

2/11/69

Dear Dick,

Your excellent Frazier memo arrived yesterday. Last night I was in touch with a trusted radio-reporter friend who syndicates to 26 stations and can occasionally feed the wire services. He will seek a copy of the memo in N.O., for use after Frazier's testimony if it is not used there, and will be in touch with me if he cannot get it. You see, N.O. has a doctrine about the case I find both uncongenial and erroneous, that LHO was part of a conspiracy. However, I recommended Frazier as a witness, provided a brief memo on him, etc. Questioning him solidly is not inconsistent with their doctrine (as I see it), so they may. We'll have to see. I suggest you hold off duplicating it until after his testimony. When you do, I suggest you attend the third paragraph on page 5. It is a non sequitur, in which each of the unrelated thoughts is correct.

It is possible that I may want to use this in some form in AGENT OSWALD when I return to that. I intend a section on how he was framed, in just this sense, that of a conscious frameup on the official level.

Relet 2/6, arr. today (long time again): I had asked Sylvia for any references she recalls. She gave me CES 1335,7. These are the ones I recall only. I have just glanced at them and have no reason to be certain 1337 as printed is complete. I think it wrong not to get what the Archives has now. Do not do it in your name if you have apprehensions on that score, nor in the name of your drop, but in another. There is one thing in the two printed reports that makes me uneasy: the statement he destroyed his tapes and notes. This is inconsistent with the behavior of a serious, competent newsman of any kind - if he did that.

Play him slowly. If you run into a block, I think I can give you a name in Dallas for him to phone and check on me and you can then say 'if he backs off) that you are working with me.

On the old car bit: this is consistent. The strange thing is that with all the references to a car, no one has ever reported any other than a real old one that I can recall. Some time ago I asked Murr (who has long been silent) to prepare a memo on references to vehicles. Perhaps a copy can help you. I recall something about an Alice radio announcer but now cannot place it. Perhaps Hoch of Schoener will be able to.

On your tape recorder: when not otherwise using it, why not keep it near the phone, ready? It is no trick at all, esp. if it is battery-operated.

Hoch and Schoener are graduate students. Both have studies to keep up with. I am surprised they find as much time as they do. They may be a while responding.

On Dawney: I'd like copies of those three articles to include in the appendix of COUP D'ETAT. I have the essence of it in a chapter entitled "The El Biri Emissary", but he had added detail. The British papers are different than ours in that they do have genuine experts with genuine contacts. The Telegraph, for example, has a guy so well established in southern Africa that Ray apparently phoned him for help getting to Rhodesia. If Dawney can supply clear copies I could use them in facsimile, as with Similes in PW....I cannot write Dawney myself because there is a thing between us: the money he owes me.

Your PS refers to what is occupational. If you are aware, that is as much as you can expect of yourself.

Sincerely,

Kingston, Ont.
6 February 69

Dear Harold:

By now you have received and perhaps read my report of the misaligned sight. I hope that it is appropriate and will help nail Frazier.

If I get time, I may make up multiple copies on "Ditto" and send them to interested parties. If you have additions or corrections, please tell me, and I will make adjustments before I make the Ditto sheets. I told Dr Nichols I would send him a copy, and there are others who might be interested. I'll hold off, however, until I learn whether Alcock intend to refer to the matter.

Even before I got your letter on Jerry Herald,* I had decided to keep him for myself-- not because I think I can do it better, but because we got on so well over the phone, so willing, so interested, so friendly, that I did not wish to disrupt that relationship. He might not hit it off so well with another person. So I'll keep him, and advise others to keep hands off.

I have not yet heard from him after a couple of weeks, and I am worried. I'll let things ride this way for ~~xxix~~ several days more, and then may phone him in Dallas. I hope that nobody has put him off, for I become more and more convinced that he is genuine.

