

Mr. Bernard Fensterwald
1707 H St., NW, 10th floor
Washington, D.C. 20008

9/28/76

Dear Bud,

In today's mail I have the second recent tape of a Morrow radio show. Because of your visit Sunday night and the concerns you expressed I took the time to listen to this nausea. To call it no worse is like describing a mireobe as a mountain. I won't begin to try to tell you how frightful it all is. I'd prefer that you had come to this realization on your own.

You professed a feeling of responsibility toward Downing. Somebody sure as hell should have exercised some. He may shave and ejaculate but his mind needs diapering. Does anyone do that for him?

I read two paragraphs of his book and knew not only that it is a fake but that it is a very bad one. I read two chapters and had a still lower opinion. Of course I did not go farthur. I'd wasted too much time by them.

If you can't persuade Downing to break off al. contact of any kind with him you're wasting all your other time. This one tape I have just heard, the more recent, about 10 days old, is enough to ruin Downing and the investigation.

From listening to the tape there is no way of avoiding the belief that the entire investigation, the entire case, is Morrow.

And Bobby, personally, suppressed everything. Morrow says so while connecting himself inextricably not only with Downing but with sole responsibility for the existence of the Downing committee. And of course Bobby's assassination was by the same gang, as he'll say in his second book, the one he's working on now. He is less specific with Teddy but infers the same thing. But don't let this stum you. "Information points to a continuing conspiracy." This is one of the reasons he checks his car before he gets into it and "I'm scared to death." But he takes some comfort from the belief ~~that~~ he has some protection because they "would be assassinating staff people" if they off him. (They'd be crazy. He is now their prime asset, if no more than that.) JFK also was a lair because the missiles had not been taken out of Cuba. Alas for the money we have in U-2s and satellites!

"As you know I pointed a finger at Nixon, " not only in other domestic assassinations but clearly enough in this one. On this "we" have "new information" and suspicions about many things," Nixon being one of these "things." But Ford was in the ~~dark~~ dark, was exculpated by this new anointer of sanctity, your associate and Downing's most trusted.

He has "named names" to the committee. No doubt. All dead, like Ferrie and Shaw.

But don't worry about all that Kennedy suppression because "we can subpoena." And Downing is in the safest hands because "My people in Washington working like the devil." This I can believe, with little doubt about who his "people" are. They've gotta be spooks or nut-house attendants. Or both.

No wonder Rick did not send me copies of his "evidence" that made the whole thing possible. He says.

With Morrow around - and I wonder about how many others - this not only can't survive - it should not. He is even worse than Weberman.

This is what Downing has a staff for? This the kind of staff?

What were people like you and Mark and God knows who else doing for the past year?

Jim made clear to me that you regard all of this as nutty. But instead of staying abroad longer not to have to be part of Downing's presentation of this terrible mischief, why in the world did you not have me confront it and get that agony over with?

I don't know if you want to do something now or if you can or if it is worth it. But I do see clearly that it will hurt you personally if you do not end it no matter what follows. It will come apart, even if Downing forgets it, because others will find it too rich to forget. There will be no way of persuading anyone that in all of this you have not been a federal agent of some kind.

Were Downing the world-champion dunderhead there is no rational explanation I can see for someone not trying to address these transparent manufactures. They are not even professional fabrications. In fact they are not good enough to be of high-school grade.

(Yeah, his book is not selling. It is being returned everywhere. This, too, is part of the ongoing conspiracy. The CIA is pressuring every bookstore in the country. It has so much control over the press that it is a total secret, except from derring-do Morrow, who dares say.)

How dismaying this all is!

Whether you care for or about Downing and whether the investigation goes forward or not I do encourage you to self-interest and to make a valiant effort. In self-interest. At some point someone is going to be sacrificed over this. Don't you be the one.

Does it make any real difference if the man is mad or serves another? I think not.

I intend no initiatives in this. I also hope there does not come a time ~~when~~ when I'll have to address it. Even Perry Russo did a better job.

No wonder there was no overt federal-agency interference with the resolution. It turns out to be their thing.

Sincerely,

Dear Jim,

9/28/76

The self-destructs ride again! But without a Harold Rose to put it to music. I don't know of any other Harold who wants to, either.

My letter to Bud is attached. With a clip I have the note from the fine young woman who sent this and a previous tape in which Morrow and Lane were both on that show and several clips she sent. They will not copy well on my machine. No rush on getting them back if you want copies.

This is a young woman just out of college, from a working-class ~~middle~~ family. She can understand and after all these years the Buds and the Lanes of the country can't or don't want to?

Unfortunately it may be necessary to do something now. So I've spoken to Lon, who will see if he can locate Morrow and if he is still alive, General Sabell. He knew the Cabells. Their considerable wealth comes from the stories that were merged into the 7-11 stores. (I thought the General was dead. We agreed that the brother is.)

Lon also has an MI-6 friend who was looking for Morrow a while back. We'll check with him. Lon's hunch is that Morrow has another contact. The alternative I see, not for him alone, is that white-jacketed attendants should be looking for him.

I made a few notes while listening to the tape and Morrow's proper modesty as the good ladies cooed and aahed but other than the few references in my letter to Bud I see no point in wasting time copying them. Miserably sick stuff. But his identification with the committee, his several times forgetting and referring to himself as staff and finally being explicit about a consultancy does fairly represent his self-representation.

If as I suspect it does this is the real Downing there is no need for the counterfeits to stand up.

Bud made no mention of Morrow. I then had no reason to.

I've had several interruptions. The last was a call from Les. He has written Burke, Fauntroy and Stokes. He spoke very briefly with Fauntroy at the weekend conference. It turns out that there has been advance publicity on the Gregory-Lane operation, in Jet. So he has also written Johnson, owner. He had had several long sessions with Gregory over the Byron Watson crap. But it is already explicit in Jet that this King material is all the result of their personal investigations.

It is all so sick the corruption looks clean.

Best,