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Dear Harold

I wrote you a long letter two weeks ago, during my end of term holiday, and I lost it, the letter that is. (We still have the English academic year in NZ, of three terms.) I lost the letter on a computer disc that I should have thrown out long before, it played up a while ago and I knew it must be getting scratchy or worn. I could have torn my hair out! I was mentally kicking myself, there was nothing I could do to retrieve it! I rang the computer shop the next day and they confirmed what I had feared, once the computer cannot read the files that are on the disc, then everything on the disc is lost.

So, and now I do not have the same time to write you the same leisurely four pages I lost. This will have to be a very abbreviated version of the lost letter, plus a bit more.

My lunch date with Donna Chisholm did not amount to very much. She was late and I could not overstay as I had a class to teach straight after lunch. We spoke across a wide gulf, and it made me realise how much I have learnt over the past couple of years. She has read Jim Garrison's 'On the Trail of the Assassins', which she bought after seeing Oliver Stone's 'JFK'. And she saw the British Independent TV programme 'The Men Who Killed Kennedy' which I also saw and first wrote to you about. The subject intrigues her, but she knows very little about it. We have agreed to meet again next month, and we'll take up where we left off. There is no immediate prospect of getting anything published in "The Sunday-Star Times", the rules are the same- it has to be topical, and newsworthy, and judged so on the newspaper's terms.

After my meeting with Donna I picked up a copy of Jim Garrison's 'On the Trail of the Assassins', and after reading it I learnt something about the origins to Oliver Stone's movie, and what I think was probably a mixture of fact, relevant and irrelevant, red herrings and fiction, but interesting.

I was unable to buy a copy of John Newman's book "JFK and Vietnam" in Auckland so I had a friend in Seattle buy a copy and send it down to me. I have just started to read it, it looks a very solid piece of writing. I think you said he had visited you? Is he going to write anything further? Are you still in contact with him? This sort of research is obviously very important in the process of peeling away the fog of uncertainty that hides the essence of Kennedy's relationships with those he shared authority with, advisors and the generals and his cabinet and prominent names and

In my holidays this month I contacted a person who had written to me after our story was printed in the "Sunday Star" last year. He was a British migrant who told me he had brought with him to NZ a number of cuttings from the British press on the JFK Assassination, and a few video tapes made from programmes he had recorded in the UK. I was very keen to see all of these things, but when I arrived I found he had not unpacked the tapes and cuttings from England which were still boxed in his garage (he has been here for many years but some of his stuff is still packed away). I have to go back later to pick up this material when he has unearthed it.

What he did have at hand, and offered to lend me, was a folder of clippings from the NZ press over the past few years dealing with the assassination, and a high pile of computer printout paper that a friend who works in the Computer Science Dept at the university had given him from an E-Mail (E = Electronic) Bulletin board. This was all from the period February to May 1992, just after the programme 'The Men Who Killed Kennedy' was shown in NZ. The pile of computer paper was over two feet high and I read it through on a Sunday, from mid-afternoon until after midnight. My wife Chris and children were away, so I had no interruptions and just read and read, with breaks only for cups of coffee and some scrambled eggs on toast for tea.

It left me with a headache and feeling mentally bruised. The 'E-Mail' was mainly sourced from a number of US universities, and firms, some research institutes, one was even headlined with a NASA name somewhere in Texas. Have you ever read any of this 'E-Mail' stuff? Once you join into these networks all you need to do is key your computer with the code that gets onto the bulletin, then you can either write into or take out of the correspondence on file (in this case, the subject of JFK Assassination). Some of the letters were from people rather well informed, most were rather more uninformed, some were downright ignorant of even the basic facts, and from start to finish there were letters from the same two people who argued for the official position, along the lines of Posner, although this was more than a year before Posner was published. I think these two had to be officially connected, their responses were always well fleshed out with references to 'evidence' that supported the 'lone gun' explanation. The people writing into this file seem to have read most of the well known authors. I was sad to see your books were mentioned only a few times.

