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*Don't have a TV*

Dear Harold

Hello! I flew to Christchurch last weekend to attend a teachers' conference and while I was there I managed to get away for a few hours with Don Craig. I found it an interesting experience. He is a very good person, we got on well and we share a lot of common values.

I borrowed a couple of video tapes from Don, which I have had copied since I came back to Auckland. Unfortunately the quality of Don's tapes was not too good to begin with, they were obviously copies made from copies. One tape had a show that you played a prominent part in, "Reasonable Doubt", along with David Wrone and a few other well known names. You will know the programme series of course, "Time Machine", broadcast over the "Arts and Entertainment" network. Is this a cable network? Do you know if it is possible to buy copies of this programme? Another video I borrowed was Mark Lane's production "Rush to Judgement", and I found the interviews on this tape of great interest too, such as with Lee Bowers. The other video programmes I borrowed were one made by David Lifton, and a 20/20 interview with Posner (which we saw in NZ in an edited version). Being an American, Don has good contacts in the States who copy these video tapes and send them down to him. However it is apparent there is quite a loss of quality when the tapes are translated from the US system of VHS video to the PAL system used for VHS video machines in New Zealand. I would like to build up a small collection of video tapes, good quality programmes, as a teaching resource and for my own learning. I enjoyed very much seeing you and David Wrone being interviewed on the "Reasonable Doubt" programme, though I thought the programme itself did not go as far as or as deeply into the main questions as it could have.

I was reassured to learn from Donald Craig that he does not accept all the conspiratorial theories propounded by the authors on his reading list. He is right of course, when you teach something like this you have to give a wide range of opinion and indicate differing areas of research. One thing Don Craig and I differed on was the weight one should give to David Lifton's book, and his thesis. As you know, I read Lifton's book only last January, and I cannot make the mental jump to accept the conclusions he makes. For one I cannot see that he makes any sort of case for explaining how the corpse may have been switched. And as you pointed out to me, such a scenario would necessitate an impossible degree of control over events in Dallas, over the body in transit, and would demand an outcome for the conspirators that just could not be guaranteed. For all that, I cannot make out the significance of the stories provided by naval morgue technicians that the body arrived at Bethesda in a body bag inside plain shipping casket. What do you think about their evidence?

I noticed on the sheet I received last year from the Assassination Archives and Research Centre in Washington DC they do sell some video programmes. Could you please help me by recommending the best of these? I cannot afford to buy too many, and I do not wish to buy any that you could not recommend.

Don Craig has a large library of books, many titles I had not seen before, a very large selection that seemed to cover all the authors I know from studying bibliographies in the books I have read. Most of these books were ones his father had bought over the years, going back to the sixties. When his father died two years ago Don shipped all his father's books out to NZ from Virginia. Don's father was a career naval officer, and finished his service with a high rank, he had commanded a number of ships. Don said his father believed from his reading Kennedy had been killed by a conspiracy although he could never make up his mind on who may have been behind it. However Don did tell me that his father once said to him that if the military were involved in a conspiracy it would most likely be the navy, because the US Navy was the most conservative branch of the armed forces and it contained many high ranking officers who were willing to fight a nuclear war back in the 1960s.

The time I spent with Don Craig was too short, the few hours just whizzed by. I am glad we did not get onto the subject of 'who did it', I know now there are no answers to that leading question. Instead we talked about some of the books I had seen listed in bibliographies and not read, and we spent a lot of time talking about how he organised his courses and how he had used the teaching materials he had gathered for his lectures.

I have not heard from David Wrone yet, but I hope something will soon be coming through the mail from Wisconsin. As soon as I have his material I am going to start to flesh out the proposal I am writing to put before the University Board of Studies. I have already done a bit of work on it myself, and I will be adding any bits and pieces of Don Craig's and Gerald McKnight's work that I can use. And of course I hope I will find a couple of good ideas in what David Wrone is able to share with me.

This is another of my letters written late at night, and I must close and get off to bed. I hope you and Lil are both well and happy, and that you are enjoying the Spring weather that must be coming to Maryland now. The elm and birch trees in my front yard are turning a bright yellow, Autumn is here once again. Take good care of yourselves.

with love and best wishes,

Pat.