

11/14/70

Dear Dick (Sylvia),

Would there were time for more detailed response to your 11/9, received today. There is, for the first time when I've not been away, a 2" stack of accumulated mail, I'm busy with proofs and overloaded with legal work, my counsel really existing close to entirely in his public appearances. I'm back on a 20-hour work day, and I shouldn't be, and I can't keep up.

With 50% of your letter I agree wholeheartedly. With the other half, I disagree strongly.

Preparing a really solid study of this one aspect is excellent. I have been ~~xxx~~ hoping for this, to become generalized since seeing the draft of Ray Marcus' "Bastard Bullet" and despaired since he refused to update it before publication. I think it is good, desirable, to do what can be done with each of the significant items of evidence.

It is with this that I take issue: "I ~~think~~ am convinced that we should contemplate letting the ~~xxxx~~ matter go to the public soon and in some appropriate fashion that, hopefully, will serve the purpose of getting all of the truth disclosed."

Aside from the fact that what you contemplate would not get "all of the truth disclosed", not by any means, I think it would get little or no attention, has no prospect in any major publication - and that it is by no means certain Alvarez will publish. We he to, there is better prospect for response than in first seeking publication.

If there is anything we should have learned, it is that there is the persisting reluctance of the media to publicize anything contrary to the official mythology. What I have just done to the government in court is astounding, and it got almost no attention - was killed where reported. It has never happened before and it has the imprint of the federal district court.

Moreover, such a study cannot be in context and therefore cannot be popular if, indeed, even understood by the average hurried and uninformed reporter. It is technical, which is not a popular form except in a detective-story-like larger work.

This may seem like I am pessimistic. I am not. I am not a white discouraged by the press boycott of judicial actions. In fact, I now have two new cases filed and am, on Monday, filing an action with the judge who issued the summary judgement in my favor calling for punishment of the Justice Department lawyers for their offenses. I am doing all I can to prepare further litigation. This is because I am convinced that, between the destruction of credibility by well-intended ignoramuses and self-seekers and the unchanging dishonesty of the media it is necessary, as a prerequisite to anything that can serve purposes commensurate with the effort, it is necessary to build a really solid record in the manner of the sick society, officially, and in the way the government eschewed, under vigorous opposition. There are readings available, the government has run out of walls to climb. Their desperation is reflected in the filing of ~~xx~~ perjurious papers, not a norm or an easy or dependably safe thing to do. I am so firmly convinced that this is the immediate need I have laid aside writing to do it. In fact, my suits jeopardize some of my writing because they risk making the research that is my own public domain.

You know this writing includes essentially what you are talking about, in different form; that you have in mind a more detailed variant of one aspect of some of my completed writing, which you have. You also know my plans for litigation on this, and who I propose calling as witnesses. I think a much more effective use of such a study is in court, to confront the appropriate stinkers. If they get on the stand, I think there will be coverage. In fact, some of the reporters are now making sounds like they are interested in this approach. One major paper and one TV net has expressed advance interest in my move against the lawyers. I also tell you frankly I'll be surprised at decent coverage. But the making of such noises is in itself a change. One NBC man kept me on the phone for two hours three weeks ago--with his supper waiting all that time. Despite this, I do not expect to see him in the courtroom ( and will be happy to be wrong!).

Kaiser has apparently done good work and a good job. He is being pretty thoroughly boycotted. He was booked onto the Dick Cavett Show and then cancelled. It should give you a reading.

Before we can get to the point where we can hope to accomplish anything but the indulgence of ego with minor publication of minor bits of evidence, no matter how important they are to those with detailed knowledge, we must do the hard work of establishing a basis of credibility.

There remains another possible disadvantage right now. It can, if it gets attention, close up sources that are opening. I tell you both, in strictest confidence, that I now know that despite all the contrary official hogwash and the self-serving memos, both the autopsy pictures and the X-rays were studied for the Commission. I am deliberately avoiding any details or any indications of my (official) sources, for the medium of communication is not dependable. I want to be able to carry this forward, too. When those who have information that can be obtained are better informed of its possible significance, there is less chance of getting it...When you are here, as you know, all those things I have learned and obtained since you were last here will be open to you. It is much and of greater significance that what you have seen. It comes neither accidentally nor easily, taking much time...I have written but one thing for sale in a very long time, and that was for money and after the fact, dealing only with what was already published. I am not unhappy, having been paid, that the attitude toward it has been changed and it has not appeared....In short, I think there is so little chance of making any kind of significant impression on public thinking or attitudes, it is not worth the effort and that what effort we can make had better be in other channels.

I do hope that the court record I am building will also have a political welcome when it is safe enough from those very brave politicians. There are some such indications.

Some of your work to Paul is, if my recollection is not incorrect, not quite accurate. Ask Howard about this. It is not in your discussion of ballistics but of what can be regarded as fact of the crime itself.

When you want to copyright it, you can send it directly to the copyright office. When you get to that point, I'll send you the papers and the suggestions you may want. I think when it is done and checked by others you should do this. But I also wish you'd do much more on it, illuminate it properly (as you may plan), spend some time popularizing it for readability and to get it read when that time comes.

Paul and I have exchanged some pretty strong words, mostly from me to him, but I still do not regard him as of "the other side".

I appreciate your offer of the use of your own work on the dist-like

dispersion, but I do not plan to add it to my own writing, certainly, if my opinion and attitudes change, not more than a paragraph or two at most. There are things I have not been able to communicate to you, but I regard them as much more comprehensible, including to a popular audience, and entirely beyond reasonable questioning. And graphic, not technical. You have, though, seen some of my pictures. I have already filed suit for more.

There is nothing in your proposal that rankles me at all, I do not share your enthusiasm for it as I would have two years ago. We are really well past that point in what we have, what requires no interpretations or definitions, but it has not been possible to cue you in. Nothing remains to be ended about 399 or anything connected with it. The question is proper use and proper attention, not blowing what we have at the wrong time when it cannot get the attention it deserves and cannot accomplish what it should be able to. We ended it years ago, but with our own reasoning, our own assembling of contradictory evidence. We now have something different, the hidden official destruction of it.

Relating to this, I am in court Monday on the spectro suit. The government has asked for a summary judgement, a formality. I have not, although I should be able to get it with an uncorrupted judge, because I would rather go to public trial. Either way, if I win, they'll appeal and I'll not get it right away.

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. But that single step does not complete it. We have many before us.

So, by all means do the best possible study of that aspect, as thoroughly as you can, for you have an expertise there the rest of us lack. You cannot do a really good job in haste anyway. Until there is a change from the present situation, I strongly discourage any plans for publication in the immediate future. There are other reasons I just can't take time to go into now. But, if you do complete it and have it ready, when the situation changes, you'll be ready for it.

I also discourage use of Nichols as an expert. He and Cyril cannot be spoken of in the same breath and he is undependable. I think he is best left alone until he finishes his suit anyway. It looks like he'll have enough trouble with that, and I'd not out a deparation, out-of-context use past him.

Sincerely,