

13 April 1970

Dear Tink,

A little further information on the "Chicago plot." After the NY Times story appeared, I tried that night to reach Skolnick in Chicago, but he was not available, so I left my number. I then called Harold Weisberg, to see what he knew, and (as might safely have been predicted) he immediately accused "that SOB" of having plagiarized everything from Harold's copyrighted ms. Coup d'Etat, to which Skolnick had been given access (according to Harold) by an intermediary who was "helping Harold" (he has a number of graduate students and other young people at different locations who apparently do leg-work for him). Weisberg says that the suit is nonsensical, since Skolnick has never attempted to obtain any material from the Archives and thus has never been turned down nor has he exhausted other remedies.

Harold also said (and this was substantially the same information that Tom Stamm meanwhile had obtained from a sister of his who lives in Chicago) that Skolnick is something of a professional crusader, has accused Rene Davis and Dave Dellinger of being government agents (!!!), and is considered a bit of a paranoic. (He is crippled and gets about in a wheel chair.)

All this was very discouraging, and the next day when Skolnick got around to returning my call (collect, I might add), our conversation did nothing to change my negative impression. He seemed vaguely to have heard of the Subject Index but had not heard of Accessories, had not read Six Seconds, nor the 26 volumes, nor did he seem at all familiar with other critical books or with the Dealey Plaza evidence as such--indeed, he seemed patronizingly to dismiss it all as "irrelevant" in the face of the "bombshells" he has ready. But he could not give anything but vague and unsatisfactory substantiation--mainly, that unnamed individuals has "told" him thus and so--for his claims, which seem based largely on allegations by that black Secret Service agent who was jailed back in 1964, I forget his name. In short, I was not at all impressed by Skolnick or his claims, and I suspect that he will only do us more harm of the Garrison variety.

Abraham Bolden

I agree with everything you say about Hoopes' book on the limits of intervention. A few months ago, when the book first came out, he did the TV and radio rounds and was lionized and treated with utmost deference. There were no embarrassing questions about his own long silence (when it counted to speak out), much less his own guilt. Actually, the worst of these belated critics of the war is McGeorge Bundy, who was a key hawk and front-man, until he suddenly became a sanctimonious "dove" who never even acknowledged his earlier role or his enormous culpability for the course of events.

I've been through about half of the 2500 pages of CDs, but have found nothing very sensational and little that is new. I have to acknowledge that the FBI was more thorough than appeared from the 26 volumes in chasing up the films and photos of the motorcade and in following various other leads, although nothing in this new collection alters my general assessment of the inadequacy, bias, and misleading nature of the whole "investigation."

When are you due back, Tink? Much love,

As ever,

Skolnick