When we spoke on the phone, his first ~~xxxx~~ ^{tape} was on the way to me. I play it again and again to detect whether he is putting me on, and I am convinced that he is not. In our phone conversation his memory faltered over names like Carter, Ryder, Whitworth and Hunter. When jogged, he seemed to remember.

What made him reticent before our conversation was my first letter to him. I asked him questions, but-- for reasons that I explained in the letter-- did not tell him why I wanted to know. I did not tell him the relevance or potential importance of the issue, for I was afraid of causing him to "remember" things that didn't happen, or to describe specifically things that he only remembered vaguely. In his first tape he answered my questions, indicated that he knew more-- important stuff that he told to the FBI--but declined to discuss until I told him my interest. * He thought I was writing a comprehensive book on the assassination (I gather that he does not know how much good stuff has been written), and strongly encouraged its publication soon.

I explained my interest in our phone conversation and subsequently in a long, long letter about the things that we discussed. His account of Ryder, the Furniture Mart, the Sportsdrome was substantially as indicated in the published record. I told him I shared his suspicion of Ruth Paine, that she knew much more than she told, and that she lied, but could not speculate precisely what role she played. I indicated Carter's association with Hank and Wanda Joyce Killam. I mentioned other things too, mostly stuff out of the published record.

This brings up another good reason why I should keep Herald for myself. I am able and I have the time to fill him in on the background of material that he knows.

* Herald's address: JERRY ALLEN HERALD
3316 WILLOW CREST LANE
DALLAS, TEXAS 75233
(area _____) 339-1409

I am hoping that he is delaying in sending me material because he is preparing a long tape in reply to my long letter.

I have done some checking of matters dealing with LHO's trip to Mexico. The account looks genuine, and I am inclined to believe that he took the bus. If it's fake, then the account looks impregnable, unbreakable without new evidence to contradict it.

But Herald may still be right, in a way. There is a "Speculation" or "Rumor" that LHO drove to Alice, Texas very shortly after he arrived in Dallas from Mexico. The S&R says that LHO talked with a radio announcer in Alice on (I think) October 4. The announcer said the LHO drove to Alice in a 1953 model car. With him was Marina and child. (Carter's car was 1955 blue Ford, says Herald. Herald or the S&R may be wrong about the year). The Commission rejected the story for the usual fatuous reasons. I think that it is worth checking this Speculation and Rumor, but I have had no success in locating the material on which it is base. If you know the name of the Alice radio announcer or other references that will lead ~~to~~ me to the relevant documents, please tell me. I'm at home now, and can't give you specific reference to the S&R to which I am referring. I have searched for the material, but just can't find it. If you don't know ~~it~~ the documents behind the Alice incident, tell me that you don't know, and I'll ask Mrs Meagher; she might know.

I am not sending you Herald's first tape; it is unimportant. Besides, it is now incomplete-- it got broken and stretched in the machine I was using. I have a more suitable recorder now. If I get stuff on tape that you should know, I'll dub a copy and send it to you.

I am now prepared to tape phone conversations. I was not prepared when Herald called-- a complete surprise in many ways. If I can anticipate a call, I can tape on any phone, but I ~~am~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ may not have a recorder on hand at home.

I am going to hold off writing to the Archives for documents on Herald-- at least until I see what Hoch and Schoener provide. I would like to make a little noise as possible in Washington concerning my interest in Herald. Remember that the FBI interviewed him several times, and that they know what he knows. If they discover that I want to know it too, they may put pressure to quiet him.

I am enclosing copy of material from a newsletter that Dawnay puts out. Apparently this stuff has not appeared outside Great Britain, and if you have not seen it before, it may interest you greatly. I have not yet made an effort to get copies of the three articles in question, but I may do so later when other things get off my back. If I get copies I shall send.

Still,

Dick

Bernabei

P.S. I am getting to share your view of Sprague and others. In the future I'll try not to be too affected by the contagion of excessive enthusiasm, and by the pernicious disease of believing what one would like to believe. It's not easy, but I do make the effort-- most of the time.

very tired

CE 1335

CE 1337