

Auckland, 29th July 1994

Dear Harold

I have in front me your letters of 7th June and 16th July and the intervening time measures the period I have been buried under the work of organising the National Transition Education Hui or Conference ('hui' is Maori, the Polynesian word for a 'meeting'). I am going to recommend to the 1995 organising committee that they put aside money to organise some paid secretarial staff to help the chairperson. This conference in Auckland will be the largest our association has ever had, and it has meant more work than I had anticipated when I took the job on last year of heading the organising committee.

I'll put in a bit of paperwork from the hui to show you what I have been working on these weeks.

However, not all my time has been spent in working on the hui, as you will read. I received in late June the copy of 'CASE OPEN' that you sent me, it took nearly three months by sea mail. This is not remarkable, mail sent by sea often takes a long time to get to NZ. I read the book almost immediately, and since then have read it through again.

I could see where bits of CASE OPEN seemed to be missing, and it was usually in places where I wished I could know more than what I was reading. If I had not been put off by the cost of what would have been a very expensive phone call I would have called you with quite a few questions. I can well understand your frustrations in having so many parts edited out, but what remains is still a powerful demolition of CASE OPEN. I was angry when I had finished reading CASE OPEN that newspapers around the world had not looked at your book and picked up on some of the more blatant untruths in CASE CLOSED, and, given them good coverage.

About two weeks ago I had an appointment to see the director and course co-ordinator at the Centre for Continuing Education to verbally present my proposal to teach a course in 1995 on the JFK assassination. I know I have their support but the formal written application to teach the course itself still has to go before the History Department and then before the university's Board of Studies. I cannot see any problem in having my course approved, though I can foresee a few small problems with it that I will have to resolve myself. For a start I do not know what to call the course. Do you have any suggestions? If you are to have any influence on giving it a title you will need to be very quick getting back to me, my application has to be lodged by 17th August. That goes for all my appeals to you for help, you will almost have to write back straight away to reach me before 17th August. I wish I had

written to you sooner, I have meant to often enough but kept putting it off. I do not intend sending my application in until the 17th August so anything you can come back to me on will be received in time to be included- especially ideas on the most appropriate titles for the required reading list!

As you will see when I send a copy of my proposal form filled out I have to show lists of published references, firstly a prescribed reading list, then a wider but non-prescriptive list of titles, both of which must be in print and available in NZ. The third list is of titles that may be out of print that the university library can order from its book hunting sources in North America and/or Europe if I tell them the book is essential reading for any serious research. This will certainly be the case for Howard Roffman's book which I know is unobtainable. I will ask your books be on the list too, though I have not decided which title(s) to list as prescribed reading and which as additional reading. And I shall ask that the university library buy at least one complete set of all your books.

By the way, do you know where I can pick up a copy of Howard Roffman's book? I have tried to buy a copy through a place in North Carolina that advertises itself as being able to find out of print books. I wrote to this shop at the beginning of April and so far they have not found me one book on my list. I have not had much luck with second hand bookshops here either in finding these mostly early titles. I'll give you a copy of the list to show you what I'm trying to find for my own bookshelf. Although I can borrow most of these titles from the Auckland Central Library, it is not the same as having them always close at hand so you can instantly check on something.

My interview with the director and course co-ordinator lasted just on an hour and was quite an enjoyable bit of dialogue. There were however a couple of diversions or distractions, one of the people interviewing me was a gay man I think and he asked me a couple of times whether I thought J. Edgar Hoover had ever dressed up in drag. I could only say that I had no idea, and that in any case as far as the JFK assassination went it was an irrelevant question. Later after I explained how much I owed you in giving me a firm understanding of the basic evidence in the case this same man asked me whether you were Jewish. I said I did not know and I considered that this question was also irrelevant. Is Weisberg a Jewish name? I had imagined it would be German. It only occurred to me later that the man who asked the questions may have been Jewish himself.

The two started the interview by first trying to link my course outline with several existing courses, such as criminal law and another one on international relations (to do with JFK's foreign policy etc.) but I quickly persuaded them that my course would stand alone, with its own issues. After our hour together they knew a lot more about the assassination

than was the case before I arrived. I am going to loosely follow the general outline of the course that David Wrone supplied me, basing the main part of the course firmly on the evidence collected by the Warren Commission itself, and then look at the issues that are associated with the ensuing and continuing cover up.

