

10 November 1971

Dear Jerry,

I think that you can feel pleased at the outcome of your correspondence with Geoffrey Wolff, which confirms my impression that he is a decent guy and also that you can catch more flies with sugar.

I read the two segments of your article on the NY Times with great interest and found them well-written and well-argued, but the first segment distinctly stronger than the second. There are a few spelling errors--for example, last paragraph of first page, line 5, should be aligned; and page 2, last paragraph, lines 3 and 4, what seems to be an incomplete sentence (unless "But" is really "but"). The only thought that occurs to me, although I do not have strong feelings about it, is that you might want to shorten your exposition of the single-bullet theory (pages 3 and 4) by transferring the details to a footnote--starting with "The Zapruder film...had revealed" down to "A delayed reaction...appears impossible."

The segment on John Leonard's review would be stronger, I think, if you discussed it not so much in terms of Palmer's letter and editorializing in book reviews as in terms of systematic presentation of material promoting the WR and suppression or burying material that discredits it (cf., my letter to Salisbury comparing the space and prominence given to the release of the Fisher panel report with the coverage of Wacht's testimony before Judge Halleck, if you are not planning to use that letter elsewhere in your article). Incidentally, at the end of the segment, where you quote Lehmann-Haupt characterizing Oswald as an assassin, you might wish to recall the NY Times editorial in the early days, sometime in 1964 perhaps, regretting that it had termed Oswald "the assassin" and vowing in future to give him his due by using "The alleged assassin"--a pledge that has since been systematically and continuously violated.

Of course, my suggestion in the preceding paragraph may be invalidated by the parts of your article that I have not seen yet; if so, disregard. My reaction is very favorable and positive and I look forward to seeing the complete article.

I am increasingly inundated with urgent work at the UN, as is usual during the General Assembly, complicated this year by the momentous decision on China. I mention this only in case I should be unable to reply promptly or the like in the next few months, so that you will understand that it is only a crushing workload and not discourtesy.

All the best,

As ever,