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Dear Dal,

The letter you wrote on the 4th, postmarked th 5th, is here this morning, the 9th. Excellent time, especially when compared with the previous mailing! Almost a birthday present. I was 81 yesterday. Which was the day after the day I spent sweating out whether I'd hemorrhage internally from the first mistake I've made in taking the anticoagulant in now 18 years, this being the 19th starting. Had to be my own doctor in doping out how to cope with it and it worked.

Wrone told me he'd write you with suggestions rather than sending his syllabus. He's been very busy on his sabbatical to work on Abe Lincoln. In addition to that he made a trip of about three hours, to the State capital, with the last of the Menominee Indian wood carvers. He was disappointed to find a very small audience. But he was lucky because someone from the state magazine was there and they will devote ^{December} the issue on the State's 125th anniversary to that man and his work. He starts with a tree he selects and when he is finished he has a sculpture with much Indian information in it. That now almost none perceive or understand. Dave has done and is doing much for those native Americans.

I did write Graf asking him to send you a copy of Case Open. And they have a supply now in New York, I learned yesterday. I told them you'd try to place reviews there and that in the past you had. When I dig in the files again I'll send you copies of some unique credentials, from the FBI in court saying I know more about the JFK assassination than anyone working for the FBI and from Senator Russell's files saying that I agree with him and in general expressing a high opinion of my books!

I've not looked at the many TV documentaries, almost all properly so-called. They are not worth the time for me. The one exception is Chip Selby's Reasonable Doubt. It is available commercially. I helped him with it. He addressed one point only in it, the single-bullet theory. As he says in it:

Lifton is a fraud, a faker and a thief. He knew his theory, which is the only thing new in his book, was absolutely impossible. You picked but a single point. That is the kind of man he is. I never saw Lane's movie, which was done not by him but by Emile d'Antonio, who wound up detesting Lane, as records Wrone has make clear, and in general do not take his word for anything. We do not have cable, which A & E is, but I've been sent cassettes of many shows but I've not looked at them. If I'd thought it worth the time I would have. So, what I am saying is that one should be quite careful in using them as a teaching resource. Parts, perhaps, made into a cassette.

Whether Lifton was faithful to his interviews or not, and it is possible that he was and was not at the same time, some of those people gave interviews in which they said

the exact opposite. Whatever the truth, there is no question about it, JFK was not in a body bag and the body was not snatched. Nor was the casket switched. See the Sibert-^{in post mortem, the} O'Neill report, same ^{graf} Lifton quotes, on the casket being the one in which the body had been shipped from Dallas. And on no body bag, one of many sources on that.

I fear the AARC people will recommend cassettes I would not. They go for the theories, accept them. Most of them anyway.

I found what Don quotes his father as saying to be more than just interesting. And it is not only that the Navy brass was and remains more conservative. In intelligence they were, I believe, more sophisticated. ^{Gov} Dad and Don will be quite interested in aspects of NEVER AGAIN! relating to the military in general and the Navy in particular.

Back to Lifton, I suggest two questions I judge the young to ask themselves as they consider the assassination, ^{the} to me, mythologies: is this reasonable and if they feel it is or may be, is it possible.

On the latter, can anyone conceive that with the entire JFK party with the casket for the entire trip, and with Jackie sitting next to it except for the few moments of the LBJ swearing in, that they could all have been part of the conspiracy and have remained silent all these years? It could not have been done without their knowledge.

Lifton had the Baltimore cop working for Livingstone steal a fair amount from me, include ⁱⁿ my analysis of Lifton's book. I've not reread the trash and duplicated that but I have a fair amount in what will never be published. Inside the JFK Assassination Industry on this. And so much more. Beginning with an account of my life's learning experiences and going into some of that ^{are} so seriously misrepresented by the Posners and the Livingstones.

At this point I stopped to listen to a baseball game, as I'll do this afternoon again. Most are night games and I cannot take them in. Sitting there yesterday I saw a picture of which I have a duplicate, of Lil and me. I'll send it to you. It was taken for the local magazine about ^{two} years ago. They did not use it.

Lifton is a strange case. Amoral, able, unscrupulous and incredibly self-important. He is a blackmailer, reportedly the way he got Livingstone's cop to work for him, too. Even stealing from Livingstone for him. In the end Livingstone accepted it because that cop had become indispensable to him in this insanity of his personal killing of the truth. I have several chapters on Lifton in Inside. The last is titled, after the words of a man you do not know, Roger Feinman, "Trust Me: I'm a Thief; David Lifton." In Sylvia Meagher's files there is Lifton's letters telling her how he planned to steal a good print of the Zapruder film from Time, Inc., and then another boasting of how he had done that. In explaining this to his fans, his clique, Lifton said merely that he had lied to Meagher. People fear him and do his bidding because he is so determined and does make good on his threats. The cop was doing something wrong and Lifton merely told him that if he did not do as Lifton asked, he'd be reported and would be fired. That simple.

For you and if you use it the paper(s) I explain the enclosure that is the FBI's telling the court that I know more about the JFK assassination than anyone working for the FBI. There is some explanation and as I recall some quoting of the hearings transcript in Post Mortem.

