

Auckland, 25/09/94

Dear Harold

Thank you very much for your two letters, received within the space of a few days, more than a week ago now. As always, I enjoyed reading your letters and I learnt something new from them.

Just after I received your second letter I received another letter from an Australian teacher who had been given my name and address by you. I enclose copies of his letter, and my reply. (I would appreciate your comments on my reply!) I realised when I wrote this letter to Peter Willis just how much more knowledge I have acquired over the past three years with your help, and through all the reading I have done in this period. I am grateful and will always be grateful to you for taking the time to share your knowledge and insights with me.

You will see in my letter to Peter Willis where I refer to the projected book that it will be what is called a "skills analysis" textbook, i.e. one where the skills involved in analysing primary (documentary) evidence is as important a part as whatever factual information is imparted via the process of analysing and understanding the meaning of the evidence. (This sentence is very wordy, but I trust you will understand what I mean.) Such a book would give scope for me to reproduce examples of the documents you have obtained through actions taken under the Freedom of Information Act. You see, I am going to need your assistance!

At the moment the book exists only as a skeleton of an idea, but I can see already it would first need a narrative covering the assassination and the investigation that culminated in the Warren Report. The next section would look in some detail at criticism of the report. At this point I would like to introduce you, as a central figure -you as a historical figure, and to put into the context of your books, and your role as a private citizen investigator of the investigation. The last part of the book, a substantial part, would be made up of excerpts from the Warren Report and copies of some of the more illuminating of the documents you were able to obtain from the National Archives and the FBI etc. An integral part of the final section would be a guided tour for students through the documents, looking at how they matched up with the relevant areas of the Warren Report, a crisscross journey from documents to report to documents to report, always checking context and interpretation against each other. The book would also need a number of good photos and diagrams. Well, what do you think?

I am also enclosing copies of the programme and workshop sessions for the Hui in case you are interested. At the AGM of our association held during the Hui I was elected National President and I now have a one or two year term in that office ahead of me. It is not an onerous job, only three exec. meetings a year, plus the Hui and AGM. I will need to write a couple of newsletters through the year and the odd press release if the need arises.

I am sending you by SAL (Surface Air Lifted) mail a packet with a couple of early Christmas gifts for you and Lil, two sweatshirts with the Hui logo across the front and two coffee mugs also with the Hui logo. The organising committee sold these and other souvenir items to delegates at the Hui to raise money for our Auckland association. As far as I know these examples will be the only ones to have found their way to North America.

You knew I wrote to "The Last Hurrah Bookshop" and have already received a catalogue from them. I must make a reply this weekend and order a couple of titles. Unfortunately they do not have the books I most wished to find, but I hope I can still order them and have them sent as and when they come into stock, such as Seth Kantor's "Who was Jack Ruby", "Crossfire" by Jim Marrs and "Six Seconds in Dallas" by Josiah Thompson. The last two seem important from the point of view of the early history of criticism. I now do not expect to find Howard Roffman's book easily, and I think I may have to photocopy the one in our local library if all else fails.

I was surprised to see the availability of period newspapers and magazines as well as audio and video cassette tapes in the "The Last Hurrah Bookshop" catalogue. I will buy a few of these as teaching aids, but I cannot use the video cassettes because NZ uses the European VHS system (PAL). I understand it is expensive to have tapes recorded on one system translated to the other. Do you know of any retail source in England for this type of video programme? I would especially like to buy a high quality copy on PAL VHS of "Beyond Reasonable Doubt". I will ask "The Last Hurrah" if they have audio tapes of Oswald being interviewed in New Orleans too.

In your letter of 6th September you mention the comment I passed on to you last year from Don Craig. As I recall Don said the following,

- "my father was a career navy man, and he always said if the military were involved in the assassination then he would pick the navy as being the service most likely to have been behind it."
- "my father commanded a ship before before being posted ashore, and then he served under Admiral Thomas Moore (spelling?) in Norfolk, Virginia-Harold will know who he was",
- "my father said at that time, in the 60s, that the US Navy was the most politically conservative of the armed services, and the service most ready and willing to resort to the use of nuclear weapons. This had something to do with the lower rate of casualties the navy anticipated they would suffer in a nuclear war, compared to the army or air force."

Now, is there anything here of any interest to you? I suspect not but let me know asap. I have not done so yet, but I will write to Don Craig if you wish to quote him on this and I can check it to get his okay. It may be better if he writes to you himself. Don would be able to give you his father's full name and rank etc. Don said his father had no inside information whatsoever on anything to do with the assassination, and his father knew only what he had read in books over the years. While Don was a young boy his father bought many of the books criticising the Warren Report, including your books. Don's father is now dead and his large collection of books on the assassination are now in NZ with Don. He even has his father's copy of Howard Roffman's book

If you wish to credit me as your source for the comments from Don Craig then by all means do so. Harold, I am not a professor. NZ has the same very rigid distinctions and restrictions as England does for using the title of 'professor', and in NZ I am merely a 'Master' which in American terms I guess would be a 'senior teacher'. I am on the staff of Western Springs College in Auckland, and my full title if you want to be formal is 'Head of Transition Education Department at Western Springs College' (this sounds much more grand than it really is, I only have one secretary and two part-time teachers who work under my direction).

Speaking of Don Craig, in his last letter he mentioned a new book that had impressed him- "The Last Investigation", by Gaeton Fonzi. Do you know it? Don says it is good reading and suggested I may be able to use some of it in my course next year. Would you recommend it?

