

7/25/69

Dear Penn,

Because I have felt nothing would be accomplished in writing you and because I am confident that if you can ever free your mind of whatever poison infects it you will suffer more than too much, I have maintained a silence, despite the many reports that have come back to me and the utterly unconscionable writing you never took the trouble to check out before publishing. When you finally came to understand what you did and how completely irresponsible it was, you will be ashamed more than I ever want to be. I presume you now do not feel this way, for the Penn Jones I thought I knew would have had something to say had he finally understood what he had been part of, what a bad thing he had done.

Before going into the purpose of this letter, I want to correct one of the reports that has come back to me (and I recognize these reports can get twisted or be just wrong). It is that I froze you out of what I was doing in Dallas. This is untrue. It told you everywhere I had been or was going, took you every place it was possible to take you, and the only possible one where I did not you elected not to go. That was to see Zapruder and you were right in your opinion it would keep him from talking. There is not a single person I saw when you were available where you were either unwelcome or uninvited. The one place I went when we were together and you did not go with me it was a physical impossibility and, as you know, would have been "counterproductive". When I returned to the Hunt office to pick up what I was getting we were so pressed for time you drove the car around the block while I ran in and from there I went to the airport. So, I hope the reports reaching me are inaccurate, but if they are not, if you in any way contest this representation, please do so to me, not behind my back.

On June 12, now six weeks ago, Lil wrote LA asking for a set or, if you could spare them, two sets of the 26. You told me you had them. There is a researcher overseas, in a position to find things there for us, who asked that I get him a set. At the time Lil told LA she was not dunning you. Indeed, she was not. From what you had told me you were financially strapped. This is not consistent with being able to fly around the world, but when you told me that I took it literally. We have never dunned you and do not now. If you have any of the books unsold, I'd prefer that you keep them on the chance someone might want them. I have never asked you to pay for any of them, and I never had any doubt that when you sold them you would. However, whether or not you are strapped, I am and have been. My indebtedness is in the order of \$40,000. I have just renegotiated the biggest hunk, at 25% added interest. Servicing my debt alone involved about \$2,500 a year and I have been without income for five years. Also without subsidy.

When we had occasion to send you a bill last year, you then owed us \$127.55. Since then I have sold two of the books you gave me and credited you with \$3.00, making the present total \$124.55.

I digress to needle you with that horsehit of my being an "agent" that you uttered. Had you accepted my invitation to come here last year, you'd have seen how we live and with what and would find a new kind of reward for agency! And, should you desire, you can see our books. The fact is my situation is and has been desperate, to the point where it and the intensity with which I have worked have finally taken their toll on my health. Cleaning up after others has not been

pleasant or easy, has not lightened the burden no one forced me to assume- and has added to my debt. Have you any idea what kind of burden a debt of this kind is to a man who has no inheritance, no income, no backlog, when he is 56? But as I said, this is both ~~xxxx~~ a digression and a needle.

Now, to help one of us without spending money I do not have, I asked you to do what would not have cost you any cash at all and would have been a partial repayment of what you owe me. To an inquiry ^{like} this you cannot even reply? You are not now the Penn Jones I walked arm-in-arm with through New York when we met and I thought loved each other in 1966!

But you can afford to fly around the world and not pay me part of what you owe even if it involved no cash? What has happened to you, Penn? This is so utterly unlike you.

In any event, today I got a letter from this man asking about the hearings and a copy of the DCA film. This you also told me you have. I must reply, and will be promising to write soon. It is for this reason I write you.

I also do not have a copy of the DCA film, though I am its discoverer, simply because the kind of "wages" I get from the kind of "agency" I perform has made it impossible. I cannot pay for it now and could not justify paying for it then.

So, I am again raising the same question, with a variation. One set of the 26 and two copies of the DCA film should roughly equal what you owe me. If this will satisfy you, it certainly will satisfy me. I'd like to have a copy and this man has technical photoanalysis services available to him in Britain. If you will do this, send me one set of the 26 and two copies of the DCA, ~~xxxx~~ we'll be about even. If it works out that I owe you anything, I'll pay it.

I look forward to hearing from you.

You are probably aware that Bradley has filed suits against a number of people, some my friends, all supposedly on "our" side. Whether he wins or loses, the hurt will be great and the cost high. Therefore, I remind you that this was a joint Boxley-Turner operation. If you have any doubts, I'll show you the proof should you ever come here. I think you can get it from Jim by just asking, unless you think somebody is still feeding him Manchurian-candidate pills (Jesus, how you could go for that one still stuns me when Garrison own dedicated enemies laughed at it!). You will again have an opportunity of confronting just what and how responsibly Boxley did what he did. Do you for one minute think Bradley would dare go to court and have the charges against him proven? They cannot be. What no one apparently told you is that before filing the papers in Sacramento Jim acknowledged he knew what he was saying wasn't so, and one of those who heard it was one of his most trusted in the press. So, Boxley is the innocent, the aggrieved. But what happens to the San Diego people and others who now have the enormous expense of defending themselves against what he cannot now and could not then prove? Do you have the remotest idea where he and Turner began on this? With people who make Bradley look like the driven snow! Nazis and Minutemen with whom he was feuding! But I do not recall any of the reports to Jim identifying these people as Nazis and minutemen. They are presented as the very finest, as you can see for yourself, the most dependable, the most credible.

Penn, we have been working in a field where the most exalted in the land have erred. Error for us was built-in, was unavoidable. Some of our errors can not be easily justified, some were unavoidable. But we all made them. Some more than others, but all made some. If confession is not agreeable, it is also not unmanly and certainly isn't unsurmountable. With what you have survived living where you do, it should not tax you. Try and detach yourself and think it out.

Sincerely,