So that I could not depose them in that lawsuit, the FBI agents with personal knowledge retired. The FBI then claimed that they could not be deposed^{d/} in my lawsuit against it because they no longer worked for it. I had to take that up on appeal before I could depose them. Before that could happen, John W. Kilty, also a Lab agent, replaced them. And he lied under oath about what was material. Materiality made it perjury. Nothing is more important in FOIA litigation than whether the records sought do exist and whether they have been searched for in good faith and with due diligence. When I caught Kilty lying he merely swore in contradiction to himself. Thus one of his affidavits^{had to be} was false and was perjurious.

I believe it was then that I decided the only way to fight these cases successfully with the courts virtually government adjuncts was to make myself subject to the charge of perjury^{per} and challenge them head-on. Like putting my head on the block because I was, after all, suing the prosecutor. But it was not heroic, there was no danger in it at all. Do not be misled on this. I knew I was attesting to the truth and there was never any hint of charging me with perjury.

It is a rarity when a FOIA case goes to a trial. It is done in hearings mostly by the pleadings of opposing counsel. I decided to do most of this under oath myself and in effect daring them to charge me with perjury. This was not only a different approach, it was a way of making a stronger record for history. I think, ~~that, that~~ they found it disconcerting. They are used to people cowering and bowing before them, not talking^c them head-on. And while it did not work as well as I'd hoped and would very much have liked, I did, after all, get a third of a million pages and then I got them without cost! For that case I was fortunate to draw an honest and an excellent judge, the late Gerhard Gesell, son of the famous baby doctor. And what he told the FBI to do, it did. It sent me the first installment, of about 50,000 pages, as soon as humanly possible. It was 13 or 14 large cartons, what the post office could not deliver normally or even legally. The local post office just put them on a flatbed truck and made a special delivery of them. I had ~~resort~~ resorted to an honest legal trick my lawyer feared but ultimately did. I alleged the FBI was using its disclosure as a media event, that it was impossible for the press to be able to make sense out of such a volume and would in effect become the tool of the FBI, so I had to have them before official release to be able to respond to press inquiries. I'd asked for a temporary restraining order. That was a real man-bites-dog story with me in the lead of demanding full disclosure. The judge would not delay the release but he order^{ed} that I have the records as fast as possible. And I did! But only one paper reported it, George Hardner in the Wash. Post. I think I sent you a copy of that some time ago.

Selby went to Athens, Georgia, to search the Russell archive there. ^{He} provided me with these copies. Some ^{others} were also disclosed at the time of the hearings on the bill that was passed during the Bush administration, to make full disclosure of all JFK assassination records. My FOIA lawyer, Jim Lesar, who will be here today because Lil has done his tax work for him for years and ^{she} is always later with it. She has had to file for an extension of time for our own returns, I think for the first time ever, because she has not been able to keep up with it as in the past. She'll be 82 in eight days and at the beginning of the tax period had an eye operation. That slowed her some. ^{Still} does. The other cataract comes off in a little ~~more than~~ less than a month now. Jim tells me that many of the so-called new disclosures are of records I got years ago. In fact the AP story on the delayed FBI disclosure is of such records, ^{ed} including one I use at the opening of NEVER AGAIN!, that Katzenbach to "oyers memo.

With almost no exceptions those searching these newly-disclosed records do not follow my practise, of distributing copies to those who could have an interest. But I did get some I've used for an ~~an~~ Afterword for NEVER AGAIN! They validate all I wrote. They were sent me by a San Francisco doctor. He'd been sent them by a woman in Washington, which is about 45 miles from here. So, those pages crossed the continent twice in going only 45 miles.

Russell had emphysema. He was very conservative. He actually believed, what he actually told me, that LBJ appointed him to the Commission to keep him from leading the southern opposition to the ^{then} pending civil-rights legislation. Russell was so deeply involved in that he did not realize that Johnson's appointees were selected for political purposes, to assure that no major political faction would be able to complain about the Report when it was disclosed. And it worked. There was, however, no JFK follower on the Commission. The appointment of Warren immobilized the eastern intellectual establishment. The others were in varying degree conservative and what is without precedent, with a majority of five out of seven Republicans, of the minority party. ^{Nobody} ever ~~he~~ tumbled to this and what it meant. At least not in public.

Russell did carry a heavy load in the Senate without the civil-rights fight. He did threaten to resign from the Commission but he didn't. He was given a woman lawyer to keep up with the Commission work for him but she was on the Commission staff, not his. She was his appointee, it seems, from Georgia, his state. Name Alfreda Scobey (right).

Russell's note re Garrison on the enclosed memo comes from that publisher having ~~he~~ asked Garrison to write a Foreword for Oswald in New Orleans. ^{Russell} Neither ~~he~~ nor his assistant ever discussed that with me. It was not unreasonable for Russell to wonder whether I thought as Garrison did. As I did not. Except that there had been a conspiracy, which Garrison did not invent.

*for law
Records*