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1/5/93

Dear Dal,

I'll answer your 12/29 at some length but will have to finish it tomorrow or the next day. We've had a winter storm not nearly as bad here as it could have been and was close by and we had to be out when the footing was dangerous for us although the roadways were not. I had to have the regular blood test and fortunately I was able to because it is taking my blood too long to clot from this test. And Hil and I both had ophthalmologists appointments. Hers was presurgery, cataract removal and some other work on her astigmatism. Plus an eye infection caught in time. And there will be tests, X-rays and a few other things that do take necessary time. It will be outpatient surgery but she will be in the hospital for a day. That will be a day I can read more while I just sit around.

McKnight will be glad for me to copy his syllabus for you. I'm sure Wrono also will. He generally phoned me Sunday mornings. I'll try to remember to ask him then or when I next write him. I also believe that McKnight has put together a manual I think you will want. He will not put the new one together until summertime. He teaches that course in the fall semester only. It is his selection of a large number of documents I've given him. The book store makes the copies and sells them hole-punched for binders. He will be adding more for this coming semester's class. The students love it. He told me today that they singled out my seminars and that manual for their expressions of what they liked best. He said that one said that my two seminars were worth the cost of the course. Quite flattering. I think the cost of this manual is about \$25.00. There are no extra copies. If you needed one before the new one he would try to arrange for a copy to be xeroxed. I told him I thought you'd prefer the newer one.

In reading Schlesinger's book I suggest you be alert to what he reports without giving it the meaning that you can find in it. One example is how the military spelled out to JFK how they planned to get us involved in a land war in Asia. S. did not put it this way but the meaning in what he reported is obvious.

Tony Summers is ~~dependable~~ an able writer whose writing is not dependable. He has his ways of getting people to say what he wants rather than what they have already said by the way he questions them, more or less declaratorily. Carolyn Arnold is an example. He is also a liar. Example, a Swedish schoolteacher chided me for not letting Summers come here to talk to me and use my files. I asked why he said that and he sent me Tony's letter saying it. The ~~bar~~ truth is that I invited him. And for the Hoover book he ~~was~~ was here for days and two London profs who were helping him were here for ~~many~~ additional days. They did much copying, I do not know of what. When I learned that Tony had

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the woman, an American teaching college in London, transcribe his interviews without a transcriber and that he would not buy her one, I loaned him Lil's. It took a great amount of time to get it back, more than a year by far after he left for Ireland. So, while I did not let his lying about me interfere with his unlimited access, it told me a bit about him. The mafia stuff in his book is no good at all. Attractive but not so. With him and with the others Don Craig likes, it is the attractiveness that gets to them. They want to believe what they read in those misleading books not one of which is that factual. And identifying what is fact and what is made to appear to be fact is a problem for all, not just for Craig. I'll have more when I get to the list of books in your letter.

Some are overt ~~frauds~~ frauds. I'll have to be brief when I get to them.

The small news item on the X-rays was based on a statement by Dr. David Mantik, San Francisco, a radiologist. He examined the JFK X-rays with a densometer and says that some of the densities do not represent what they are supposed to represent.

I am somewhat suspicious about the FBI finding fragments in the limo that the Secret Service missed but then there is nothing but a suspicion.

The tiny lead deposits on the inside of the windscreen, X15 in the lab identification, no longer existed when the NAAs were run at Oak Rudge. It is possible they were all consumed in the spectrographic examination. When NAA did not consume the specimen and was available, need I say more?

I believe that what is said to be the fragments from the car do still exist. According to the NAA specialist who testified as its expert for the House assassins committee, Dr. Vincent P. Quinn, the Connally fragments are ~~not~~ those of the official descriptions of them and he does not know what happened to the original ones. But believe it or not he went ahead and tested what he said was not the actual evidence as though it were and the committee was without any questions!

Apparently Burkley led Jackie into choosing Bethesda because JFK had been a Navy man. It was on the plane after it left Dallas and some time before it landed.

On when the framing of Oswald began, my original and continuing belief is that the stuff was planted to give lead time, time to escape. I do not believe that what ensued could have been expected with any certainty at all. Particularly if Oswald lived. And that the police made it possible to kill him nobody making such plans could expect. There really was no case against him. Once Oswald ^{was} dead, however, all that changed. I begin NEVER AGAIN! with this. That is when it was decided not to investigate the crime itself.

The acoustical evidence was rejected as invalid by a panel of National ^{Academy} Institute of Science experts.

There is absolutely no possibility at all that the corpse was kidnapped and Lifton knew it when he conned all with that ~~terribly~~ bad and dishonest book. It was already proven impossible at every step when he made it up and got away with it and ^{got} much money.

The report that Oswald made a call to North Carolina was long, long after the assassination and was from a telephone operator. I have no way of confirming it, see no purpose in the conjectured conversation and have paid no attention to it. ~~It~~ I do not know any more about it.

