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Dear Dal,

When my wife brought the mail in I had about a paragraph to finish the draft of what I think is the 17th chapter of the book I'm writing, all that have been retyped exceeding 5,000 words. And I'm not done. I find that while once I was tough and thrived on controversy and excitement, I have trouble remaining tranquil at all when excited or just stimulated by what I've written. Reliving the JFK assassination and its official investigations, even in the form of what others have done with it, makes me tense. So, instead of reading and correcting the last third of this chapter so I can send it to a friend who is ~~try~~ retyping them on his computer, I at least start response to your 9/11, in the hope I can ease out of this to me strange sensation. Rather until recent years strange. I do not attribute it to the years I've accumulated. Rather do I think it comes from the many medical problems ~~of~~ I am so very fortunate to continue surviving. Productively, too!

I used a highlighter in reading your letter and I'll return to it.

The Orioles are a nearby major-league baseball team, a rather good one that may have blown its crack at the league championship last night and thus the chance to be in the world series of baseball, to determine the absolute champion. Most of the players are good citizens who give of themselves and their wealth for worthwhile purposes. Today's game is two hours ~~of~~ hence and I'll probably stop for a nap because I've been up since 1:50 a.m. and then watch the game on TV with my wife, who is the real fan in the family. Of two only.

The sleep problem of which you asked, sleep ~~apnea~~ apnea, has not been helped. I'm to hear from the doctor at the Johns Hopkins Hospital sleep-disturbance center in about 10 days when he gets back from a trip and consults with his associates to determine whether I should continue trying to use what is known as a C-PAP machine, a small air compressor that forces air under slight ~~and~~ controlled pressure into the nose through a mask connected to it by a flexible hose an inch or so in diameter. It gave me a respiratory infection when I first used ~~an~~ it and on the more recent use, while sleeping, the identical symptoms. ^{idea} Nobody has any ~~idea~~ why this happens and I think it is unknown. The apnea can be treated with medication that is a nono for me because of an old prostate problem and it can be cured by surgery but that is ruled out because I am so poor a candidate for any surgery because of my blood-clotting problem. I'm kept alive by what is literally rat poison, with an attractive story behind it and its invention/discovery, and that has, after 17 years or a high-level of it, made my skin so delicate the cover of a hardback has on a dozen or more occasions peeled my skin back off the forearm when the books slips.

For human consumption the medication is known as coumadin. The technical name is sodium warfarin. The first four letters represent the ~~the~~ Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, of the

University of Wisconsin. It funded a project to learn why cows die when they eat spoiled sweet clover. It forms an anti-coagulant and that causes the cows to bleed to death. Thank God for cows, says I!

After I last saw him this specialist had me stay up until 10 p.m. regardless of how tired I was in the futile hope it would have me sleep longer. The pattern is the same and most of my nocturnal ~~voidings~~ ^{voidings} are to urinate. After sometimes very little sleep I'm wide awake and can't return to sleep. He also told me to take no naps so I'd be more sleepy. The pattern remained the same with the hours shifted and that meant I had less time to write without interruption.

The apnea can be dangerous but I guess I have to bank on my to now remarkable survival record.

It is probably a good thing, at least for now, that Jenny Wheeler was not interested. Because of my unique subject-matter knowledge I want to get as much on paper as I can while I can. And when I finish this draft I'll return to what I'd researched for a different book I regard as less significant than the one I'm rushing through. I'd not written for years because some 60 file cabinets of records are in the basement and I have trouble with stairs, more trouble in recent weeks. So those records are for practical purposes denied me. This is a book for which I did not need access to the records in the basement, true also of the one to which I'll return.

My major problem then is remember ^{not} to do what I now do and forget to do, get up and walk around a bit for leg circulation. ^{every 20 minutes}

I liked this idea as soon as I got it because it provided an opportunity for what I refer to as intellectual judo. I hope you can understand that.

You refer to your reading of books on the JFK assassination in general and to Phil Melanson's Spy Saga. In ~~general~~ ^{general} general, and truer with Melanson than with most, these books will mislead and misinform you. There isn't a one that is really good and factual. Most are deplorably ignorant of the available fact and just about all the authors regard themselves as combining the best of Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot when in fact they are utterly lost. Most, Melanson ^{included}, despite his crediting of sources, are literary thieves and most can't even steal straight.

You asked if I'd read Melanson's Spy Saga. I was asked to read the ms by the publisher. Not for that and for the pittance offered but for the historical record I did. The critique and commentary I provided was almost as long as his book, there is that much bad, wrong and dishonest in it. That publisher decided not to publish it but it was published by the firm that owned the one that asked me to read it.

