

Dear Howard,

4/6/76

Your 4/2 memo on my letter to the Enquirer came this morning, with the Schorr piece. Many thanks for both.

Without rereading what I wrote the Enquirer I do not understand what concerns you but from what you have written there appears to be no disagreement at all.

I'm not taking time to replay the tape. I'll have to do that later in the week anyway. I am trying to get the fall tape, which was promised years ago. This time I'm trying the source from whom I received the excerpt, where he saw other and non-existing values. I'm also trying Mary Ferrell, through Bud, ~~wh~~ Mary promised it years ago.

To this point 5 phone calls, none frivolous!

The clearest accent, of course, is that of Benavides. And it is long after what has to be Bowley. In itself, without the Callaway, which I don't remember either way (present or not present), this is more than enough because the first voice is certainly not that of Benavides.

On this simple basis, and the Enquirer requires simplicity, we do have what Belin well described as a Rosetta Stone, with the Bowley affidavit and the Benavides testimony which, as I recall, we used in PM.

To keep it simple in WW, I used only Belin's questioning of Whaley, but I'm sure I have some citations there. I'll check when I have to in a couple of days. If Callaway is on this tape, when I can use him, too. If he is not he isn't needed. But it was quite some time, relatively, before he got there.

This tape even includes the copy with the certain "eyeball" witness, was it Summers?, who is told not necessary now!

I had to read your memo while also paying attention to a crazy TV broadcast on which Renfro Hays misrepresented himself as the one and only Ray investigator, which he is not and never was. So, I may not have picked up some subtleties.

What interests me is the simple Rosetta Stone aspects of the timing, which is the living end but is entirely un-new. What is new is the a) suppression of the tapes and b) the kind of thing that seems new and can get attention. I can even see the Enquirer holding a D.C. press conference to play the tape at the National Press Club. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Thus I hope you sent no carbons out. Even Sylvia has as her only associations now the utterly undependable, which is not really that new. I want to handle this the way I know it can work. With all the fucking up in Congress, we need something like this now. It will also help on FOIA cases. Judges, too, go for the simplistic when they lack fact.

Now I also have to listen to a speech by Coretta King while writing you.

If you are worried, there is nothing to worry about. If your purpose was to provide more info, then that is helpful with the Callaway citation. Stripped of what makes this acceptable to the press now what this boils down to is absolutely nothing new: what I did in WW and PM, but I can't say that to the Enquirer. They have to have something "new" and exclusive to go for it. That the crooked transcripts are crooked on this also helps. I had, however, assumed it without checking, so the citations are helpful with the time pressures. But the tape is not crooked and it is clear that Benavides could not use the radio and that for some strange reason he did try later and was told to shut up and clear the radio. The suppression of the tapes is in itself significant. And what Belin did is to suborn perjury, which I'll say if they'll use. His work with Whaley is culpable. With this it is worse.

I did remember the "elgado part of O in NO, thanks. Nobody in his right mind and with a y knowledge of or experience in the military would ever believe that an enlisted man was relieved from guard duty to talk to a Cuban in 1959. And the Orwell.

It is hours later but I think I recall what else I had in mind.

More calls, a TV show and a man with a demonstrator typewriter because I'd need a new one. I have a newfangled (wonderful) subminiature tape recorder he handles, gave him some ideas for improvement, so he's happy with us, too.

What you said about O in NO intrigued me. It has been so long since I looked at it. However, if you want to know the impression that material made on me, I reread those pages and there is one thing only I did not recall: that Delgado was corporal of the guard.

Gerry Hemming is embellishing on that story now, as in the current Argosy. No, I forgot one more thing: that it was White Russian literature.

I do not think the Rocca report is in the 1466 pages I just got from CIA. I have a student, a fine young woman, who is going to read and summarize that file. I'll know then. I have asked CIA and there hasn't been any response since that story appeared. I am pretty sure I can get it from the AP man.

