

Dear Jen,

11/14/74

I wrote you yesterday afternoon and opened the envelope this morning to add what I think may interest you because of your own efforts in the past and because of the changes I'll report.

You may recall my strong complaint to Relling Stone when you told me they had commissioned Robert Kaiser to do a piece on conspiracy theories of the assassinations. Well, he has independently concluded exactly what I told Relling Stone and is doing another kind of piece. His attitude is different than the concept of the original story plan. I don't know what kind of story he will write but the one with which Relling Stone began seems clearly not to be it.

He was here until 1 a.m. We talked openly with two preconditions: he tape so he could be certain and I get the tapes when he is finished; and he not use anything I say about anyone else without my reading and agreeing. I told him I want to say nothing in public about others with whom I disagree but at the same time I feel the obligation to give a writer an opinion he can then decide about on his own, independently.

It is not an easy position to be in because all the noise comes from those who have nothing but noise. And because dishonesty characterizes the noisy ones. The amount of literary thievery is great but the consequences are not nearly as harmful as the misuse by the thieves of what they neither understand nor care to. They want sensation. On the subject of assassinations Ramparts, which did so well on so many other subjects, was never able to do anything besides steal except manufacture. Fiction.

Anyway, Kaiser and I get along well. He is new at the point you were months ago, believing that Relling Stone should distribute the new book. He also wants to review it. And, interestingly, when he went to the Archives and asked to see some declassified material, the first thing he was shown is this transcript. You may recall I told you it was given to me for me to use because there could be benefits to some in trouble from that use and that I'd write in a manner to minimize or eliminate this. The letter to me on the declassification is not filed with the transcript.

~~Lesar~~ Lesar showed Kaiser the book the day before. The printer was supposed to deliver the copies to me again yesterday but did not. Kaiser finds the construction of the book interesting. It is different. Of course he also finds some of the content interesting, too.

If these editors to whom you spoke months ago had not been close-minded something might have come of this. If it does not it still will help but it will be late. However, Kaiser and I talked little about the book. Merely a few stories on what preceded giving me the transcript. He'll get a copy from Lesar today.

While at the time your efforts and my rather strong letter seem to have done no good, it now appears that both did. At least in making these people aware of the possibilities of misinforming many people by a bad approach, a bad concept. This is what I wanted not to happen and I'm now satisfied it won't. I don't know and didn't ask what he intends instead. I responded, not trying to direct his questioning. As when I interview, it was more of a conversation than an interview. So, I hope he is better prepared for responsible writing. I think he intends it.

Thanks and best,