

Auckland, 29/12/93

Dear Harold

Hello! I hope the 1994 NZ calender has arrived by now, and that it becomes part of a happy and successful new year for you and Lilian.

I am now on annual summer vacation, and do not have to start back at my College until the first week of February. I have officially been on 'holiday' for the past three weeks, but it does not seem like it. I did not get completely away from my desk at school until well into the second week. I think I told you, I had a very exhausting year, I am glad it is behind me.

I have managed to do a bit of reading over the past few days, but nothing too recent. I have just finished re-reading Howard Roffman's fine book, 'Presumed Guilty', and I have been looking at Arthur Schlesinger's 'A Thousand Days', working from the index and reading back into the book to find things that I wanted to look at, reminded myself of things I had forgotten, and found a couple of things I did not know. My personal field of interest has been the North African campaign in WWII, and for several years I taught European history. There is a lot of modern US political history I know little of, but I am learning. By the way, I have ordered John Newman's book. I'll let you know how I find it after I have read it. I am looking forward to it.

What I am beginning to wrestle with now is my reason for writing today. Did I mention before that I read in a magazine about a course dealing with the JFK assassination being run through the Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Canterbury in Chrischurch (in the South Island)? I wrote to the lecturer who takes the course and he kindly sent me his course notes. It is an impressive collection of material, biographies, press clippings, timelines, tables of evidence, summaries and extracts from major published works dealing with the assassination, going from the Commission's Report to a wide range of the literature critical of the official explanation. This lecturer in Christchurch, Donald Craig, is himself an American, and he evidently receives some material from the Assassination Archives Research Centre in Washington. I think he must have a network of people in the States he receives and exchanges information with. So far so good.

My main problem with accepting Don Craig's course notes is the great weight he gives to the 1980 book by Anthony Summers, 'Conspiracy'. He sees Summers' work as being pivotal to any understanding of who may have been behind the assassination. Don Craig seems to imply, if you follow the selection of

material in his course notes, that the assassination can be laid at the door of the Mafia, anti-Castro Cubans, and a 'rogue element' in the CIA. He also gives much weight to a book written by somebody called Robert Morrow (First Hand Knowledge, 1992). Other authors he ranks highly (given as recommended reading for his students) are;

Carl Oglesbury (The JFK Assassination: Facts and Theories)
 Josiah Thompson (6 Seconds in Dallas)
 Mark Lane (Plausible Denial)
 Edward J. Epstein (Legend, the Secret World of Lee Harvey O.)
 Dick Russell (The Man Who Knew Too Much)
 James DiEugenio (Destiny Betrayed)
 John H. Davis (Mafia Kingfish, Carlos Marcello & etc.)
 Robert Groden and Harrison Livingstone (High Treason)

As you will know, apart from 'Conspiracy' by Anthony Summers, I have only read two of these books, by Mark Lane and John Davis. The rest were presumably not released in New Zealand, as I could not find them in the catalogue at the Auckland Central Library. Another explanation is they could have been stolen and removed from the catalogue (as I found was the case with three of your titles.) The full list of published titles at the end of the course notes is extensive (including most of your books), running to three pages, but only the ones I have listed above are shown as essential reading.

The collection of these particular titles will tell you much more about what Don Craig is presenting through his course than I could by going into the content of his 8 lectures. I would be very grateful to know what you can tell me briefly about this list of authors and their books.

Don Craig has offered his course notes to me, in any way I wish to use them, and I could probably make good use of much of the factual information. It is a very generous offer, and I appreciate it. I would not however be able to use any of the conclusions he has developed in regard to the theories involving Mafia, the anti-Castro Cubans and the 'rogue element' in the CIA. Through you I have come to know that there are no such simple answers, and that what can be most clearly seen is the failure to properly investigate the crime at the time or later. I am going to point these things out to Don Craig if we build up any correspondence next year.

By the way, when I discovered he had not read your POST MORTEM I strongly suggested he get hold of a copy. I told him how I had bought my copy from you and I gave him your address.

