

July 17, 1976

Dear Sylvia,

As you can see from the enclosed letter to Bud, I don't have much to report on developments since the Schweiker Report came out. The cautions in your letter of 5/24 are very well taken. I have recognized the risk, in my own work, that by understanding the WC-FBI relationship and the difficult position the best of the WC staff members were in I would tend to play down their full responsibility for what they allowed to happen. The Schweiker Report is even worse in this respect, since it completely avoids the Commission's awareness of the agencies' lack of candor, and even tends to absolve the staff-level people on both sides on the grounds that they were not fully informed. The people who wrote the Schweiker Report chose to ignore the many specific areas investigated by the critics which clearly prove that this was not the real situation.

Still, I was really relieved that the SR didn't go overboard on the Castro business. My impression is that Schweiker is an AMLASH buff, the way I am an FBI-WC buff, and others have their own special interests. I expect that he feels he dug up the AMLASH connection himself, and it really is interesting stuff. On Face the Nation, I ~~got~~ got the impression that he would start to go into something like this, ~~and~~ and then remember the need to put ~~it~~ in the disclaimers - that they had looked only in a limited area, had found no evidence that Castro did it, etc.

The AMLASH stuff could certainly explain why a lot of people panicked after the assassination. I would not rule out the possibility that the main purpose of what had been going on was not to kill Castro but to set up Castro with a plausible motive, and to silence RFK by implicating him in the plotting. It is hard to believe that everything Desmond Fitzgerald did was really just stupid. (He died shortly after the 1967 CIA IG Report, allegedly while playing tennis.)

The enclosed photo of Mae Brussell certainly tests the principle that there's no such thing as bad publicity! Oh well.

Sincerely,

*Paul*

PLH