I believe the only reason they did publish it is because at that time such books were selling exceptionally well and for money publishers do anything at all. Here, anyway.

Melanson's book on the King assassination is also atrocious and also dishonest.

His approach and his thinking are like those of a bright high-school freshman, ninth grade here, first of high school.

In simplification, the JFK assassination ~~was ~~once~~ to be~~ never investigated officially and was intended not to be. My documentation on this is solid and highest-level. I have it in a chapter of the book I'm writing, with the documentation on all levels. So, there were no genuine leads for private persons to follow.

Theorizing is legitimate for writers if they do not foist their theories off on the trusting reader as fact ^{OK} in a novel. But claiming that unproven theories solve ^{the case,} ~~the case~~ ^{the general} ~~the case~~ ^{practise,} is wrong. ~~tax case~~ ~~in particular~~ This case in particular, ^{knows or cares about the fact.} solving the case. And the trouble, real rouble, is that almost nobody ~~is in a~~

^{positive} Sleep spnes ^{apnea strikes} ~~stai,~~ as again! I'd best ^{take} ~~bat~~ that nap and resume when I can.

Your questions: The CIA has announced its opposition to disclosing more ^{JFK} records. The indications are that if it gets to him, Bush will veto ~~it.~~ ^{The Act.}

I had only a very short tour of duty in North Africa in WWII. It ended when I was an escort guard bringing prisoners to the US. The Afrika korps men were no problme to guard. We, my detachment, had no trouble with them, But those campaigns, as I recall them, should make very interesting reading with the additional information that should be ~~xxxx~~ available now.

There is not a thing to any of the many DeMohrenschildt rumors. ^N ~~Noe~~ makes even a reasonable suspicion.

What you say about the Dillard and Powell pictures, attributed to Melanson last year, I published in 1965 before the Powell picture was disclosed. The pictures the Commission published make the box moving apparent but not as fast as Melanson says.

The only legitimate complaint against the Secret Service was checked out and found not ~~be~~ to be a terrible thing, a little late-night drinking. But it was by the crew that had just gone off duty and was not heavy drinking. Prouty had no connection with presidential protection and what he says is impossible. "obody could possibly monitor all those windows and see to it that they were closed. They'd have to do another impossible, monitor all the roofs, too. Those things can't be prevented. Just imagine all the presidential motorcades in places like New York City with all those skyscrapers and those thousands of windows!

A disclosed FBI record I have does indicate that there had been a sale of that ammo that was suspected to have been to the CIA. But not the bullets attributed to Oswald.

Had the motorcade gone straight down Main Street it would have had to come to almost a stop to make a turn around a concrete traffic island ^N and go back in the direction from which it had come or cross the island to get onto the freeway as it could ^{early} from Elm. I raised these questions in my first book but in the sense of is this a way to investigate?

We can of course conjecture who the assassins were. Before thinking it through as I later did I suggested that some cui bono thinking might do it. I was wrong. There were too many who could have seen benefit to getting rid of JFK or getting Johnson and there is no way of which I know that permits responsible pinpointing. We can eliminate that way in our thinking but no more. But it is obvious that the most likely explanation of the assassination's purpose was to change national policy. It did that, too.

We contribute to the Center for Defense Information and organization of retired high-level military people. The top two are admirals. Their current publication is devoted to ^{opposing} ~~arming~~ other countries. Their statistics do not reflect any reduction and Bush has just authorized a couple of very big ones. It has been a big mistake not to convert some of those factories and Bush now has an interest in keeping them working at least through the election and in buying their votes by authorizing contracts that will keep them working. But there has been no real conversion of which I know.

Most ~~base~~ professional baseball games are at night but some are daytime.

Sorry about the loss of two friends, one to cancer and one to career. I hope the PhD candidate enjoys life in the Boston area. And that after getting her degree she can get a decent job back there where I'm sure she'll be much happier. Things are very bad here and certainly will continue getting worse quite rapidly, less so if Clinton wins but he can't undo all the costs of the cold war and the stupidities of the Reagan and Bush administrations for some time if at all. They have pissed away all the money and nobody wants to increase the already enormous national debt they accumulated.

I hope this is comprehensible. I did doze off earlier. I'll read and ^{correct} ~~correct~~ this tomorrow when I may be more sensitive to typos and unclarities.

And as we ease ~~in~~ to winter, you edge toward summer. I hope it is a good one for you and yours.

All the best to you and yours,

Harold