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Alexandria, VA 22302
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Dear Professor Clarke,

I am writing to call attention to a significant error in the section on Sirhan Sirhan in your book American Assassins. Referring to the evidence ~~of the~~ the background of the crime, you cite at several points (e.g. pp. 87-88, 89, 94, 95) a notebook entry by Sirhan dated January 31, 1968 in which Sirhan wrote in part "Robert Kennedy is going to die," and "Who killed Kennedy? I don't know..." as evidence of Sirhan's political motivation and premeditation.

No such notebook entry exists. The page to which you refer was written by Sirhan on February 1, 1969 in jail, during a hypnotic session supervised by Dr. Bernard Diamond. It is described in Robert Blair Kaiser's RFK Must Die on pages 364-369 and is reproduced in section D of the appendix of that book (pp. 593-596). The purpose of the session was, among other things, to simulate Sirhan's "automatic writing" process. But the entry was clearly written more than seven months after, and not before the assassination. The questions were retrospective ones.

I have other factual dissents with your discussion of Sirhan's case (the only one about which I have substantial knowledge) as well as major differences of interpretation about the background and status of the evidence. (See enclosed.) In particular, I believe there is no remaining basis for reliance on police and DA ^{ASSASSIN} about the specifics of the events which occurred at the crime scene itself. The above point, however, seemed to deserve particular note.

I agree with your view that the phenomenon of political assassination deserves more systematic study and attention than it has received. I hope that your book will stimulate further emphasis and recognition of the relevant issues in the academic world.

Sincerely,

Gregory Stone

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