

1/13/71

Mr. Martin
Senator Edward Kennedy
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Martin,

In referring to the previous writing of Dr. John A. Lattimer in my last letter there was an omission of which I have just learned by phone. A copy is on its way to me. As soon as I receive it I will send it to you. It is not an original article he wrote but an illustrated letter-to-the-editor in a 1970 issue of Medical World News, apparently in response to an expression of professional disbelief of something he had written, probably one of the things I did quote.

It is become increasingly and I would hope to you painfully clear that you were had. What Dr. Lattimer seems to have done in his own interest -I can't say and have no way of knowing whether he serves any other -is exploit you in a vain effort to accredit his own meager and completely invalid work about which he appears to feel very strongly. If the description I have been given of the sketch he used in that 1970 letter is at all close to accurate, I believe it will be almost an exact overlay of what he drew for CBS-TV. In short, he sees this suppressed evidence, says of it what can't be true, comes out to pretend pre-existing doubt and impartiality, and says nothing at all about it except what in his eyes at least makes him a great man. And by the most remarkable coincidence, especially considering that he appears to have done no relevant research of his own, all he says is what he has already said. I repeat it can't be true, what he says. You can learn for yourself, but not from a procession of new Lattimers.

However, this is not my chief concern in making immediate reference to the letter I have not yet seen. My worry is about the political content. It is at best sick and dangerous, ranting about the plans of all called "communists" to assassinate virtually everybody else, to take over the world. As I recall, in it Oswald was a skilled "guerrilla fighter", I think I recall one of many. This stuff is not farthure left that the Birchers'.

You can, if this interests you, get what I will be sending from the Library of Congress more rapidly. I think it is past time for you to learn what you have become embroiled in, what your Senator has been involved in, I presume with no personal knowledge or on the recommendation of one he trusts.

You may consider the suggestion a bit paranoid, but if it is possible to learn discretely how it was of all those who have asked to see this evidence (I repeat I was the first and perjury was committed in federal district court last year to deny some of it to me) that this utter incompetent and political paranoid was selected for exclusive access and what he would then say was carefully stage-managed in advance (and I was used to test the incredibility of what he had said in advance he would say so it could be moderated), it can't hurt you to know. If you have to know in a hurry, it will not then be as easy to learn. And is it not better to be safe than sorrier? I urge discretion.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg