

Dear Mr. Hirsch
Director
West. Retreat Prof.
New School

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Welcome back. Four hundred and seventy three years after Magellan you and Edna circumnavigated the earth. The explorer's expedition took three years to sail round the world; your and Edna's cruise only some ninety days. Magellan was killed in a skirmish in the Philippines; you both returned safely. Some would say these differences denote progress. I see a deeper significance. With wisdom vouchsafed by increasing age I detect the lovely artistry of Clio, mistress of historians, a pardonable lady whose unvarying custom, to our delight, is the contrivance of ironic symmetry in human affairs, large and small. Magellan sailed in the dawn of the capitalist era, you and Edna in its twilight when its outposts are falling like upset dominoes.

As always, lady Clio was busy while you were away. What she wrought world wide you very likely learned aboard ship. But I think, probably, you were not made aware abroad of two of her lesser works here at home. One involves the psychiatrist Renato Martino. Possibly, you remember when we spoke in your office in the late winter of 1971 - it was the last time we met - you explained to me no one in the I.R.P. was interested in the assassination of President Kennedy; and to convince me you introduced me to a member, a church, whose name I no longer recall. I am sure of your confirmation of your opinion

was as it turned out, an unintentional prelude to the news his son had coauthored a book with Hartogs. My account, I remember well, of the exposure of Hartogs, by Warren Commission Ex-Counsel Wesley Liebler, at a session of the American Psychiatric Association in New York City in 1965, as one who had falsely claimed, as reported in Life magazine after Kennedy was killed, to have recognized homicidal tendencies in Oswald at age 14, when he was a schoolboy truant and to have recommended institutionalization, not with non-responsive silence. After ten years, an infinitely small lapse of time to the muse of history, Clio, it seems, took a hand in the affair. Hartogs is sued, the press reported, for more money - \$350,000 - than he made by defaming a murdered man; charged with sexual misconduct with a patient. I hope your member's son escapes more luckily than Oswald from his association with Hartogs.

Clio's second essay is sportive political theater. Suddenly, a resurgent tide of interest in recent political assassinations is sweeping the country. Television and radio programs, lectures on college campuses, articles in publications, books, a play in gestation, new private investigatory groups attest a growing concern, principally in the killings of the Kennedys. The reasons are obscure. The Warren Commission is long discredited. Edward Kennedy has expressed fear of being killed should he contend for the presidency. But no new assassination of a prominent political figure has shaken the country and the government as in the Sixties. Not despite a number of important revelations.

as definitive new evidence, either way, been produced in any quarter.

It is possible disclosure of the assassinations carried out by the CIA, long a target of ineffective accusatory arrows, abroad, has created opportunity to identify it as the executioner of the Kennedys, Martin Luther King, and Malcom X. That is the hope underlying much of the clamor for Congress to reopen the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy, focusing now on the resolution introduced in the House by - the hand of Ops! - Representative Gonzalez, of Texas, whose inclination to attribute Kennedy's murder to Castro encourages the political right in the U.S. to pursue its never-abandoned purpose to expand the finding of Oswald's guilt into a communist conspiracy.

In the mean time, neap tide is washing up a flotam of jettisoned photographic evidence, documentation of doubtful import, navigators without political compass, and unable-bodied seamen some of whose papers may be forged.

In the west coast Professor Peter Dale Scott is preparing to give a course at Berkeley on political assassinations. You may recall that Attorney Joseph Lobenzal gave one on the Warren Report at the New School in 1965, which, incidentally, I attended. If there is interest now in the I R P in the artificial murder mysteries, the political assassinations, of the sixties you may find the accompanying outline for a research workshop useful in steering a safe course over a sea of confusion to beach port

in historical truth. If you want to discuss it I am at
your disposal.

If, on the other hand, you find interest lacking you may
want to file the outline for future use. "If it be now, 'tis not
to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet
it will come - the readiness is all."

My best to Edna now and in the time to come.

Cheerfully,
Thomas