The Dallas police did not test fire that rifle. I believe but I am not now certain that the ~~FBI~~ Lab did not make that swab test to determine whether it had been fired since its last cleaning. Oil on the swab would have exculpated.

I do not get into conjectures about the number of shots or their origin. I made a case for soft ammo from the front and to the head in Post Mortem and that the wound in the anterior neck was from the front.

I do not know the answer on McGeorge Bundy but I think you will learn more from the Newman book. I like Fletch Prouty but he sure gets off on the most untenable beliefs of which he is sincerely persuaded. He is of the far right and a nice guy.

~~It~~ I'll get into the books tomorrow. As a general statement, there is no basis in fact for theorizing who did it. I go into this more also in NEVER AGAIN! Because the crime itself was never investigated there are no real leads to be followed. On the basis of the known evidence the crime cannot be laid to the mafia or either side of the Cubans or anyone or any group. Obviously, I think from the evidence I've published there was without any question a conspiracy. But proving that there was a conspiracy does not by itself identify who conspired. What the assassination did and it was known it ~~would~~ would do is to change policy. I conclude from that that the conspirators had that in mind. ~~But~~ But my! how many different groups wanted to change policy! So very many!

Resumed 1/6. The snow that will keep me in won't keep McNight away. When Jerry is here I'll ask him to have one of those manuals made for you and to send it when he has it. Unless I hear otherwise for you. If you want a copy for Craig or if he wants one I think the cost is 10¢ a page. If it can be xeroxed for less there, that can be done.

And if the library wants copies of my books, I can provide them all. The first and Oswald in New Orleans are xeroxes with durable bindings. I've not had a single complaint ^{about either} in what is now four or five years. I am not able to handle a normal printing.

There is something wrong with all the books in the Craig list. Some are overt fakes, some almost professional fakers, several authors. Morrow is entirely fake, all made up. He worked for the CIA and he went to jail for forgery.

Carl Oglesby is a theoretician. I do not even read his work. *Not factual.*

Thompson's book was dated when it appeared ~~save~~ ^{INB} save for the excellent sketches of those Zapruder frames. He gave up teach philosophy at a fine small college, Haverford, near Philadelphia, and is a successful private eye in the San Francisco area. When his book appeared and the old Saturday Evening Post, then a major, mass circulation weekly, wanted a story from the book, he gave it the canard of three simultaneous and independent

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conspiracies! It is my recollection that all the "new" evidence he sources as a document just released by the National Archives was in fact from Whitewash II.

Lane is an able, competent lawyer who has no active conscience and has transitted the entire political spectrum, from left to the most extreme of the right, where he now is. He is a literary lightfingers, too. His first book was dated when it appeared and his last ~~if~~ is a conscious, deliberate fake. The sole issue in that case he handled for the most extreme and anti-semitic of the right-wing richbitches, Willis Carto, was whether or not there was malice. When it was shown in court that the author of the article in Carto's rightwing scandal sheet, Victor Marchetti, had sources for what he say that was defamatory and entirely in~~ec~~^{correct}ret, the decision, ~~no~~ malice, was automatic. All the other stuff attributed to the most undependable of sources, the woman whose name escapes me ^{MARITA LORENZ,} at the moment, was irrelevant. I do not understand why the judge let him enter that utterly false deposition in the record. But it had nothing to do with what was being litigated, is totally undependable at its best, and he wove his fiction around that. For fame and money, for which he has a record of doing whatever attaining it requires.

Epstein's Legend was not the book contracted. James Jesus Angleton turned the Epstein of right-wing belief around and the book emerged as it is titled. But there is nothing in it about Oswald that is both new and credible. The role in which he casts Oswald is close to totally impossible. It represents the need of the Angletonians and the politics of the Epsteins. And even though Oswald's security clearance was then in the public domain, Epstein makes no mention of it.

I could have interviewed Nagell, whose life was really unusual, but from what I knew by then, I did not. His story has no credibility at all. Russell is one of those conspiracy theorists who ^weave from the most gossamer of the mind. No responsible writer will go with a single source on anything like his concoction. And the plain and simple truth is that ^u Nagell knew in advance that the hit was coming, he he did not have to pull a job that guaranteed him jail to cover himself.

DiEugenio made it all up. Another work of what is dignified by calling it a theory.

