

23 March 1976

Dear Paul,

I am recovering from a bout with the flu so this will be only a brief reply to your letter of the 13th and its enclosures.

Just before getting the flu, I went around to a few of the large bookstores here and saw our two books, usually together, sometimes apart, sometimes in the window, and both looking quite attractive in my view (admittedly not a clinical view). Random House had promised the book for early March and they did keep to that schedule. I had a big bash to celebrate the appearance of the two books, on Sunday the 29th of February. Both Jason Epstein and Susan Bolotin, who had sent word two or three times that they would be there, failed to show. I found that offensive and hard to forgive, even though they both produced the usual good excuses ("...stuck in the country...Jore Vidal turned up unexpectedly..."). Subsequently, Epstein and Bolotin invited me to lunch. I put them off, because of falling ill, and will take my jolly time about setting a lunch date with them.

What, if anything, has been done to publicize the deletion of the sentence from my article on Givens/Belin???

About sales: I was told that Accessories had an advance sale of 9600, or almost two-fifths of the printing. However, it has slowed drastically, with only 200 copies sold last week. What figures have you received on sales of The Assassinations? (I trust you saw the twin advertisement, for both our books, which was in the Sunday Times Book Review Section, two days ago.)

Thank you for sending me CD 1084A together with the draft of your commentary on it. That was evidently the first and last time that the phrase "our beloved president" appeared in an FBI report--that really hit me in the eye. The other thing that hit me, quite personally, was the enshrinement in this report, for the second time in the written form, of the fact that there was no arraignment for the murder of JFK! That was undoubtedly included on the basis of the one-page FBI report that I discovered long ago, CD 5 page 400, but included it was.

I agree with your other comments and evaluations of the contents of this anonymous undated first FBI summary report.

I have heard nothing whatever from Jones Harris or anyone else about the shipment of the newly-released documents from the Archives, free or not. I will keep you informed of any new developments, as I trust you will do in turn. Have you seen Bob Anson's latest article, in the current New Times, on the failure of the Schweiker investigation? What really fascinated me was the "third" photo of LHC with rifle and revolver and literature. WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS SENSATIONAL NEW PHOTO???

Hastily,