

Harold: What do you have on the MacNeil thing?
Perhaps I have missed the meat of the matter.

June 12, 1967

Dear Mr. Manchester:

"Sorrels was unaware that one of Honest Joe's best friends was named Jack Ruby."
(Death of A President, p. 514, in regard to thoughts of Sorrel on November 24, 1963.)

Sorrels: "So I remarked to Jack Ruby, I said, 'I just saw Honest Joe across the street over there, and I know a number of Jewish merchants here that you know.' And Ruby said, 'That is good enough for me. What is it you want to know?'"
(Hearings, Volune Kill, p. 67, in regard to the afternoon of November 24, 1963.)

"His file was in the hands of FBI Agent James P. Hosty, Jr., ...an outspoken admirer of John F. Kennedy." (Death of A President, p. 32)

FBI Agent James P. Hosty, Jr., may indeed have been "an outspoken admirer of John F. Kennedy," but he was also a friend and "bridge-playing buddy" of Robert Surray, rightwing fanatic, aide to General Edwin A. Walker, and publisher of the scurrilous anti-Kennedy "Wanted for Treason" pamphlets distributed in the streets of Dallas before and during the motorcade.

"Leaves Depository by front entrance, passing to tell NEC's Robert MacNeil he can find a phone inside; thinks MacNeil is a Secret Service man."
(Death of A President, p. 279, interview with MacNeil, June 15, 1965.)

This is an interesting allegation. In his interrogation with the Dallas authorities, LHO stated that a man with a "crewcut" ran up the stairs of the Depository and showed him (Oswald) his "book." In addition the man identified himself to Oswald as a Secret Service man. It is now stated by you that this man with the "crew cut" was Robert MacNeil of NEC. Here, then, is a most crucial witness. Here is a witness who can state definitively the time, exit time, of LHO from the TSND. (Commission time for this event is 12:33pm, CST.) LHO, by mentioning this man, hoped no doubt to use him as a witness in his behalf. Yet, the Warren Commission did NOT call Mr. MacNeil; nor so far as I am able to discover did the FBI interview Mr. MacNeil in this regard. One is really made to wonder how and why Mr. MacNeil (allegedly a newsgen) kept this story to himself for nearly ~~two~~ two years? Surely Mr. MacNeil would have made a most convincing witness for both the FBI and the Warren Commission, in order to back up the Government's contention that LHO left the TSND at 12:33pm. The fact that he was not so called or interviewed gives credence to LHO's possible use of the "crewcutted" man as a defense witness, if he (Lee Oswald) had lived to stand trial.

It is also difficult for me to believe that a man as accustomed as Lee Oswald to both American and Russian police agencies, should misconstrue the words "NEC" for "Secret Service."

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Shirley Martin
Box 226
Owasso, Oklahoma

(The gentleman identified by you as "Charles Brehm" is in reality Charles Brehm who told me he saw a piece of the President's head fly to the street; he gave me a sketch of the area. Mr. Brehm, one of the closest witnesses to the assassination, was NOT called by the WC. Brehm originally thought the shots came from the Dal-Tex Building.)

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6/20/67

Dear Shirley,

Forgive the hasty answer to yours of 6/12 to Manchester. I'd appreciate a copy if he replies. I've laid that book aside until I publish all my exposures. PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH will be out next week. Long hours on it cause haste. It is 65,000 words plus 180 pages of largely once-secret documents, I think the real nitty-gritty. I'll send you one as soon as I can.

All you say is so. I can add a little to it that you'll see when you get PW. I left this stuff out for space reasons - I tried to stick to what directly relates to the pictures and their suppression. I'll be using some of what you ask Man. about in Manchester Machiavelli, about a third written, where I restrict myself largely to his vs evidence. I spotted the same thing about MacNeil and intend a special use. Why did not MacNeil come forward and confirm or clobber?

I did not know of Hosty's personal connections and politics. Any usable proof? A long time ago I sent Penn a list of names of appearing in one very big continuous hunk of suppression that he was going to check for what I suspect is Hoover's protection of the radical right.

I do not think you missed the meat of it at all. I think you'll get no answer or one that means nothing.

When I get back on the Man, book I might want to write Brehm (I've got that part written) and compare what Man quotes with what your notes say, if this meets with your approval at that time. And then ask him to account for the difference.

Anything new of Schiller? I was asked to appear with him on WCAU Philadelphia but could not that time. I agreed for anytime beginning this Monday night and haven't heard. I doubt if he'll accept since, from Calif., he can always find it inconvenient. I asked the program to let me play stop the music (are you old enough to remember) with the revolving whitewash, at every lie. But if it happens, anything I do not know will help. I haven't seen the book yet, but I promised to get and read what he says about me if he does meet me.

Best to everyone

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