I found very little in all this paper that I could use, though I did find the entire text of the speech delivered by Kennedy at the American University in Washington on 10th June 1963. It was the first time I had read the entire address, "A Strategy for Peace", and I have copied it for my files. Yes, some of these computer 'letters' are very long, running to forty or fifty pages. One of the longer ones was a story attributed to Roger Craig, a onetime Dallas Deputy Sheriff. One thing in this story intrigued me, and it concerned the carpark behind the TSDB next to the railway yards. Craig says this land was leased by a Dallas Deputy Sheriff, B.D. Gossett, and he went on to say the parking lot had only one entrance and exit, which had a chain and a lock on it, and the only people who had access to it were deputies with keys. Is this true? Was the carpark locked and blocked off to the public, by the Police or the Sheriff's deputies, before the motorcade? If this was so, then how did the cars that Lee Bowers observed get into the parking lot in the half hour or so before 12.30?

I have not got very far with my proposal to put before the University Board of Studies to run a course next year through the Centre for Continuing Education. I am very busy with a committee I am chairing that is organising our association's annual conference and AGM in August. And I am still mulling over in my mind just how I am going to present it, the course I mean. I have a friend who is a member of a professional club and he has invited me to be the dinner guest and speaker at their annual mid-winter feast. My speech will be on the JFK assassination, and I will use this opportunity to test my ideas on a neutral but presumably interested

audience. My speech will be as simple as I can make it, and will use it to help sort out some ideas I can only explore by using them in a dialogue.

The more I think it through now, the directions I can take with my course proposal, the more I feel comfortable linking it to some wider issues of social and political morality, like David Wrone does. The longer I leave it the more it matures, and I feel happy with it. As long as I have it done in draft form by September it should be in time for the 1995 programme.

I received your last letter acknowledging receipt of the calender on Thursday. I am very happy you like it. I went hunting for it when I found out from you of David Wrone's interest in American Indian issues and culture. It is a double bonus to know you appreciate this sort of thing too. We have a copy of the calender we will keep to frame one day.

I am still waiting for a copy of "CASE OPEN" to reach me. As soon as I have it then I can find out who the NZ agents are for the publisher and urge them to order stock, and then I am sure I can get a review done on it for the 'NZ Herald'. I have not heard whether 'Case Closed' sold many copies in New Zealand, it would be interesting to find out. How well has it sold in the States? This raises the importance, and the role, of the news media in promoting books like "Case Closed".

Thank you for the description you gave me of your home (it was shown very briefly in a view from the road I guess in Nigel Turner's programme), and the pictures I have in my mind now of the 'honkers' and the deer that come close by too. These Canadian geese mate for life do they not? You must have had the same geese visit you over a number of years. I was interested to hear everything to do with your auto accident too, and I am glad you are okay.

Just by looking quickly through Newman's book it seems that the US military establishment may have been major players in whatever conspiracy lay behind the assassination. This is guesswork I know, I notice Newman is careful to steer well clear of ~~the~~ any issues related to the assassination. Did he tell you anything not in his book when he visited you?

We are in winter again here, and the days are decidedly colder and shorter. My daughter Emma, 12 years old, has just joined a local archery club and every Saturday morning I go up to the club in a nearby park and stay with her as she practices (yesterday I took Newman's book to read with me). I sat near a doorway in the clubhouse looking out across the park and a cold wind was blowing the last rusty brown autumn leaves off the big oak trees in the park and making eddies and swirls of leaves that hurried in waves past me. If that sounds a bit poetic, so be it, it was a sight of some beauty, and for some reason it left a vivid memory with me.

Thank you again for your wonderful letters. I appreciate our correspondence more than I can say. I look forward to your letters. I am sorry I have no real news to share with you, but there will be openings again for me to write something again, and get it published. In the meantime I am still continuing to read, and to learn.