

Auckland, 03/09/94

Dear Harold

Hello and greetings! Today my life seems to have slowed down a little and at last I am able to reply to your long letter of 9th August. A couple of days ago I was in such a hurry to get you some news of my application to teach the course next year that I hurried off a very quick letter to accompany that material.

I have written to Publishers Group West in connection with getting your **CASE OPEN** into New Zealand, and I will enclose a copy of the letter for your information.

As you will see by copies of my letters to Howard Roffman and The Last Hurrah Bookshop, I took your advice and enlisted their help in getting hold of the books I feel I need to have on my bookshelf. I have already read David Lifton's **BEST EVIDENCE**, I borrowed a copy from my local library, but I think I still need to have my own reference copy in the event that I am questioned about it by any of my students next year. As I mentioned to you in another letter, I found nothing in the book that convinced me that the body could have been secretly removed and altered as Lifton claims. By the end of the book the reader is left just with Lifton's thesis but no proof to back it up, and as you pointed out- such an action would have required an enormous conspiracy, an unbelievable degree of control over events by the conspirators and the active participation and complicity of far too many people.

The Hui- I must photocopy the press release that went out on the wires through NZPA. It did not make it into the Auckland papers but may have got a mention in some of the other papers. It was a great success, due mainly to the high quality keynote speakers and workshop facilitators we were able to get in. But the organisation itself but almost too much for me, considering I had to do it in my spare time with part-time help from only about six or seven people. We had a lot more help from our members during the Hui, but they all needed constant direction and help in what they were doing. The Hui was all about helping more Maori and Pacific Island and 'at risk' students get a chance of entering tertiary education, and in the end that made everything worthwhile.

I know that higher education in the USA does not have anything like the transition education the way NZ has developed it. In NZ it is a targeted resource intended to help all students from lower socio-economic families go on to higher education. For example I work in a small college and have three staff under me, two part-time teachers and a secretary, this is a considerable commitment in terms of staffing and funding. While at some time or other I will have contact with the majority of students in the college, I give most of my time to working with Maori and Pacific Islands students, and any others who for various reasons could be seen to be 'at risk' (of dropping out of college) to support them in whatever way I can. This support often extends to working with their families as well, and my

aim is always to encourage these students to go on to further education and training, the higher they set their sights the better it is. The programme of transition education was introduced in the mid-eighties by the then Labour (i.e. left wing social democrat) government in response to higher levels of youth unemployment and the disproportionate small numbers of Maori and Pacific Island students enrolled at tertiary level education, in universities and polytechnics. Until 1988 I had been the head of the history department at a South Auckland College and I then I took a year's sabbatical. In 1989 by pure chance I landed this job heading the transition education programme at Western Springs College. The present government in NZ is trying to change the focus of transition education so that it becomes a sort of careers counselling service for all students. Our association is fighting this trend and demanding the programme stay firmly focused on the needs of students from the lower socio-economic end of our society.

Thank you for sharing the story of your Jewish origins with me. I think that all Jewish people know more than most the extent to which modern governments can lie and cover up and hide behind patriotism and propaganda to do the most inhuman acts. This surely is the central lesson for all humanity of the Holocaust. I have not read the book you mention by Howard Fast, but I will put it on my Christmas holidays reading list. Thanks.

Can you get me a copy of the Warren Report? Yes, please try to pick me up a copy, I really need to be able to locate your citations. I have not been able to do so yet. You will notice I have asked 'The Last Hurrah Bookshop' to find me a copy of the Warren Report also, and if I end up with two copies I will donate one to the university library. Let me know what I need to pay you and I'll send you the money for it. It does not need to come by airmail, by sea will do.

Thank you for writing the note to Jim Lesar for me, as yet I have not heard anything from AARC. It was disappointing to send away the \$US100, and then, nothing, silence, not even an answer to my letter asking to buy copies of the two photos.

