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April 24, 1976

Dave Marston  
c/o Sen. Richard Schweiker  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Dave,

I have had some time to think about our conversation Thursday, which touched on the current direction of the Committee's work, and I would like to pass some additional observations on to you and to Senator Schweiker. As you know, I am especially nervous about the possibility that the Committee is pursuing leads provided by the CIA or FBI without enough double-checking for additional facts and interpretations. In particular, I am worried that the Committee might be inadequately investigating a possible link between Oswald and Castro, the hypothesis which may have been the motivation for a coverup by the Warren Commission, and which has frequently been revived, notably in unpublished CIA submissions to the Rockefeller Commission.

As you know, I have no idea which area(s) the Committee is now focusing on. In my only phone conversation with Paul Wallach, back in October, he implied that he was looking into something which had not gotten much attention in the press, and that his information was coming from classified files. What you told me suggests that he is still working on the same or similar information from agency sources.

I can't think of too many areas which the critics have not covered, and in which information now being provided by the agencies would not be completely tainted by a failure to provide it to the Warren Commission. (If, for example, the Committee is looking at new evidence in the medical area, it would seem necessary not only to study the published critical work, but to have close contact with people who have done work going beyond the public record, certainly including Cyril Wecht and David Lifton.) The one possibility which does spring to mind is new allegations about Oswald and the Cuban government, or the KGB (e.g., information from Nosenko). This would be particularly difficult material to deal with.

Because of my ignorance about the current investigation, it is hard for me to make specific comments. I would like to suggest looking into two points as a test of the good faith of the agencies which are now providing information.

With regard to the FBI, I think it would be worth finding out how tightly they have been hanging on to their Oswald files. You are familiar with my analysis of the Commission's failure to study this material, and with my attempts to get it. I have been given nothing new except eleven censored pages. Last October, Rep. Christopher Dodd of the Edwards Committee asked for the Headquarters file (which is by no means everything). Judging from his last letter to me (in February), the FBI has not complied. If the FBI has not given Congress full access to all their records on Oswald, anything else they do provide would have to be regarded skeptically. I appreciate the reasons for the Church Committee's great concern about secrecy; this is something you could check out by talking with Mr. Dodd.

With regard to the CIA, I think it is necessary to evaluate their relationship with the Rockefeller Commission's peculiar investigation of the JFK case. Specifically, I suggest that you look at the response to my memo. As you know, Commissioner Shannon initially took my memo seriously, and the CIA apparently did respond in detail. The CIA is still withholding their response from me.

At this time, I am suggesting that you evaluate the overall tone and quality of the CIA's response, not all the details. My material was ignored in the Rockefeller Report, with the possible exception of a reference to a "mail correspondent" whose information was nothing more than "a strained effort to draw inferences of conspiracy from facts which would not fairly support the inferences." I am not the best judge of my own work, and I'm sure many of the leads in the memo would not pan out, but I think it is of substantive value. You are familiar with