Davis is hung up on the mafia. He began wanting to say what he wanted to say and he went to some trouble to appear to give it the credibility it does not have. Again, single-source dependence and again he used those that have no credibility. HE IS ALSO not a nice man. He wanted me to search for him, I could not but offered to get him a student to do that, he wanted that, he gave her and me rubber checks he later made good, and she spent just about all her free time for a year going over and copying my records. That included taking a few only-copies some of which I never got back and the few I did, I got only after great and repeated effort. Because he could not show that Marcello gave a man about the records on him, which his lawyer could have gotten from him under the Privacy Act and FOIA, ^{Davis} ~~David~~ manufactured out of nothing my limited correspon-

dence with one of his lawyers, Jack Wasserman. In the book he refers to then dead Wasserman as the top mafia lawyer. In fact he was one of the country's best immigration-law experts. After some of ~~what~~ what the House ^{assassins} ~~committee~~ said about Marcello I wrote Wasserman a letter, asking about Marcello's attitude, something like that. He responded. I remember that he told me that Ferrie ^{was} ~~is~~ not a Marcello employee. That he had hired him, rather had approved his hiring by G. Wray Gill, a New Orleans lawyer who worked for Marcello and who was a friend of Ferrie's. Can you guess what was missing, all of which I never got back? Well, in return for having all that free access to all ^{the} ~~the~~ and the use of our copier, he wrote in the ^{back} ~~back~~ that this top mafia lawyer had spent most of a ^{summer} ~~summer~~ rumaging through my files! That of a man I never said eyes one, who was never here and ^{avis} ~~avis~~ had no reason even to suspect had ever been here. The monster made it up to have a slim peg on which to hang his book. Not only that, it again took an enormous amount of effort to get that out of the reprint. And they were so displeased with me for insisting on it that they said they'd remove all mention of me, including in the biblio. That ^{troubled} ~~troubled~~ me little. I'm trying to indicate the dependability of anything that man writes has. ^{None in} ~~None in~~ that book, none at all.

Groden and Livingstone, and Groden wrote virtually nothing in the High ^{Trash} ~~Trash~~ book, ~~are~~ the wildest of the theorizers. In Livingstone's interviews of the doctors he made them useless in responsible ~~writing~~ writing by arguing a point of view. In time they denied what he wrote and in some instances ^{believe} ~~believe~~ they actually said when Public TV took them to the Archives to examine the autopsy film. Groden lacks scruple and knows remarkable little about the established fact of the assassination. That is also true of Livingstone but he is also ~~crazy~~ crazy. He is a practitioner of the title of his current book, Killing the Truth. It is nonsense he was fed by several who were fired by the sons of the rightwing extreme oil magnate, H.L. Hunt, not mentioned in the book. It also was in essence ^{copied} ~~published~~ by the scandal-sheet, supermarket tabloid The National Enquirer in 1977! He makes up a silly and baseless case that all the other critics are out to make his solving the case impossible and he is crazy enough to be genuine in that belief. He was especially anxious to hurt me because when he insisted I forced him to face the fact that the Zapruder film disproves his High ~~Trash~~ Trash 2. So, knowing that whatever popped into his head, the head of a true genius, he believes, being true th the instant he conceives it, he made up a childish case that the Zapruder film was toyed with, altered. Neither has any credibility, Groden because he has no real knowledge and no conscience ^{says anything} ~~at all~~ and Livingstone because he is crazy and remains a subject-matter ignoramus.

Craig's book list reflects the most ^{serious} ~~serious~~ of problems in getting any real credibility for anything about the assassination and its investigations: they destroy all credibility. In Posner's atrocity of an unscrupulous commercialization and exploitation he uses the line popular with the major media, that we are all cast from the same mold and are all

conspiracy theorists and theorize ^{and} only without any factual basis.

I know, off the top of the head, not a single good thing to say about any of those books in terms of using them to teach save for the excellence of the Zapruder sketches in Thompson's and few instances of those later books using, uncredited, what I had already brought to light and published. This may not impress Craig. ~~I see all few~~ if any aficionados of the theories ^{other} who even thinks in these terms or is willing to recognize the facts. It is like being hooked on dope and they become true believers.

If Craig is an exception and does not want to get my books, now about to appear in the stores is Selections from Whitewash, Carroll & Graf/ Richard Gallen, a quality paperback at \$16.95. I have a copy but do not know when it will be on sale. It is largely from the first "hitewash and from Post Mortem. I think the selections were made with good intelligence. And unlike what Craig is hooked on, no theories, all fact, and no error show/after all these many years.

I do think you can really excite people with using original documents, as finally McKnight decided to use punched ^{3-ring} for a binder. It would, I think, also help in ^{conv}persuading a college administration that you have serious scholarship in mind while also exciting them. If you'd like a copy of the existing manual address McKnight (Gerald) at Hood College, Frederick, Md. 21701. He'll then have the letter as a reminder and to show to those who make the copies in the event there is a lower rate for other institutions or for professors. It occurs to me that if you decide on this you can then seal that to Craig and if you want, give him copies of what Jerry adds. You also ^{may like} want then want to make copies for himself of anything ^{Jerry} he eliminates. That way you'll both have it complete with minimum cost.

I can't safely go to the mailbox now although I probably can later. But I'll hold this to see if Jerry remembers to ^{bring} bring how he teaches his course and if he does I'll include that.

our love,

Hardy