

Dear Bill,

11/17/93

Thanks for your 11/15 and the Cooper clarification.

Blakey conned you and most others. He was never open-minded on the question of a conspiracy. His last intended putdown kicked back on him and gave him no alternative to the position he then took. Even schizo-like he believed it was a mafia job. He used all their money and time trying to prove that on the basis of the evidence there was no conspiracy. He expected that police tape to be the putdown of putdowns and built up to it for that purpose. He began each hearing with a narration naming critics and what they said and then devoted that hearing to proving they were wrong. With one exception, one he never mentioned.

What is melancholy for me for this anniversary is that the press is still dishonest, as it always has been. I mailed you the three Post articles earlier today. The first two are a contribution to understanding and thus important. They put together the facts and did that well. I do not know of that having been done before. But the third is an atrocity, with the most undependable is sources for it.

Halberstam does not surprise me. Most of the reporters and columnists cannot face the fact that they failed so they tell themselves that they didn't. Aside from tending to accept some of their peers, with the Halberstam attitude they do not have to wonder how they could have been gulled so easily and not done their job. As a generality, those who agree with the official story do have a mental block on it.

If from the last line in your letter you do get those Post articles locally do not throw what I mailed away. I could get only 3 full sets and someone else may want one. I sent none to Texas, for example. Dave and Ginocchio got the other two.

I do not find it unusual that Cooper had that interest in Odio. For one thing, it is a provocative story. For another, I think the staff wanted to keep the members too busy. That was a problem and it was certain to be insoluble. So, that kept the members busy- and worried.

You can't imagine how much more corrupt publishing is than you have even a basis for suspecting. I am by no means certain that my problems are now of the past, although I have to proceed on the assumption that they are.

Has it occurred to you that the Cooper archive can use the first two of the Post series? The third is worse than trash and has nothing really to do with the Commission.

Don't waste time on Newsweek and The Nation is even worse. Incredibly bad, both! I've seen nothing else. I'm hoping to get transcripts of most of the shows and may be a cassette of the PBS one.

Jerry seems better than in a while, only too busy. The job he had one on his knee made an immediate big improvement.

Thanks and best to you both,

Herold