One of the things I am thinking of doing next year is offering to run a night-time course, something along the lines of what Don Craig is doing, over eight or ten weeks, either at my own college or through the city campus of the University. It would be a very big job for me to put together the lecture notes and handouts for a course that I would be responsible for writing

3.

- factual stuff

from scratch. It is tempting to use a lot of what Don Craig has put together, and then add my own material. I wonder, would it be possible for me to look at some of the course material used by Dr Knight at Hood College, or by your friend Professor David Wrone? I would not use any of their material without prior consultation and permission, but I can imagine just reading through their course outlines etc. would give me a lot of good ideas on how to organise my own teaching.

If, and it is a big 'if', I were to have a course something like this approved, and then get it up and running later next year, I would only feel happy presenting evidence (and it would have to be balanced evidence) that I could leave for students to make their own minds up on. Other areas would of course come up for consideration, larger issues such as surrounding US government action (or inaction) in the wake of the assassination, and the role of the press etc., as well as personal implications for anybody who is concerned about what has happened since 22nd November 1963.

I am still waiting to hear from the 'NZ Herald' and the 'Sunday Star' in regard to reviewing new books, but it will happen in time. I'll keep my eye on new titles lists to make sure I do not miss these opportunities.

As you may have sensed, I am casting around for ways to do something next year to raise the awareness of people who know little or nothing of the JFK assassination, and the coverup by successive US governments. I cannot just sit and do nothing. This is my motivation for thinking of doing something in the area of 'continuing education' on the subject of the JFK assassination.

Since looking at Howard Roffman's book and going through Don Craig's notes, I find there are a few more questions I would like to put to you if you do not mind;

What do you think were the origin of the two bullet fragments (front seat) and lead fragments (on rug under Mrs Connally's seat) found in the presidential limousine?

What do you think was the possible origin of the lead inside the car's windscreen?

Are these fragments from the car still in existence today?

I have read just in the last month a small news item in our paper to the effect that X-Rays from the autopsy had been studied and pronounced as faked or altered by a couple of expert people (sorry, cannot put my hand to this clipping). Do you know anything about this development?

Who decided to hold the autopsy at Bethesda? (And when?)

When do you think the process of framing Oswald may have started? Given that the Mannlicher Carcano was apparently ordered back in March 1963, this would point to somebody planning the assassination and involving Oswald as early as 1962??

What is the status today of the analysis of acoustical evidence presented to the Select Committee indicating a gunman firing from the wooden fence behind the grassy knoll? Does it still have any credence at all?

What weight do you give to the view that Kennedy's body may have been placed in a different casket somewhere between Parkland Hospital in Dallas and the autopsy room at Bethesda? If this was so, what could its significance be? (Don Craig highlights this in his notes as very likely did happen.)

Don Craig mentions that Oswald tried to make a phone call from the Dallas Police Station on the Saturday night to a number in North Carolina, the inference being that the number may have been connected with US Naval Intelligence.? Do you have any confirmation of this?

Was the Mannlicher Carcano C2766 tested by the Dallas Police immediately after it was found in the TSBD Building to establish whether it had been recently fired or not?

Don Craig lists what he says were the six shots fired at JFK. My own feeling is there four definite shots, most likely fired in the following sequence;

- first from front, hitting Kennedy in neck, exiting his back and striking roadway behind,
- second fired from second floor window in Daltex Building and missed, striking kerb near underpass and responsible for small wound to bystander James Tague,
- third fired from TSBD Building, (SW window?) and hitting Governor Connally, and
- fourth fired from front, soft-nosed bullet, fatal shot striking Kennedy in r.h. temple.

Please give me your thoughts on this possible sequence.

And this has next question has nothing to do with Don Craig, or anybody else I have read recently, but I wonder more and more about the role of McGeorge Bundy. Is he still alive? I have been aware of him as somebody who may have had some role since reading Fletcher Prouty. Prouty says nothing outright, but the implication is there, even if it is between the lines. Do you think Bundy could have been involved?

Well, always so many questions. I hope you will not mind yet more questions, and I hope you will be able to answer them. If you do not have time, do not bother, I know you are busy. And I have run out of lines on the fourth page. Lots of love and best wishes to you, and Lilian. Take good care of yourselves.

Yours,
