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Dear Harold:

Thanks for that article by Robert Blakey. Although he is a bug on the Mafia theory, and even though he criticizes your books even though I doubt he has read all of them, I must give him credit for having an open mind on the question of conspiracy. I really think he does himself a disservice by not reading all your books and coming to see you. But at least he looks at some of the evidence.

Got a nice letter from Jerry McKnight last week. Hope he is doing well. I was just kidding you about Three Finger Brown, since you mentioned you knew him. I have never actually met a mobster, just seen the movies.

You asked about a quote from Sen. Cooper. You should have this in the oral history done by Bill Cooper, I sent you the whole volume dealing with the Warren Commission and the Kennedy Administration. The whole thing is interesting reading. I have copied the parts you asked about. So you won't have to go downstairs.

I guess this is a rather melancholy time for you, having the 30th anniversary of Dallas coming up. The more I have studied your work, the more important I think it is. It was a lot of fun getting together for your Doctorates, as I look back on it I am so glad you asked me and I was able to meet Dave Wrone and the others. I guess you have finally impressed your sisters! Your family is so nice, I hope they like the pictures.

Saw David Halberstam and because of circumstances, asked him privately if he thought JFK was killed as the result of a conspiracy.

He said no, that as William Manchester said, the American people look for a conspiracy because it is hard to believe such evil could be

done by one man. He said "You know, I was a police reporter, and it looks to me that Oswald acted alone". I paraphrase.

The talk was good, about his new book on the Fifties, and an overview of his other books. He made the point that Korea was very different from Vietnam, and seems to have a genuine affection for the middle class and their problems. I think people have a mental block when it comes to assassination, and are almost afraid to ask the hard questions, like why did Oswald have such a strange background, false Oswalds, impossible shots, etc.

Just opened your new letter. Thanks for Wrone's address.

One of the things that always amazes me is when these guys go to your house and do research, or you help them, but they don't give you a copy of their new book when it comes out. How rude.

I do think other "researchers" are sometimes afraid of you because of your habit on insisting on the truth. Mark Lane has hurt himself because of his innaccurate statements. But I appreciate the time you have taken with me to put me on the right path. I wouldn't want to disagree with you, unless I really know my facts. I thought it was interesting that Cooper was very aware of the Sylvia Odio affair.

One thing I have learned from you. The publishing industry must be about the worst bunch of cutthroats in the world. I thought the tractor industry was bad! I hope you get all your publishing problems straightened out. I know this has been a lifelong problem.

Good luck, say Hi to Lil, and I'll probably write later in the week.

Bill



P.S. I think I can get those Washington Post articles locally. Thanks