

Auckland, 06/11/94

Dear Harold

thanks for your letter of 22nd October which I received early last week. I forgot to note which day it arrived, but mail continue to make good time between Auckland and Frederick.

Thank you for giving me a balanced perspective of Epstein's "Inquest" and his other books. I did not mean you to think I took it as a hard and fast reliable reference, but it did fill out my personal area of reference as far as the Commission went, providing information on the members/staff- how they saw themselves and what they were doing. I knew already from reading "Legend", and your earlier comments on that book, that Epstein was wrong on many of the basic elements. I will only quote Epstein in that vein.

I take your comments on the reading list. I am sure you are right, I will be buying some material not worth the money. The book by Fensterwald was not for me, Don Craig asked me if I would buy it for him. Do not forget, I am not an American and much of what you would share in common with most educated Americans is missing from my learning. For all the similarities and things we have in common, like language and values, there is too a great cultural gap between us. This was my reason for ordering things like the book by H.L. Hunt, to give me a look at how the other side interpreted the Bay of Pigs operation. You would have read plenty of this sort of thing in the press over the years I suppose. I was merely fishing for early press on the critics when I ordered the reprints from various periodicals. And I ordered those issues of LIFE to give me an idea of how the majority of Americans would have seen the assassination reported in those early years.

I hope you do not consider the two books by Josiah Thompson and Seth Kantor as not worth buying, I had thought they were pretty solid.

I was surprised to read you were so dismissive of Penn Jones, I had only seen (old) sympathetic references to him, like in Sylvia Meagher. From what you say, obviously this sort of view is long out of date. I know he did research on the deaths of so many people associated with the investigation in some way or other. This was all I knew of him, though you did mention to me some time back that the notion of witnesses being killed off had no basis in fact.

L. Fletcher Prouty- yes I do know that the publisher I had for his "Secret Team" is connected with the modern fascists' claims that the Holocaust did not happen, but it is Prouty's book I am after. Don Craig praised it.

I received two wonderful packets from David Wrone last week, one was a copy of Roffman's "Presumed Guilty" and the other was a lot of photocopied material: Wrone's excellent article titled 'Publications Of The Warren Commission', and many pages of testimony relating to events on the sixth floor, including Charles Givens' claims about seeing Oswald when he (Givens) supposedly went back to the sixth floor to get his cigarettes. I am sure you will be familiar with this particular lot of papers, including Sylvia Meagher's article in the "Texas Observer" of 13th August 1971.

I picked up a copy of the book I mentioned to you that covers the history of the relationship in NZ between the government and indigenous Maori people, as seen in relation to the Treaty of Waitangi signed in 1840 between a large number of northern Maori tribes and the British colonial administration. I have it here now on the shelf by my desk, wrapped up and ready to send to David tomorrow. I hope he finds both something of interest and that he can apply to his own work with the Indian tribes in Wisconsin.

Last week my school from a young American woman representing the Young Socialist Party in the USA. She has been making a tour of university and college campuses in Australia and New Zealand. I was not involved in inviting her to our campus but I went along to her meeting. Only a few students and staff turned up. I asked her what her view of the JFK assassination was and she said she knew nothing of the evidence, only what she had read in TIME magazine last year (this was a favourable report on Posner's book!). She further said she did not need to know anything about it, because "Kennedy was a war president, he brought misery and suffering to the working class peoples of Cuba and Vietnam, as well as continuing policies of exploitation and oppression of the American people". I include copies of the handouts I picked up at the meeting, just in case you are interested. She had a closed mind on the subject of JFK.

One night last week I stayed on at school for a meeting and while I was waiting for people to turn up I sat at a word processor in my seminar room and typed out a list of questions I thought of asking you. They are not in any order, I typed them out just as they came into my mind. I hope you will not mind me sending the questions to you, I would like to know anything you could say about them.

I will write to David Wrono and thank him for the copy of Roffman's book, I am really excited to have my own copy, it is such an important book and one I am going to use a lot next year.

When I have a bit more time I must tell you about my twelfth year, when I lived with my grandmother. It was a turning point in my life. My grandmother had been an active socialist in the 1920s and 1930s, a courageous thing for a woman bringing up three children on her own at that time. She used to think of herself as a communist, though she did not ever join the party. When I was twelve I stayed with her for almost a year while I had my front teeth straightened. She changed the direction of my reading, for all of my years as a teenager and for evermore. One of the books she gave me when I was 12 years old was Tom Paine's "Age of Reason" which I saw listed on the receipt from your bookshop Lil included for me. I did not understand it at the time, but I read it later on and it helped shape my values and ideas about social justice. Another book my grandmother gave me some years later for a birthday present was a collection of essays by Robert G. Ingersoll.

