

Arnold Ecklund

12/15/67

Sunday night I attended Arnold Ecklund's discussion group. Maximum attendance was a dozen people. It ran rather late, was 11:30 a.m. only because over Arnold's objections, his guests, especially Abraham Schuldiest, symphony violist, insisted that I talk about the assassination & your investigation (I hadn't meant to do it for not less than 3 1/2 hours earlier). (Henry Thornley is well known to these people - see my earlier memo on him & Arnold, with whom Thornley once lived)

Abraham apparently lived under fascism in Poland & barely escaped. One Jack Barnside also mentioned Thornley is a man I took to indicate he might have known him well. Arnold is seemingly intelligent. He is pleasant and articulate - the quiet Spaniard. He can be persistently verbose in discussion, firmly insisting on non-separatism. He has 2 young children & a young, pleasant wife. His is a large, high-ceilinged home from which large patches of plaster are missing from the ceiling of the living room. It is also poorly kept.

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One of the later arrivals was Sandra Lavin, Peggy's tall, thin, attractive, mini-mini-skirted wife. Sandra is in college, well soon to graduate to teach (English-Spanish). She is sensitive, articulate, expressive, & inclined to help her expression with her hands. She was quietly intense, spoke more than the other women together, spoke intelligently & to the point.

None of these people were hoodoo. None displayed any radical-right tendencies, none used or thought in any of the radical-right clichés. There was no political (in the sense of party or spectrum) discussion or positions. The general tone was ~~not~~ one of political liberality, as, for ~~example~~ example, one race question, which is where the discussion began, after the P. B. L. broadcast on that, which that evening all of it was serious, mature & reasonable.

Jack Frazier arranged for me to be there.

If any of these people know anything of interest to you (except for Ecklund, I doubt it - and Sandra is not likely to talk about her husband) I do think I changed their attitude & they will now talk about it. Jack knows who they are. He is very much with us. I also think that he can arrange for

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members of the USUVO Liberal Club to do more research. I mentioned the project to the faculty adviser, KRIMMERMAN (approx.) This is a word-by-word comparison of the edited version of Thornley's testimony as it appears in his "book" with the Commission version to see what changes - and their motivations - he made in it when given the chance.

Jack will help in any way he can. He is home (444-5445) until noon, then not until 6 pm. He has a modest beginning of a very small business of distributing paper-bound reprints of the classics. He has so little money he cannot afford to print his name on the front - hence Volkswagen much he has. Fred Williams told me the FBI squad considers him the No. 1 Communist in D.C. This is utter nonsense. He is quiet, mature, thoughtful, and quite serious-minded. I have seen ~~nothing~~ neither interest in nor a hint of homosexuality in him. He appears to live alone in the second-floor quarters that also serve as his office & warehouse. He has an interesting theory about Aaron Kohn & the MLL: they use him to fight you & seem to be going after Marullo & other groups - connected businessmen because they cannot meet the competition of the legitimate businesses now run by Marullo, etc. & are both hurting financially & fearful of future developments.