that are necessary. I clipped the paper to part of the a.m. TV news, the bits about the spook investigations. Pike was pretty good on CBS TV.

The Enquirer has gone for a single story based on Post Mortem. The price is too law, especially considering many relevant factors, but I've accepted it for two reasons: I have no other prospect unless 20th Century comes through and the editor friend told me he would get enough stories sold to give me what I asked for to begin with. I have to trust him and take the chances. If he does not succeed it will be because Pope just would not go for the reasonable. <sup>Hope</sup> is an oddball. His next will be on the paraffin tests. He has copies of all the papers I got, hundreds, but not the ~~pix~~.

Their judgement in creaming this is good. They are more than competent, which one would not judge from the tone of the paper or its content. I've met a number, have had contact with others, and not a single dumdummy to date. The one who has been here most became articles editor this week just to be able to stay home with his new wife. The one I deal with is an old friend. He has refused to go higher than he is for his own reasons but he is probably the one who knows Pope best.

Their offer is \$1,800 for this one story (he'll try to squeeze a bit more out and directions on how to buy the book from me.

This lousy deal is exciting because with that from Playboy yesterday it means I do not have to borrow to print this, can buy Lil the new typewriter she needs and have a leg on the coming need to reprint I and III.

But what is nerve-wracking is the extraordinary checking. No major paper would think of this extreme care. I'm probably going to have to go to the Archives this a.m. with their DC man for special copies of what I've given them. They've agreed to pay me for the day and have their DC man pick me up so I won't have to drive. Only it isn't necessary and I have so much use for the day! This is what makes me edgy. So much to slow me down and Lil has so much other work to do! And we have no other help.

Their man is in Frederick and lost! Came without calling for directions. Then he got to a phone booth next to a noisy truck and had to go to another! I hope this means all the foolishness is behind us! I'm off. But my purpose was to come to the title and I will later on the chance it will not be too late to get further suggestions.

Had to stop this over a week ago and it got into a stack of ~~xxx~~ to-dos for the book. In starting the final check on what I have to do before I tackle the cover (which Lil does not have to index!) I found it.

The pressure from the Enquirer is off and that from CBS is on and off and now the real one is of time and fear of a Bud/Lane ripoff attempt. Bud has asked vis Lesar if I'd cooperate with Schweiker and Hart, Jim he was sure, and I confirmed byt saud not until I could give them a completed packag and then only if I were let completely alone by the nuts and self-seekers who conceive themselves otherwise. (I am learning that when Lane arranges a meeting of some kind and people ask for me he refuses it. One guy was disappointed last night when he call and I wouldn't go anyway. I did tell him why and I perplexed him by telling him why Lane takes this position.)

At the beginning I noted that I was using the full 16-yd nylon ribbon without snaps for the first time since earlier problems. In more than a week it has worked this time. The problem baffles not only me but the repairman, too. And he is as conscineticus as they come, one of my probemoes in thinking of a machine they do not service for Lil.



What I started to say about the title begins with thanks for going to the trouble of copying the note you sent. Whether I mislaid it or Howard mixed it up in some missing papers - there was much confusion with so many people working on so many papers and cards in so small a space - I'd forgotten the thought you conveyed. It is the correct one and when I start back on that it is the one I intend using. I was sure not to let it get misplaced again by taping it down. There really is a serious space problem for all I try to do. I haven't space for setting up a means of using cement for attaching small corrections, for example. But when I put a book together I should have a sort of artist's table with all it requires. Lining up by eye is unsafe. Not being able to spray the solvent is a problem. Maybe some day I'll solve that one but for the immediate I am concerned about the discoloration of the magic tape on the older parts despite their having been kept in closed boxes and in the cool.

With the increase in Congressional interest there is, of course, more pressure for getting this on the road. But thanks to Lil's perseverance the index is getting along well. It is a great amount of work and we were wise to leave ample space for it in deciding on the minimim appendix. ((I think I'll use the remaining space for as much relevant CIA stuff I have as possible with as much political content even if it has the effect of taking the edge off future uses.)

Cover design promised for beginning coming week. Artist had death in family out of town and his helper/daughter is ill.

I haven't been able to take them in or read the Post's stories on the Church hearings but with Lil working on the kitchen table the oven time has let me tape most of the Angleton and Brennan testimony if you want to borrow them. I don't know if they were aired there or not. I may want them for the future. I hope they have not abandoned Ober, who had been announced. I did hear them say next week will be on IRS. Ober is a key man in the domestic operations and you know my suspicions.

If you get the New Times Anson piece on the multiple Oswalds (which I take it will be a chapter of his book or already is) don't bother making a copy for me. One came yesterday. Haven't read. And you will be getting, in time, the three-part Szulc-New Republic piece as it appears in the Star. I haven't read the two if I have. Interesting that with all that sapce in Washington it seems to have caused no political ripples. Interesting also that Szulc wrote it.

Best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be the initials 'PW' or similar, written in a cursive style.