

Auckland, 23/10/94

Dear Harold

Hello! This is a long weekend in New Zealand, tomorrow Monday is our Labour Day, different to other countries who celebrate it on May 1st. Our Labour Day commemorates passing of the first labour laws in the world establishing the 8 hour day and 40 hour week as legal maximums for wage labour, passed in 1898. It is a perfect Spring morning, a cloudless blue sky. After a cool 'nip' in the air earlier it is now pleasantly warm with the sun high in the sky. I have a cup of coffee and your letter of 4th October beside me.

I have not heard back from Hollis. I would be interested to see what he uses with his students, and I'll keep you informed on developments here.

Harold, thank you for your generous offer to allow me the free use of any parts of your books that I can use in the school history textbook project. I will not do anything without your knowledge.

I will send you with this letter a copy of my note to Don Craig reminding him of your interest in any remarks his father passed on his time serving in the USN under Admiral Moore (spelling?). Although you do not say so, I guess you suspect this officer may have some connection with a possible US Naval part in the cover-up, or to Oswald's intelligence role, or?

Speaking of confidentiality, I do not pass on any specific information I read in your letters to anybody. I respect the fact that our correspondence is privileged. And when I come to go through your letters to build parts of the narrative in the history textbook, or make my course notes, I will be looking mostly for those passages that illuminated my own understanding of certain issues. I would not quote you on anything that I felt was a private opinion expressed in the context of our friendship and on a personal level. The specific and evidential things I will take from your books.

Thank you for sorting me out on the matter of the rear head wound, the large rear exit wound described by the Dallas doctors no longer worries me. They did not properly examine the head, and I imagine that for the whole period Kennedy was on the bed in the trauma room he was lying on his back. I think the head wound must have looked a terrible mess, made even worse by the brain tissue and fluid that must have escaped through the wound and lodged in Kennedy's scalp and hair. However I do still wonder about the alleged entry wound in the back of the head, this is the one shown in the well known artist rendition of an autopsy photo of the head, seen from the rear, the one that has a grey lump of what is presumably brain tissue on the hair. And what of the fragment of skull that was found in Dealey Plaza, the one that was flown to Bethesda on the night of the autopsy? It must therefore come from the top or right (temporal) side of the skull?

As you suggested, I have looked again at page 7 of Humes' original hand-written autopsy report, but cannot read all the deletions and alterations. The substitution of 'puncture' with 'lacerated' on line 14 is clearly evident, though I am unable to read what other words/phrases he deleted.

Exactly how are the other alterations to the original text significant? When you say, "the changes Hunmes was told to make in it that Sunday night in the admiral's office", which admiral are we talking about? I presume it must be Burkley. Was it Burkley who was in official command of the autopsy? I recall reading in Manchester that it was Burkley who advised Jackie on the plane flying back from Dallas to have the autopsy done at Bethesda.

Illustrations- yes I will ask David Wrone if he can let me have any of the photos he has on file to use as illustrations. I have not written to him yet, must do it this (long) weekend!

I hope the coffee mugs and sweatshirts have arrived by now, and that you are able to use them.

I will contact our TV stations' news libraries to see if I can get copy of the PBS 30 years anniversary show. That is of course the logical source. Thanks! I should have thought of it myself!

Thank you too for the offer to send me a copy of the 'Afterword' if you can find it. I hope so.

Tippitt- since receiving your letter I have started to go back and read all those chapters again. I agree that somebody with his abilities would not have been able to provide much information to any intelligence agency, but he could still have been set up and used by them (and probably was?).

The book, again- yes indeed, I too have thought a good way to design it would be take the most basic and important conclusions (and assumptions) of the WC and then put them up against the relevant chapters in your books, especially WW. The reasons you suggest are excellent, building different conclusions from the very same evidence.

Thank you again for taking the trouble to find me some of the books I was looking for. Do I owe you any money for books and/or postage? Please let me know if so.

Last night Emma (my 13 yr old daughter) and I were trying to sort out a big pile of recent (well, the last few years really) photos that need to go into albums, and I came across a spare photo of me. It was taken a couple of years ago, but it is still me, as I see myself every morning in the mirror over the bathroom hand basin. I'll enclose it for you.

I look forward to seeing the Walden edition of the Report, it will give me for the first time the means of reading, and understanding, the actual report through reference to your books. So far I have read both quite independently of each other.

Now I must away, Chris and I are taking Emma and Karl to a beach this afternoon, and I have the job of getting our picnic lunch ready.

Bye for now, with thanks, and lots of thoughts and love to you both,

Yours,
Dad