I went to an arms auction last weekend and bought a WWII Italian 6.5mm Mannlicher-Carcano for my course next year, the identical model to the one found in the TSBD. There were four in the auction and I was able to pick out one in condition pretty close to the TSBD one, and even made in 1940. I will now get a cheap scope the same dimensions as the TSBD one fitted.

Thank you for your information on John Newman. I will look forward to his new book on Oswald. I still find the story in "JFK and Vietnam" of the army's duplicity over its intelligence reporting on Vietnam disturbing in its implications. A few days ago I heard Noam Chomsky on national radio here being interviewed about the invasion of Haiti, that was incredible too. Noam Chomsky said that not one major TV or radio network in the USA would report him. I taped him, would you like to have a copy of my tape of the interview?

I was very interested to read your comments about speaking to Marina Oswald. What does she say now about her testimony before the commission touching on such things as Oswald's supposed state of mind and remarks made after the assassination attempt on General Walker? Or about the rifle Oswald is supposed to have kept etc.?

About books- yes, please try to get me a copy of the Dalton offset reprint of the Report. It is going to be important that I am able to follow your citations against the page numbers in the report. I am going to owe you some money for books sooner or later so I will enclose a bank draft in US\$ with this letter.

Do I think my friend at McMillans (his name is Chris Chittenden) may be interested in "Selections from Whitewash" and "Case Open"? I will try him but I think it is too early yet. All I know is that he looked up what was currently in print as far as history books for schools go covering the JFK assassination and found a big empty space. That was why he said he would look at marketing my/our book in the United Kingdom if it proved okay here (and in Australia). I find it a little hard to believe a book I am involved in writing on the JFK assassination may be sold in England and throughout Europe. I think I may have opened a door, but it is too early yet to see what may come of it. It would however be great if the publication of my/our book resulted in creating a market for other titles like "Selections from Whitewash" and even the "Whitewash" series itself in New Zealand schools

and universities. My/our book will not be a heavyweight work, I do not know enough to write more than a recycling of information I have acquired from your books, and without your help I would not be able to get that far. However, I can see that such a book may well lead to an interest from history teachers here and in Australia that would require them to read more substantial books like yours.

Reading the letter from David Wrone to Richard Gallen whetted my appetite for a chance to read the Afterward to NEVER AGAIN. Is there any possibility you could send me a copy? I too am looking forward to the day when "NEVER AGAIN" is published and I can read it.

Looking through the catalogue from 'The Last Hurrah' makes my head spin, there has been so much written. Much is beyond my ken. I noticed a few references to something called the "Torbitt Document". What is this? Has anything further come out of Cuba recently? Cuban intelligence files must have a lot of information gathered in the 1960s that relates to the assassination.

Going back to the projected book and McMillans' interest in publishing it- would you consider putting your name on it with mine? I think that would be a good selling point, and would make it easier to promote. It could be a co-authored work, or, maybe something written by me and edited by you? I have the knowledge of how the content would fit into a history syllabus and how to promote it locally, enough knowledge of the subject to write to an agreed outline of the text, while you could fill in the gaps and check my data. How does that sound? I am not interested in the royalties, as long as we covered expenses I would be happy. You could draw up a publishing contract if that is what you would like. I am going to be busy at school for the next six-seven weeks, but then my work tapers off as the summer vacation comes closer. This is where I see myself having the time to make a serious start on working up my lecture notes for next year, and, doing some parallel work on the text book. Our summer (academic) vacation starts in the first week of December and continues into the first week of February. I would hope to have the major part of the work on both finished by the beginning of February.

I found your response to my question about the head wound(s) confusing. I had thought the Dallas doctors were more or less agreed on a major wound in the back of the head, and I further took this as being consistent with an entry wound right temple and a fragmented bullet that had exited in the right rear head. I have seen an X-Ray illustrated in several books that was represented as being of Kennedy's head, and the information contained in this X-Ray is ambiguous at least. Can you tell me a bit more about what you think the wounds were, where they were, and precisely where the autopsy report departed from the truth. Have I missed something important here?

Peter Willis asked a question about Officer Tippitt, and you may remember Tippitt was something I asked you about in my very first letter, though not the same question. It seems highly unlikely to me that Tippitt just happened to be in the right location and at the right time to be shot in such a manner that it pointed to Oswald who was then presumably heading for the Texas Theatre. Has anybody ever had cause to consider Tippitt may also have been some sort of agent for one of the intelligence agencies?

Your mention of wild turkeys around your home reminded me of a visit to an uncle's farm in Central Queensland once when I was about seven. My two uncles went out into the bush quite early in the morning shooting bush (wild) turkeys and brought back a number just before lunch. That night we had turkey stew, the only time in my life I have had such a meal and it was probably the last. It was a delicious meal, with a spicey tang that I remember to this day. I would not wish to eat bush turkey stew today, now they are probably an endangered species in Australia. Your turkey visitors sound like they are having a good feed, to last them through the winter?

Well I must go. As always I look forward to hearing back from you. In the meantime I hope you are both keeping well and that the autumn is not yet too cold to be uncomfortable. Summer is not round the corner in our hemisphere yet, last week there was quite a lot of snow over the South Island and on the high country in the central North Island. When that sort of weather blows up from the South Pole it gets cold in Auckland too.

All for now,

with love to you both,
yours,

Dad.
