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(415) 525-1980
January 16, 1986

Mr. William Manchester
Adjunct Professor of History
Wesleyan University
Middletown, CT 06457

Dear Prof. Manchester:

Enclosed is page 49 from "Reasonable Doubt," a new book on the assassination of President Kennedy by Henry Hurt, who is a "roving editor" for Reader's Digest.

Dr. George Burkley, who was the President's personal physician, told Mr. Hurt that he believed the assassination was the result of a conspiracy.

Also, in a 1967 oral history interview, he declined to say that he agreed with the Warren Commission on the number of bullets that hit JFK.

I see that you interviewed Dr. Burkley five times for your book, from April 1964 through July 1966.

I wonder if he then believed there was a conspiracy and, if so, whether he told you why.

I would be grateful for any information you could provide. For your convenience, a self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

I would also appreciate some information on the availability of the transcripts of your interviews of Dr. Burkley. Are they available to scholars yet?

Dr. Burkley was the only physician to see the President's body in Dallas and attend the autopsy in Bethesda. He did not testify to the Warren Commission, which published a typed statement by him which was basically devoid of medical details. The House Select Committee on Assassinations did contact him several times, but published nothing about those contacts.

For such a central figure to say there was a conspiracy is quite a surprise. If he expressed contrary views to you, that would be noteworthy.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Paul L. Hoch

Paul L. Hoch, Ph. D.

2/1/86

Dear Sylvia,

The enclosed letters to Harold (3/6 & 3/30/78, 4 pp.) are all I could immediately find from you on Epstein.

Also enclosed: my exchange with Manchester on Burkley, and your 9/12/77 to Blakey (with ~~x~~ attached 4 + 2 pp.) I've written the JD, pointing out what Burkley told Henry Hurt.

It was good talking with you.

Best
Paul
PLH