

Dear Dick,

7/2/75

A nasty, incomplete note before bed. This time I'm not sending Barry a copy. I have no objection to your telling him anything you want but I don't want to appear to be meddling with him and I do not know what he decided on the McManis book.

Sandy Smith has spent much more time on this than McManis wanted about and before the book was rewritten and before it reached Barry. I have interviewed one of the people he interviewed and from what I learned I'll be the most surprised man in the world if he doesn't write a piece about the subject of money, as he'll write it.

I have located several others but because it is getting pretty hairy I've not made up my mind how far I'll go.

However, the real man I got him to name has four blood relatives alive, two brothers, two sisters, as well as the former wife (their marriage lasted longer than McManis said although it was short). There is no doubt at all about the identification of this man to the exclusion of all others who ever lived and in my mind, except death as a defense, it is an absolute as it can be. From what I read with me I'd be a defense even with the man dead.

I have interviewed his last lady friend. She is a fine, kind gentle conservative lady not without means and not without devotion to the memory of her friend.

This man was not a Ray of Figger man nor was he in a line of work that would have had him coming into his office every morning to do with it. He was - all right - an identification expert. This lady's story is that while he was with CIA her friend invented the identity McManis has but could not get paid for it because he told it to a government man. She had the right name and a newspaper clipping on it. This does not mean McManis did not invent the device, but this lady, who has never met McManis, sure as hell told me a lot more about the device than is in the book, etc.

I don't know what kind of coming is going on but she'd heard of the book from the one man in it whose full and complete name is used. He told her it was very kind to her dead friend. Either a real love out of him or "The Silent Warrior" must be still another scandal.

Sandy Smith told this lady that since Watergate he has been working on a CIA story. (Long time and quite a diversion?)

This man did not retire from the CIA. He was bought out and left after paying off. He was pretty far right.

This man also had a connection with Fensterwald. I had known of this but not in the same way. Fensterwald used him in deepest secrecy on the Ray case. I'm the investigator and he kept it secret from me and from the lawyer who has done all the real legal work. I can guess how.

If we take the simplest formulation, that McManis is an unscrupulous man, the fact is that he knew no factual specifics having nothing to do with the JFK assassination which failed to identify real people. If I were a publisher I'd consider all the possibilities.

There was, again a single simplification, only one "Sherman Lindsay" who was Harry Goldwater's assistant chief of security. The man McManis named is an actual man. I have seen the proof. Sandy Smith has a copy of it. With what is said to him, whether or not as a lawyer you think it is libel, there are those who will and I know that if by chance they are unable to see they'll be financed in it.

The man whose real name is given bought "Sherman's" pistol after he died. This lady sent the money to one of his family. It was a fine pistol. Not far from all the agencies coming in and sweeping up "Sherman's" files, this man had a cabinet full of them. He argued them with the agency. And it wasn't cancer. Heart. Best,