

June 12, 1975

Dear Lifton,

You can see from the accompanying material why I am late in responding to your last letter. My thought in sending you material relating to the availability and authenticity of transcripts of Warren Commission executive sessions, is that as the pioneering publisher of the Sighttext edition of a number of them, you might - should - be interested in completion of the work you had begun but, apparently, not pursued. It is possible, too, you may have material to assist those who are striving to round out and authenticate the historical record; or you may want to make helpful critical comment on that attempt. Either way, collaborative contributions of data and interest from each of us to the other - and to others - can speed the work.

Moreover, I am mindful you have been tilling in the assassination vineyards for more than ten years and must have raised one or more crops since Sighttext was pressed in 1968. As relatively early - so quickly does time pass - as March 30, 1967 you wrote to me, "I have strong opinions about the plot being a high level right wing domestic conspiracy, but I think that is the wrong place to start. I'm not out to write political analyses of the whole affair." You preferred to "apply myself in the area of attempting to solve various aspects of the 'how-done-it'." Very modest on your part, but not my cup of tea. Nevertheless we discussed - by letter - the speed of Zapruder's camera in 1967; and you commented critically on problems facing the Warren Commission and on Garrison's investigation also in 1967. On May 2 of the following year you wrote, offhandedly, "I'm getting more and more interested in the political end of this thing." At the time, however, you were preparing Sighttext which you offered for sale at the end of May and with which you were preoccupied for months afterward.

After that nothing more from you for more than four years. A phone call from Long Island in October 1972 after your trip to Washington from home in Los Angeles to meet Dr. West who examined the autopsy photographs and X-rays in the Archives. A letter about what someone said about you, "drafted back in December," but dated 3/30/73. And nothing in reply to my response of April 8, 1973 in which I wrote, "If we are to have a correspondence let it be about substantive & things, not subjective trivia. Let us begin..."

Our correspondence resumed a month ago, on my initiative, in the course of my effort to get hold of the complete record of Warren Commission executive sessions. What was your reaction? You were helpful in correcting a mistake I had made, for which I am grateful. And then, alas, you devoted an entire letter to a babble about implications casting suspicion on your motives and imputing evil conduct to you in 1968.

Truthfully, I don't know what it's all about. I plead guilty or innocent according to your need. But do not expect me to demean myself and you by wallowing in this miasmic mud. If, as I suspect, the difficulty is the mistaken suggestion you were in possession of classified information, be assured that I, for one, see nothing amiss in that. I never did and surely those who did must think differently after the spate of revelations of the last years. What is classified information? In the hands of the establishment, our

target and opponents now as before, in the Kennedy assassination, classification is a device for concealing truth. When obtained by opponents of government policies classified information should be broadcast to the world. Those who come into possession of it incur an obligation to disseminate it. He who deliberately withholds it for personal reasons of gain or prestige play the government's game. So, my feeling was, if you had classified information, good; don't withhold it; kick it lesse. But you disclaimed that advantage and we are the poorer for it.

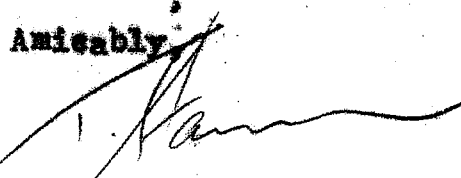
I repeat what I wrote in 1973; let us confine correspondence to objective interchanges. This time let us take off from May 1967, when your political interest began to increase. What do you think now? Is it time to make a political analysis of the JFK assassination? Have you done it? Have you written anything along that line?

Another thing. In eleven years of research you must have come across presidential physician Burkley. What about him? In your letter of March 30, 1967 you expressed the view, "the lawyers on the staff (of the W.C.) must have realized that the autopsy report is not a 'Commission' autopsy report. It is really a Pentagon autopsy report" which was made, if I follow your thought, in consequence of a "conspiracy on the part of the Navy (and probably other military authorities) to deceive the Warren investigation with a false autopsy." As written your idea is confusing. If you can clarify it I will be much obliged.

Bearing in mind the autopsy was performed on the night of November 22, 1963; autopsy surgeons Humes, Bogwell, and Finck testified they signed the undated official autopsy report (Appendix II, Warren Report) on November 24, 1963; and the Commission was created by Executive Order on November 29, 1963, how shall we interpret your idea the autopsy report was written to deceive the Commission? Did you suggest in 1967 that the official autopsy report was written at some date after November 29 and that all three autopsy surgeons perjured themselves with respect to the date? Or was it your belief then they did sign a report on November 24 which proved to be incompatible with the frame up-cover up then in progress, and was subsequently discarded for the official report about both the origin and date of which the surgeons testified falsely? Other interpretations are also possible, I suppose.

Of course, what you thought in 1967 when the matter was essentially speculative must now be evaluated in light of the disclosure in June 1974 in the transcript of the executive session of January 27, 1964 of the existence of a "second" autopsy report crucially different from the official one - something like the second/Burkley death certificate for Kennedy and the plentiful evidence of a "second" Oswald. In any case my immediate interest is in Burkley. What do you think or have found out about his role in the assassination?

Amicably,



Thomas Stamm