You may not have read about it in the States but last week the memoirs of the former Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke were published and one of the newsy bits picked out and reported by the papers here was Hawke's first encounter with Ronald Reagan in Washington. Reagan and Hawke had a meeting in the White House on issues of world trade and security, George Schultz was there, and the Secretary of Defence too (name slips my memory). Hawke said for every topic he raised Reagan shuffled through his fistful of cue cards, found the appropriate card and read out a simple policy statement. Then Reagan handed the question over to either the Secretary of Defence or the Secretary of State to develop. Hawke wrote that Reagan had nothing at all to offer their discussion, and apart from reading the initial response from his bundle of cue cards he apparently took no active part at all. Who was really running the U.S.A. during the Reagan presidency??

I have picked up a few new books lately, by looking around in second hand bookshops, but nothing too wonderful-

1. "The Unanswered Questions About President Kennedy's Assassination", by Sylvan Fox, publ. by Award 1965

2. "Legend- The secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald", by Edward J. Epstein, Hutchinson, 1978
3. "The Assassination Chain", by Sybil Leek and Bert R. Sugar, publ. by Pinnacle Books, Los Angeles 1976.

I was very disappointed in "Legend", this was the first book of Epstein's I had come across. He seemed to take the line (and the hook and sinker) that Yuri Nosenko was a KGB double agent, and all that meant for Oswald.

What sort of thing does Marina Oswald say these days? Does it conflict with the evidence she gave to the Commission? I have seen the odd reference in the press to her over the last couple of years, and she is reported as saying she hopes Lee can be proved innocent. But these little bits in the press here are so brief there is no detail or substance to them.

One thing I have not asked you about before, and that concerns the mistaken initial ID of the rifle found hidden on the sixth floor as a Mauser. Do you think there was anything at all in this? Seymour Weitzman was the Deputy credited with making this initial ID, and he was supposed to have run a sports store that sold hunting rifles. On this basis he could have been expected to know the difference. When was the very first photo taken of the Mannlicher-Carcano? Just as importantly, where was this first photo taken?

What of John Newman? You said he was working on the lot of recently released material the CIA had on Oswald. Have you heard what he has been making of all these documents? Is anybody else working through the other recently declassified documents? Are there still more papers to be released as a result of congressional legislation?

I have looked at the autopsy photos in Groden's book, which I assume have been faked in the way they show the rear of the skull as intact, and I cannot make out how Humes, Boswell and Finck could have been made to conceal the real condition. These photos worry me. Supposedly these particular photos exist because Kellerman hinted to a colleague that he could get copies for himself because of their great historical value. If this was so, then the extra prints were made from the original negatives at a time presumably just after the autopsy, when they were first developed by the Secret Service(?) and therefore well before any interference with them by anybody intent on preserving the cover up? Can you help me here? If Groden is to be believed, the autopsy shot showing the back of Kennedy's head has been faked by inserting an area of hair over what would have been an open (exit) wound. What can you say with certainty about these autopsy shots? Have their origins been carefully verified?

More on the idea of making my course notes into a senior high school history text- I would make one of the central themes of the book the importance of analysing and understanding primary evidence, i.e. the sort of documents you obtained through action taken under the FOI Act, and putting this information against the sort of conclusions the Commission reached in their published Report. It is one of the skills taught today in history, looking at how primary sources of evidence need to be checked against the published versions of history. My friend said there may be a market for such a book in Australia and the United Kingdom too. We'll see.

Your question regarding Wrone's work on the relationship between government and an indigenous (pre-European settlement) population- yes, there has been some good work on this question down here, and I think I can put David Wrone in touch with somebody who has just published something touching on this subject. It is of course in the context of the relationship between the Maori people and first the British colonial administration and then later various NZ governments, but it may be relevant. There have been a couple of parties of Canadian academics and Canadian government people down here over the past few years studying the NZ development in attempts being made to resolve this and other questions.

Things have caught up with me, my daughter (Emma, 13 years) needs a new pair of shoes and I promised to take her out shopping this afternoon. I can post this on the way. I must off in a few minutes.

I hope all goes well with you, both of you. I think of you often, and I trust you are both coping with everything and not having too much bother with things like Lil's broken wrist and the pain in her hips. These things must be a big problem at times, I know, but I can only hope you are getting on top of them as things heal and get better.

Take good care of yourselves, and of each other, always.

with love and
best wishes,

Paul
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