Did I tell you I had my friends in Seattle also hunting up books on the assassination for me? It was they who sent me John Newman's book earlier in the year, as well as the new book by Peter Dale Scott that Don Craig had recommended. Neither of these two books had been released in NZ. My friends in Seattle found a copy of the Warren Report, published in 1964 by Associated Press, and according to the introduction it was the same as the official version except for some of the evidence printed in appendices which was omitted. I have not read more than a few parts of this book yet but I did notice on page 219 there is copy reproduced of the handwritten report by Dr Perry made at 1640 on the 22nd November. In the first paragraph he wrote, "A large wound the posterior cranium was noted...." This seems primary evidence contradicting the conclusions of the autopsy and the findings of the commission but it goes in without any comment. Other information included in the reports by the Dallas doctors seem to refer to a wound in the back of the head too. You will be familiar with all this, but it surprised me to see these things right there in the report, in black and white.

More about recommended reading- I intend making your CASE OPEN required reading. I will have to find out from Carroll & Graf who their NZ distributor is. I phoned all the main publishers in Auckland and none knew who handled Carroll & Graf here, not even the NZ Book Publishers Association. I am going to make some reference in the course to how the news media has handled the assassination over the years and Posner's book is a good example to use. In this context your book will fit perfectly as an indication of the sort of critical response the news media could have made with some research into the factual evidence, but did not.

Something else my friends in Seattle recently sent down to me was a copy of the "Seattle Intelligencer" of 23rd November 1963 with very comprehensive coverage of things as they looked through official eyes on the late evening of 22nd November when I imagine this edition would have gone to press. They also found for me an issue dated 25th June 1967 of "The Seattle Times" with a special section entitled "The Lingering Shadow- Doubt About Assassination Must Be Ended". In this very large apology for the Commission you are mentioned in the most unflattering terms. If you have not read this incredible garbage I will copy it if you want to see it, but in essence it identifies you as "a Maryland poultryman" who was once "national barbecue king", responsible for a "Geese for Peace" campaign, and that you assert (in Whitewash I and II

presumably as they are the titles mentioned) there were two Oswalds, "one a look alike stand in". Obviously somebody with credentials like this and propounding such a theory cannot be taken seriously? The other critics who are attacked are Mark Lane (he gets most of the space on that page), Edward Jay Epstein, and Leo Sauvage.

What was the book on the FBI you mentioned to me on the phone, was it by 'Unger' or 'Ungar'? Please let me know, and I will try to get hold of a copy.

I thought I had told you I was reading John Newman's book? I read it very carefully, at times going back into what I had already read to confirm something I had not picked up on the first time through. The book depressed me mightily. There were some very powerful forces at play behind the Vietnam issue.

I have not been well served by the Assassination Archives and Research Center. Last year I sent them \$US100.00, i.e. my subscription for two years, and a request for prints of the Moorman photo and one of CF399 in profile. I have not no reply whatsoever since sending the money, nothing at all. And now last month I receive a form letter from an organisation calling itself "Coalition on Political Assassinations" asking me for money (as subscription and a donataion as well) for which I am promised copies of their newsletters. What do you think I should do? I am very disappointed by the way the AARC has just ignored me after taking my money. I am reluctant to put more money into an unknown organisation that may also use my money and then ignore me.

Well, I must leave this and get onto other things. Please let me know, though not necessarily right away, if you can suggest anywhere I can pick up copies of any of the out of print books I wish buy for myself. And of course any ideas you, or Gerald McKnight may have on what titles to put on a required reading list woieuld be helpful. I think I told you one of the title Don Craig used with his courses last year was a cheap (small) paperback called "Who killed JFK?" by Carl Oglesbury. I have read it and find it lacking credibility in a few areas.

I apologise for my long silence, but the pressure of work has just been too much lately and my private correspondence has almost ground to a stop over the last few months. I am looking forward to the time after the 'Hui' when I can get back to doing other things.

With love and best wishes to  
you and Lil,  
Dan