

Dear Don,

4/6/95

Before seeing Mailer's book, not yet out, or the summary in the current New Yorker, I saw a possibly blockbuster book in it from what I know he has been saying for two decades so in addition to all else I started on that so I've even less time. Mailer begins with the assumption of Oswald's guilt.

If you'll accept a slightly imperfect book here it is.

We have and have to adhere to a policy of no freebess with the books I published for a number of reasons. However, we do not throw slightly damaged ones away. We use them when we have them this way. And Lil had one.

If you see anything on Mailer and his book in your paperes I'll appreciate that.

On Rostow, thanks. Several days ago I got my copy of those phone transcripts out and have it on my desk for when I can take time to read them. I can't add to the book but I do want to know because as you may remember, I suspected Rostow may have given Katzenbach the idea.

But I do not see how a federal commission could have been considered with Oswald alive and required by Texas law to be tried in Texas and in public. No federal jurisdiction then.

I think that in evaluating what LBJ said we have to bear in mind that being truthful was always a question with him.

Whenever you can return, fine.

The only Donald Scott I remember is the self-important Canadian who had a gathering of assassination nuts up there and resents the nuts not being regarded as dependable experts. He also gave me an account of their relations with Dave Wrone that Wrone told me was not correct at all. Dave regreted both going there and the time it took when he had so little for what he took that time from. That Scott phoned me once and I'm pleased he has not called again.

Thanks and best wishes,

Does your school have a computer from which you can retrieve who published which of Mailer's book? My interest includes when Random House became his publisher ( I think Little. Brown had been) and to which publisher Mailer at one point owed a reported \$300,000. This is the third consecutive year Random House has published a book in support of the official assassination mythology and aside from Mailer's name I see little to attract sales in a book about Oswald's allegedly troubled marriage in the USSR. Without the assumption Mailer makes that he was the assassin is there even this little in the book?



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Dear Harold,

This is a bad time of the year normally and this year is, worse than usual. Too many committees, student advising, plus winding down the semester, which ends at Pitt in late April, together leave me little free time. This will be somewhat brief.

I think that the LBS telephone transcripts do show that Katzenbach was pushed into action by Eugene Rostow (and, of course, perhaps others), sometime on the 24th. From the conversation it is clear that the call is after Ruby shot Oswald; the call being the one from Rostow to Moyers. The exact time is not provided in daily diaries or logs. It would be useful to know that time since Rostow implies that the idea of a commission was being discussed for some amount of time. What I am wondering is if Rostow waited for the news that Oswald was dead before he called. Obviously, if a commission was being discussed before Oswald was shot, that would be more than just suspicious.

I think the transcripts do show that LBS initially assumed there would be a Texas inquiry. I am trying to pinpoint the time when this changed. It is pretty clear

that he (LBS) changed from an opponent of the commission to an advocate of it between November 25 and 28. I am working on that also.

I am also thinking about the other issues you raised in your letter. Do you think that it is of some interest that the normally anti-left Hoover was so quickly ready to overlook an opportunity to link Oswald to some sort of "leftist" conspiracy? Ultimately such an effort would be futile, but he does seem to be very willing to quickly pass up such an opportunity in order to kill off any and all ideas of a conspiracy. Was he just satisfied to have Oswald painted as a leftist, even if acting alone, or was he turned in by someone that the immediate goal must be to prevent all ideas of conspiracy, even if they might be useful to increase hatred of communism, socialism, Russia, Castro, and/or domestic leftists. I am not going off half-cocked on any of this and anything I do will be based on the available facts. ~~The~~

Thank you very much for your invitation to return. I hope I can do that in May (at your convenience, of course). The one book of yours that I do not have is Whitewash II - FBI Secret Service ... I am enclosing \$5, primarily for mailing - can you send me a copy and let me know how much more I would owe on it. I will contact you in a few weeks about the possible visit.

Sincerely,  
Don

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(or office address)

PS: Do you know anything about DONALD W. SCOTT?