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Dear Dal,

You wrote me when you were too tired and I return the compliment not by design but because I just ran out of steam in what I hope will be the next to the last chapter of an extraordinarily long book. ~~Now~~ until my wife calls me to supper I'll start to answer your questions in your 26th.

You should be as proud as you seem to be to be the first to establish an eight-hour day and to protect working conditions. When I was young, in the 1930s, I was first an investigator and later the editor of a Senate committee that investigated the violations of the rights of labor. Some of it pretty rough, too.

Your papers were right, your radio news editors wrong re the supposed release of JFK assassination records. A modified bill was passed, Bush did not dare not sign it so he interpreted it to be a rephrasing of the present lousy situation. Perhaps Clinton will be better. But before a single additional page is released there is much preparation to be made and the net result will be to at the very least reduce what is being made available now and to delay longer what otherwise what ^{would} be released in the future. It is going to be all the supposed relevant records transferred to the ^{Obama} National Archives where they will be in competition with each other for processing for disclosure. Without that each agency would be processing its own, a much better situation once it was made clear that they had to be honest. That, of course, Bush would not have done. But he is now Bushwacked and without having made a study of it I think we are worse off. Then, too, how many people do you think can afford to stop everything else and go over say a quarter of a million pages? The volume alone denies access!

There is now an annual October conference in Dallas on the JFK assassination. To date I know of nothing worthwhile evolving there, including this year. Mary Ferrell is a fine lady of the far right who loves every theory as soon as it is hatched. She has done an enormous amount of work but I am not in a position to evaluate it. We like her and her husband, who is quite ill. I'd heard that Marina was to speak there but there is not much that she can say. She married a man named Porter, she divorced him, they have been back together again for quite a few years, and I understand she has just declined to have the marriage ceremony again. They are living as man and wife. I understand she is to be in a TV show. I make no effort to keep up with them and they have ranged ^{from} for valueless to harmful.

Congratulations on the publication of your ^{new} book! I hope it is published here and that it gets you here. Any military book should include appearances in Washington, only a little more than an hour away, and there are some military posts in Maryland. You should try to include Baltimore because there are many installations near it. It would be nice if you could get here! ^{11/5} If and when your publisher has a flyer I have a colonel friend who might want to get the British edition as he can send me one.

flyer.

Marina was more than coached, which she also was. She was threatened, top. What I have on that in Whitewash is accurate and understated.

We have no children. I doubt I'd have undertaken what I have if we did and they were young.

It is not possible to think through to answer ^{to} who did it, because the crime itself was neither investigated nor intended to be. So there are ~~no~~ leads to follow. There was a time, as the epilogue to my second book reflects, when I believed we could dope it out by cui bono thinking but before long I realized that was not so. We can eliminate that way but we cannot pinpoint. I ~~have~~ stayed away from that because it would only interfere with efforts to write responsibly and because it would inevitably be irresponsible if taken to the trusting people.

The most likely explanation is that there were those who wanted to change policy, those who either wanted to get rid of JFK or to get LBJ, the hawk they knew was a hawk. But even thinking this way, the number of candidates grows ^{with} ~~as~~ thought ^{is} ~~is~~ prolonged.

I doubt that the CIA as an agency ^{is} was involved but self-started, and former hotshots might have been ^{the} overly-dedicated. I once referred ¹ to them and others like them as the dedicated wrong.

Whoever did it had to have the knowledge most of those who theorize ignore, like all about Oswald and his past, where he worked and that he would be there. My belief is that all the assassins hoped for was lead time, enough to escape. I do not think there was any connection between the crime and the coverup.

However, in this new monster of a rough draft of a book I make out a case I do not say is fact for arguing there had been a military conspiracy.

While there could with a few ^{more} hours have been other origins, J. Edgar Hoover decided on a lone-nut assassin ^{11/22/63} and he was able to see to it that others dare not dispute him. See for example the executive session transcript of 1/22/64, Post Mortem I think ^{page} 475. Nobody who fought Hoover ever survived politically. And they all know it and do not.

I do not recall your telling me that you teach. What do you teach?

I don't but I have two seminars at local Hood College for each class on "The Politics of Assassination" for a dear friend, local history professor. (One of the very best of our small colleges and ^{it} stack up well with all the big ones, 14th of all in the northeast according to their peers polled annually by USNew and World "eport.) I find it gratifying when these fresh young minds eschew all the bull and ask serious, thoughtful questions. I usually cut them off now by three hours because ^{it} they tire ^{too much} me, but in the past it ^{blew} saw all the professorial ^N mids by lasting up to six!

This is the time for it to warm up down there. It is beginning to chill here. No snow yet but nights close to and, infrequently so far, below freezing.

I hope I've answered your questions comprehensibly. Best wishes,

Harold