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Dear Harold

Your visit to John Hopkins Hospital on April 2nd has come and gone as I write this. I hope everything went well for you, and that you are safely back home. Please let me know.

As you will see from the enclosed photocopies I have just finished reading a new book by L. Fletcher Prouty, "JFK -The CIA, Vietnam and the Plot to Assassinate John F. Kennedy". There is quite a lot of Prouty's own personal involvement mentioned in this book. You cannot call it a story, it is very episodic and fragmented in its narrative, being a collection of a number of articles originally published in 'Freedom' magazine.

The thing I wish most to ask you about is the photo I have copied showing the 'tramps' being led away through Dealey Plaza by 'Police'. It is very frustrating to find nowhere in the book is there any reference to this photo or to its caption. Quite a lot of the book is like this, various bits and pieces collected together with no coherent thread joining the parts.

I think I have read somewhere that these 'tramps' were picked up in railway wagons some time after the assassination, but I cannot recall if the time elapsed was specified. Can you tell me? Of course I know nothing of the background to this, but it would seem highly unlikely to me that the assassins or any of their support team would wait in the railway yards for the time when their presumed accomplices in police uniforms arrived to escort them in public to the sheriff's office across Dealey Plaza. This would be too risky surely, what if some other real law enforcement officers came across their hiding place first? It would make more sense to me if the assassins and their helpers were to get far away from the area as soon as possible.

I have also copied for you Oliver Stone's introduction to the book as a precis of what the book is about, though Stone is wrong in implying Prouty makes a strong case for these conclusions. Prouty hints at many possible scenarios building up behind the assassination but offers little if any evidence to substantiate his ideas.

I think his central thesis has some merit, the notion that the USA has an invisible ruling elite who perceived Kennedy as threatening their position of power and influence and for this reason had him killed. In effect Prouty is saying that 'democracy' in the USA is allowed to operate only as long as the popularly elected president and his policies do not jeopardise the power and wealth of this invisible elite, or if you like call them an aristocracy based on wealth and influence who are a true privileged ruling class, something a modern democracy is supposed to have shed.

I hope you can share your thoughts on the tramps photo with me, and anything else covered in Stone's introduction (especially the suggestion that McGeorge Bundy was instrumental in sabotaging Kennedy's policy of disengaging from Vietnam).

Bye for now, love and best wishes,

Dal