

I'll have another letter to you in a day or so (if you can stand it). Want to discuss Epstein's latest (revelations on Manchester's LBJ); also want to talk about a REALIS issue and claims. Epstein quotes Kenny O'Donnell in an interesting way; O'Donnell's latest remark, however, backs Lee Oswald as lone assassin, etc. Enclosed is letter to Harold. Also envelope for the letter. After reading, please mail. If he puzzles over postmark, let him.

Sylvia: I am a little upset this morning, and I need someone's else's point of view on the problem.

Received a letter from Harold Weisberg this morning on the subject of "Colonel Castorr". As you know, Harold's affiliation with Castorr followed my letter in which I located the Colonel's present whereabouts in and around Washington, D.C. Because the area was so handy to Weisberg, he contacted Castorr but to no avail at first. In fact, Castorr avoided him. Then the picture changed; Castorr suddenly indicated that he wanted more than anything in the world to be a friend to Harold Weisberg. (Who in the meantime had also written me that perhaps we had all misjudged Lawrence Schiller who had had some kind of a change of heart too!)

Castorr was in Dallas in '63. Castorr left Dallas not long after the assassination. Castorr was listed in the '63 Dallas phone book as Colonel Castorr. Castorr is a close friend of General Walker's. Castorr is a right-winger. The lady in Walker's office told me that Castorr and Walker had been friends for some time, thus to imagine that Castorr is a "liberal" etc. is to have rocks in the head. Finally both the SS and the FBI mentioned a friend of Walker's by the name of "Caster" or "Caster." Depositions from witnesses indicated that this "Caster" or "Caster" was a right-wing fanatic who was a friend of Walker's and who traveled around Dallas with Walker giving anti-Kennedy talks to Cuban refugees prior to the assassination. Well, I don't have to detail it for you; you know the story.

Now Harold Weisberg indicates that the Washington "Castorr" and the Dallas "Caster"- "Caster" are not the same. But it seems to me this is an extraordinary coincidence. Are we going to have to discover another Caster-Caster-Castorr in the Dallas area who is a friend of General Walker's and who also is a Colonel?

Is Harold always this gullible? Let me quote you from his letter, dated 7/1/67:

"Colonel Castorr has supplied me with an abundance of information. He seems not to be the man indicated in the reports, and his attitudes and beliefs are anything but typical of the radical right... They (Castorr and his wife) are coming to visit us this weekend, on their own invitation. We have finally found a decent place to live, one where we'll even be able to entertain..."

What do you think? I think Colonel Castorr is going to great lengths to be a buddy and a pal to Harold Weisberg who in avoided conspicuously at first. I am concerned about this, since it is also my inclination that Castorr is the "Colonel" mentioned by Rich who talked in the side room to Ruby about money. Eva Grant admitted to me that she knew Dave Cherry; yet there was an obvious effort by the Commission lawyers not to connect Ruby and Cherry, thereby invalidating Mrs. Rich's story. At any rate, Castorr in my opinion IS the Colonel Caster-Caster mentioned in the reports--in spite of Harold Weisberg's change of heart in this regard. Therefore, it is difficult to imagine that the Caster-Caster who went around Dallas with Walker speaking against Kennedy to Cuban refugees and who was a right-wing fanatic, is NOT the Castorr in Washington now who admits, yes, he did live in Dallas in '63, and, yes, he is a personal friend of Walker's, but, no, he is not a right-winger--in fact "his attitudes and beliefs are anything but typical of the radical right." I am so disappointed in Weisberg and I need to hear what you have to say. Not only because I am personally disappointed but because if as I believe is the case Castorr is giving Harold a snow job, then what is the reason for it?

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Much love,  
S.

Too many people (myself included) have played down Kennedy's desperate physical condition before assassination. Kennedy was dying (at a rate faster than the rest of us are dying, hopefully). His adrenals were so deteriorated that death was only a matter of months or short years away. This is a point of pride to the  
(over)

Kennedys. Not for themselves, because it has no effect on them now, nor does it indicate, of course, a disease to be ashamed of (such as syphilis, etc., insanity); there is nothing to worry about in regard to the Kennedy children, since Addison's disease is not hereditary. The reason the Kennedys are sensitive about it is for the sake of the dead President; he did not want the world in general to know about his condition; the Kennedys feel he would not want it generally aired now. The fact of the disease plays no part in the assassination story, in my opinion, except the possibly critical one that it spurred the assassins and at the same time eased their consciences (well, some of their consciences; only a few worried over the entire thing, in spite of feeling it was essential due to the Bobby Baker expose).

Kennedy developed his disease in his early teens, following a terrible near-fatal attack of scarlet fever. Had he been born later, then the disease could have been controlled more easily; he was however well advanced in it, the destruction of the adrenals was too far along, when the newer treatments were developed which it is now said can "control" Addisons (even this is nonsense, Addison's must always be considered, drugs or not, in context with a man's general condition, the assaults of nature otherwise on his body, his nervous system, hereditary, etc.)

The PT boat accident was disastrous for Kennedy. As any doctor will tell you Addison's usually occurs or returns with a vengeance following any particular stress, physical or mental, on the body. (Addison's often appears in a woman on the heels of a particularly traumatic divorce, for example)

Kennedy's eyes, his skin, his back were all seriously involved in the summer of '63. Kennedy told Cushing that he (Kennedy) did not think he had long to live.

Are these things important? I think they are. Some of these items are helping keep shut the mouths of loyal JFK lieutenants.

Some of these facts are responsible for the secrecy involving the autopsy and the pictures. Kennedy had an unhealed hole in his back. The family is sensitive on all these things. Must close. Love, S.