As well as the influence at this time of my grandmother, which was strongly political and intellectual, there was the influence of an uncle who lived with my grandmother and me that year. He gave me books on the war in North Africa that he had been part of, and a bag of his war souvenirs, German, Italian, French (yes, the Australian 9th Division fought the French Foreign Legion in Syria, in 1942 the British invaded the Vichy French colony). This

bag of war souvenirs, the greater part of which were German, became a great treasure, as well as a puzzle and a riddle to me, something that had to be solved. What were these things, and what did they mean? Where did they come from? Who had once been associated with them? As you know, this started me on a lifelong career of collecting and researching more and more such battlefield debris.

I am glad you liked the mugs and the sweatshirts. I fully approve of your decision to hand the sweatshirts on to David Wrone. The sweatshirts were made in NZ Harold, we checked up to make sure before we bought them. The organising committee wanted to sell only NZ made goods. I too noticed the mugs had no maker name, which was strange, but we bought them from a Maori Skills Training Course (who made the screens and did the transfers). I do not know whether the mugs were NZ-made or imported, but they were not cheap so I would think they made be made locally. We have the same problem you mentioned, cheap imports from third world countries that pay their workers a pittance, subsistence money only, have put a lot of our own NZ workers out of work.

Well, I must go. I hope you are well prepared for the coming winter. Here we are getting ready for summer, I am wearing T-shirt, shorts and sandals only today. I am heartened to read you manage to cope so well with your medical problems. I do not know how you do it.

With lots of love
and best wishes,

—
Dan

3/11/94

QUESTIONS:

1. Howard Roffman suggests that the two parts of a bullet fired from the 'Oswald' 6.5mm Carcano found in the front of the limousine were planted (in the same way as CE399 was planted in Parkland Hospital). Now, given that the limousine was interfered with at least once through 'evidence' being planted, is it not possible fragments of (other) bullets were removed from the limousine? This is quite a different sort of act to planting the two pieces of a bullet which were found there. Roffman mentions the easy access many had to the limousine while it was parked outside Parkland hospital, and the possibility an onlooker could conceivably have dropped the bullet fragments into the car. However, to remove whatever fragments might have been left in the limousine, one would have had to be physically inside the vehicle and have enough time to carry out a careful search.
2. What could have happened to the bullet, or bullet fragment, that caused the wound to Governor Connally's thigh? It must have been larger than the very small fragment that lodged there.
3. Do you agree with the position that says the ID card in the name of "Hidell" was not on Oswald's person when he was taken from the Texas movie theatre?
4. When Humes inserted the tip of his his small finger into the wound in Kennedy's back during the autopsy, and felt pressure which stopped the finger entering more than the a finger joint, do you think this was because he angled the direction of his probing finger down into the wound (i.e. as if he was trying to follow the angle of a bullet fired from the back and downwards)?
5. Have Oswald's income tax records been released, in part or in full, by any agency of the US government?
6. What was the role of the 112th Military Intelligence Group in advising the Dallas PD on the afternoon of the 22nd November of a connection between the names 'Oswald' and 'Hidell'?
7. Further to above 6., is it true that the 112th Military Intelligence Group advised the Dallas PD, also on the afternoon of the 22nd I think, that Oswald carried an ID card in the name of 'Hidell'?
8. Do we know anything of what was in the Military Intelligence file(s) on Oswald that were destroyed in 1973?
9. What of files on Oswald presumably held by the Office of Naval Intelligence -what has been released of them? I cannot recall seeing any ONI files quoted in books I have read so far.
10. What exactly are the "irregularities" that I have read about referring to Oswald's pay slips (or pay records or pay cheques) specifically the small firm in Fort Worth, at Stagger Joves Childs and at the TSBD?

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Classes will be held Wednesdays, 7pm, beginning Wednesday 9 November.
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For more information, phone Janet, (9) 379-3075 .

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Youth defend Philadelphia abortion clinic.

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It is in response to these developments on a world scale that the Young Socialists, an international revolutionary socialist youth organisation, was recently formed. To provide an alternative . . . *A SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!*

AUCKLAND MEETING

Militant Labour Forum: Friday, November 4, 7pm at the Pathfinder Press Bookshop, 203 Karangahape Rd (opposite McDonalds). Suggested donation \$3. Phone (9) 379-3075 for further information.

If you want to meet Rebecca, or invite her to speak at your school, campus, workplace or neighbourhood please contact us.

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