

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE
ASSASSINATIONS
927 15TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

March 30, 1974

Dear Bud:

Business pressures will keep me from attending the Board meeting on April 9th. However, Bob Richter and Bob Cutler have agreed to represent me at the meeting. I would like to have them explain the positions I am taking on several issues as outlined in this letter.

Issue #1: Dissolving the CTIA

As you know from my last letter, I have felt very strongly that the CTIA should not be just dissolved and have each one of us go our own separate ways. The CTIA files and evidence which belongs to all of us, and except for certain proprietary items, should be in the public domain; needs to be preserved, continued, and made available to serious researchers or to future investigations by Congress or a special Prosecutor's office.

Until recently, I saw no way to preserve the continuity of our efforts and of the files and evidence, except by perpetuating the CTIA. Now, however, a new possibility has developed. As you know from a report I'm sure Bob Smith has given you, the Organizing Committee for a Fifth Estate met in Washington, D.C. on March 23rd to raise funds and to publicly announce the merger of the Fifth Estate and CARIC. The merged organization, retaining the name "Fifth Estate", has most of the same objectives we had when we started. Their scope is broader, but they do encompass the detection and exposure of the truth about all of the assassinations and attempted assassinations. They have much going for them that we have always wanted, but somehow never achieved.

They have been in business for over a year, have several full time people, an office, telephones, people to answer the phones, a good library, files, reference sources, publications, printing and mailing facilities, a good public relations effort, full time research, lobbying, movies, slides, presentations, tapes, a college campus campaign, sub units of the organization in many parts of the U.S., Norman Mailer, and most importantly, money. Their books are open, their financial status public. Their objectives stated well and they have achieved a measure of success during the first year in exposing government illegal espionage.

I met for one hour with Mailer and the four principals of CARIC. While they are reluctant to merge or affiliate with the CTIA per se, for reasons I'll explain under issue #2, they nevertheless said they would welcome individual CTIA members as Fifth Estate members. I regard this development as a possible solution to one of the main things troubling me, namely, a potential home for the outputs and accumulated resources of CTIA and each of us as individuals.

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Issue #2 The CIA Problem

As you know from my expressed concern at the board meeting last October, at the Georgetown Conference in November, and in letters and phone calls since then, the problem of your suspected affiliation with the CIA I regard as very serious. It is one thing to shrug it all off as just the imagination of a bunch of nuts headed by Skolnick, Oglesby, Forsade, Weberman, Greg Roberts et al, but it becomes an entirely different matter when, through lack of denials and explanations on your part, a majority of the new generation and the underground press begin to believe it and to turn away from supporting us. That is exactly what has happened since the Georgetown conference.

The latest development is represented by the Berkeley Barb's recent issue, in which the CTIA is accused of being a CIA front organization, each of us is accused of being a CIA agent, and I am accused of publishing my May 1970 Computers and Automation article on behalf of the CIA, to see whether anyone would recognize two of the three tramps as being E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis. The article publishes several of the tramp photos and compares them to photos of Hunt and Sturgis. I have a suspicion that A.J. Weberman wrote the article.

The suggestion that you and I and Bill Turner, Mary Ferrell, Fred Cook, Paris Flammonde, John Henry Faulk, Dick Billings, Fletcher Prouty, Dick Popkin, Lloyd Tupling, Jim Lesar, Bob Smith and Hal Dorland are all CIA agents, may seem so ludicrous as to be unworthy of reply. Unfortunately, what started as rumor and Oglesby theory has now spread so widely that people like Norman Mailer either half believe or fully believe that CTIA is riddled with agents. I have had many younger allies question me or turn away from CTIA in the past several months. The questions are there, but no answers have been forthcoming, so guilt is assumed.

As for my own concerns, I have reviewed your recent correspondence with Hal Dorland and I must admit, I find many questions still left unanswered. The dozen Lew Russell checks drawn on McCord Associates deposited to the CTIA account with the first one dating back to one year before you met McCord, trouble me. The explanation you gave me about trading checks doesn't satisfy me. Why not deposit them to Fensterwald and Ohlhausen or your own account rather than to the CTIA account?

Issue #3 The Documentary Film

If the CTIA is dissolved, the question arises as to who the documentary film is to be produced for, and who is to pay for the production or to contribute or invest in it. Certainly the film should be made, in my opinion and I intend to continue doing everything I can think of to achieve that goal. If it is not to be made on behalf of the CTIA, then it should be made on behalf of a successor organization. Bob Richter and Bob Cutler support my position on this and they, along with Robert Groden and me, are working hard to get the project going.

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Recommendations

Here are my recommendations on these issues.

1. The CTIA should be dissolved.
2. The CTIA files and evidence should be turned over to The Fifth Estate with the understanding they are available to all former CTIA members and are to be made publicly known. (within the proprietary agreements existing.)
3. Individual CTIA members who have personal or proprietary information at the CTIA office should be given the opportunity to remove them before turning the materials over to the Fifth Estate.
4. Each individual CTIA member could join The Fifth Estate (or some other organization) if he or she so desired. I intend to join The Fifth Estate.
5. Public statements and explanations or rebuttals to various articles and accusations in the underground press and elsewhere should be issued by you, as an individual or on behalf of the CTIA, with respect to the CIA implications. I, for one, intend to do so on my own behalf with the Berkeley Barb and any others accusing me. There should be no impression left that the CTIA folded because it was an exposed CIA front organization.
6. The various questions raised by Hal Dorland to you and Bob Smith should be answered to the satisfaction of all the board members of the CTIA. I believe Hal intends to send copies of his letters and your replies to all board members.
7. The documentary film should be produced by Richter-McBride on behalf of individuals, following the dissolving of the CTIA, and discussions should be initiated with The Fifth Estate to see if they would want to help sponsor the film.

One other problem will remain with Bob Saltzman and possibly other lecturers who have been representing themselves as speaking on behalf of the CTIA. My suggestion there is that they shift over to speak on behalf of The Fifth Estate if Norman Mailer and the others agree.

Best Regards,

Dick Sprague

Dick Sprague

Copies to; Paris Flammonde, William Turner, Richard Popkin, Fred Cook, Hal Dorland,
Fletcher Prouty, Richard Billings, John Henry Faulk, Lloyd Tupling,
Mary Ferrell, Robert Smith, James Lesar, Robert Richter, Robert Cutler,
Robert Saltzman, Norman Mailer, Tim Butz.