

Dear Jim,

8/5/75

Your fascinating 8/2 came today. The enclosed valuable clips include only one I'd received from any other source and that one is barely legible, so many thanks on that, too.

I may have to interrupt this but it is so fascinating I'm going to want to try to explore parts of it with you more. And I'd like your permission to show it to a friend who is a progressive-mind history prof (Masaryk in particular) who will be here before too long, Howard and Jim Lesar.

Lil has a new client for setting up books. Fortunately he is in the swimming-pool business and is trying to find the leak in ours. This can cause the interruption.

By a remarkable coincidence, re UFO's, we had company last night, a man who was here when we saw what had to have been one. His recollection is startling clear and coincides exactly with ours. He was telling his companion about it.

On Forrestal, I recall quite clearly, if not my source, that he had been troubled by the buying of the Italian election. If anyone other than I reported it from what I was able to put together (quite possibly from overtime with a short-wave receiver that was part of my radio news setup then) I don't remember it. I think my employment there didn't last much longer, either.

The college student, Floyd, to whom I'd mentioned the coincidence, has done some checking on his own. I have his notes. Remarkable stuff in print if one checks back. I may ask another student to try to get copies. I think much of it was NYTimes but I've not read it. I've merely listened to his account as his notes refreshed his recall. There is no possibility of reasonable question, his jump, if it was that, was made possible when the purpose was supposedly the opposite. (Like Ruby?) I had a very strong feeling at the time that it had been contrived to make it possible at the least. This turns out to be the case from what has been published.

Comparing this with Olson requires conjecturing. But judging from the politics of the rest of the family of whom I know and the kind of people they are I think it is anything but unlikely that he had had a change of heart over the work he was doing.

Assume this and recall that he was the only one of that group with any strong reaction and an OD is indicated if not certain. Now remember that nothing was done for two weeks, two weeks in which he was in constant contact with those who knew of the administration and the radical change in the man. Two were certainly CIA. These certainly reported back. There certainly had to be concern over the entire affair, especially any part of it being known. This means that on this basis alone immediate and radical care was required, beginning with isolating him so he could not babble. It was not done. The man had top-secret clearance and worked with those who did on projects so classified. Yet nothing was done to protect security against the quite visible threat from a possibly deranged insider with the most intimate knowledge? (There is a base hospital and it is but a half-hour to one of the supposedly better private psychiatric institutions. Then it was an hour or less to Bethesda and perhaps 15 minutes more to Walter Reed, both of which have secure and well-staffed psychiatric branches, a la Forrestal. Then there was the CIA's own staff of shrinks. It is beyond belief that of all the many involved, nobody thought of taking any measures. Or, helping the man and protecting secrets by bringing him around was not a consideration for two weeks if one assumes this was the real purpose of the ultimate trip to NYC. That ain't the CIA of which I know.)

I remember the Masaryk death and my wonder over it then. What was never in the papers is what preceded it, Newtonian diplomacy: the every force there is an equal and opposite force. The initial force came from us. The USSR wanted unaligned governments in that part of Europe. Remember their Austrian offer we finally accepted? We applied force, they applied counterforce, and Masaryk went. With him went the possibility, if it applied, of an account of our pressures. I recall nothing of his past or the USSR's

conduct in those days and countries that required him to do himself in. If he were the kind of patriot described and not irrational or delusionary, he had every reason to want to stay alive. (Later those who took over were pretty rough, but as I recall it mostly in their factionalism, as with Kadar.)

FDR certainly is a mystery. He was of an age and had lived a life that could have caused his death but he did so suddenly look so much worse and it was so much of a surprise. He certainly had to have been a tough one to hold up as he did to all that he did. I suppose, lacking other health information, this comes to why didn't he cave in when the pressure was great compared with it was the continuing stress.

There was, aside from other forces, part of the military that was very much opposed to him long before we were really in the war. I think I told you the Malin Craig story. You know the plot to get Butler to ride that white horse. There were those who wanted to use World War II for taking more of the world and he opposed it. His policy was basically opposed to that of an important part of the military on the far east. There is so much of this!

Reminds me of a story. When FDR died another enlisted man whose minor function in OSS I do not recall - he was not in civvies - who with me started collecting a fund for an FDR memorial. We were told by headquarters to stop it. And I mean so fast!!! We hadn't even really gotten started.

Keefauver appeared to be in the most robust health.

(I did not know that rauflia could be fatal. I knew of it from having used it to curb the cannibalism and violent behavior of our helicopter-beset chickens. Ciba got FDA approval for another claim based on this work. Synthesized it is reserpine, Serpasil the trade name.)

The Stevenson thing was always very odd. There is one consequence, or at least a change that abruptly followed it. Severeid was with him. Severeid changed his political view immediately and sharply.

I'd forgotten about Fitzgerald and Luce. And the significant Clou En-lai connection.

The others are all mysterious. How many of these coincidences can we regard as no more, no other than coincidence? All with the visible timing.

Now that so much more is coming out - and I look forward to reading the new clips on this - you are right that we should keep it in mind.

Before I get to other work, a note on the fine young man Eric Olson. I'd phoned him immediately because I felt the CIA document of which you learned via Pacifica might interest the lawyer and was enough for a move in court. Eric seemed unreceptive when I urged him to urge the lawyer to use FOIA immediately so that there would be culpability in memory-holing records and to force their locating on the filing of the initial request. It was a month before I heard that the lawyer, apparently independently, had decided to. Can you imagine what melted in a month?

In today's mail and unread a few more CIA documents having to do with classification and declassification, a few from DJ, a withheld Nosenko page and some moves that appear from the dates as I inventoried them to coincide with the appearance of WW IV! Force and counterforce from Jeff and Mutt?

We've had a washing of the air by rain but the heat is down only slightly. We have had 100^o days and a long stretch of near it.

I gave Lil your letter to read. She is as fascinated as I. This whole business is quite provocative.

Thanks and best,

2 August 1975

Dear Harold:

In a recent note about the Olson case you asked if this wasn't reminiscent of Forrestal. It was, and I not only had made the connection immediately but always have had doubts about Forrestal. I can think of no notes or files from that period, but have the impression that at the time I felt what happened to him was more suggestive of Jan Masaryk than anything else. Since I can't dig back on it, I can only cite a hazy suspicion at the time that he somehow was hanging back on the full-speed-ahead signal for the Cold War when he went out the window in 1949. In terms of time, there is a possibility of an LSD factor. It was discovered in Switzerland during the 1930s -- time enough for even OSS to have found out about it and got to work. We'll probably never know.

Assuming that you assume, as we do, that what has come out recently is only the tip of the iceberg, this is a good time to review other possibilities we've considered here for some years. Three possible areas come to mind -- strokes, heart attacks and cancer. I think these and other possibilities should be kept in mind as names crop up in references to the past, particularly in cases where the deaths involved were fortuitous for the victim's opposition. Let me mention a few cases recalled offhand.

FDR was in bad shape already by the time of the Yalta conference, but he had aged very suddenly, and if you want to look at it that way he could have been slipped a mickey that didn't quite work. If so, the follow-up in April did. He had caved in to Stalin's demands for postwar security, and it took Truman and the Cold War mentality to undo even partially what mischief FDR's opponents were convinced he had done.

I don't recall what Estes Kefauver ~~was~~ came down with (uncertain whether it was a heart attack or a stroke) but there is no question about the toes he was stepping on at the time, both in his committee's investigations and in his presidential ambitions. I recall the look of what seemed to me to be terror in the face of his wife the few times I saw her picture after he died. The same look was worn by the widow of Sen. Clair Engle, who finally succumbed to a ~~paralytic~~ stroke of some kind at a time when he was switching to a liberal line and, as I recall it, messing up the plans of Richard Nixon.

We come now to the heart attacks, far more numerous and probably entirely feasible with well-known drugs such as the one from India long known as rauwolfia which is used to treat heart ailments but which in overdose causes death with the symptoms of an ordinary heart attack. It is improbable that far more sophisticated and easily administered drugs have not been developed. One of the best known victims could have been Adlai Stevenson, who was about to meet with NLF and North Vietnam leaders in Paris when he was stricken on a London sidewalk. Two others occurred on tennis courts and could have been perfectly natural deaths of middle-aged or elderly men overdoing the exercise bit. One was Desmond Fitzgerald, then CIA Far Eastern specialist and the divorced father of the girl who wrote the well known book on Vietnam, Fire in the Lake. Curiously, the divorced mother was Marietta Tree, the lady who was with Stevenson when he died.

Henry Luce was the other Tennis Court case. He dropped dead just when he was getting in touch with Chou En-lai to visit China, which meant not only a drastic personal reversal in policy but a serious threat to anyone bent on "saving" the China issue for possible later use.

The possibilities of cancer implantation (one completely unconfirmed report claims oral implantation in food is possible) are even more interesting and recall David Ferrie's work with rats and the mysterious death of the woman scientist with whom he was collaborating (she burned to death in her living room chair; nothing else much was damaged). Jack Ruby's galloping case is of course a prime possibility, occurring only after he had won a judgment for a new trial. But there are others.

We knew a brilliant Brazilian physician with impeccable credentials: educated in England and Boston, married to a woman from a very wealthy family, head of his internal medicine division in Rio's biggest hospital, who developed another case of galloping cancer. He had offended the status quo by training himself as an amateur astronomer and developing into one of the most high-powered UFO investigators in the world. He had ~~retrieved~~ retrieved physical evidence from a UFO crash and worse, investigated thoroughly and reported fully on one of the most sensational personal encounter cases on record, all supported by every scientific test and consultation possible and available. He is by no means the only UFO investigator to kick off from one cause or another just when he was becoming too successful and effective for comfort.

A third case concerns our old friend Ed Snow, who was in excellent health otherwise until he suddenly developed cancer just when Time-Life had signed him to report Nixon's trip to Peking. This not only would have crowned his long career (anti-climax in a way after Mao had him and his wife by his side during the previous October's triumphal parade at Tien An Men) but Nixon's trip would not have been possible without the work Snow had done. In any case, we know who can't stand being upstaged.

There are many other cases in all three categories. I mention only those I recall offhand. No doubt there may be other categories to be discerned. Let's keep it in mind.

Best to you both,


jdw