The editing, for which I've always longed, was terrible on O in NO. A minor but one-hunk example is the excision of almost all on the training camps. The documents themselves were great. Included but cut.

You have heard or will hear from Roger Feinman, a friend at CBS News. It is for him I asked you to ask for the tape supposedly recording the actual shots. Somehow Lane's people have become interested in this at the same time. He spoke to me night before last. Roger is sold and a very fine guy. It is not merely that I am fond of him. I respect him and he earned respect. A very substantial young man and a real human. You can trust him. Please do.

As you may have gathered, I have been making new reporter friends. The Newsday stories from the Inquirer, which I saw - I've not yet been able to read any of that - started with me and a man who has become a very good friend, Wes Payne, who carried what I gave him forward with exceptional professionalism. Withal he, too, is wonderful human. I went to Memphis with him last week to be able to help him. His paper paid all but the wallet I lost, with all IDs and \$150 cash. In doing this I was able to forward my own work. I think he may have had this in mind. He stays in touch, the best possible person with whom to work. He phoned just today. Tomorrow he is on a TV show with Clarence Kelley. He'll ask some good questions. He's ready.

If I get the still missing excess transcripts the AP man who wrote those CIA stories will arrange a press conference at which I'll make them available. I'll arrange for a short period in which the major media can read copies but all will have the same release time. He has agreed.

The real problem remains what it was, the nuts and self-seekers.

Bowley, by the way, remained at the scene until after Callaway and Croguins mounted their trusty steed and were off with Tippit's weapon. If he had not been there, how could he know this?

He stacks.

Many thanks and our best,

Dear Howard,

2/22/76

This is a second best letter. I've about 15 minutes before supper, nothing short to read, too little time to do any writing and besides it has been a busted-up day.

Jim was here for a while to get what she needs to prepare his taxes. At the beginning I had other things to do and then the phone started. First a friend I was glad to talk to and then Playboy, which is struggling with the second of two very bad pieces - a lot worse than they would have been but still very bad stuff. This is Sunday. They were to have gone to press Friday and they still have troubles, mostly from hard heads.

Crazy stuff in every way. Formless, irresponsible, purposeless and inaccurate.

It has been nothing to spend 2-3 hours at a time on the phone and how many times I can't count.

The whole thing has degenerated to where they have made some corrections with profuse expressions of gratitude, as with insanities about Carlos Marcello, no less, and blindly insist on the irrelevant that is hardly less bad. The telling argument had nothing to do with fact. Rather all I did was ask if they realized what he could do with their circulation on his extensive turf. But this worked for half. The other half, based on nothing, as of this late afternoon, was still in. I feel so sorry for the sweet young woman who is the researcher on the job. She is the soul of conscientiousness and faces stone walls.

One device intended for other purposes worked as I did not expect. The author has been a friend. After the first piece I begged him to carbon me on his roughs so I could save his face. And I asked no extra pay for it. He said he would and I've not heard from him since. So, once they were past the point where they could change the first six (of 70!) pages of the second piece I suggested to the research director, knowing there would be ego involvements, that he have this researcher, when she called again, be ready to tape so the author could hear what I say. He was due there. Instead, whether or not he did, the articles editor listened and was thoroughly impressed with the meticulousness and precision of the comment, criticism and correction. What a world, what journalism has become, if simple, competent honest work gets raves! What the hell else are they supposed to be paying me for.

Aside from content he was also impressed by the number of times I noted for them what served no purpose and could be hurtful to them. Again, what the hell else did they hire me for and what are my obligations to them other than this? Crazy!

But it has been a great drag, an enormous waster of time. Had I not made the promise last year, when something quite different was laid out to me, and were it not that at any time, while I may hope not, I may face medical bills, I might have chucked it. The time it has taken from writing is enormous and the costs of the interruptions alone are great. They destroy concentration, trains of thought and peace of mind. However, I've made good progress despite it and other problems. I'm nearing the end of the second of three parts of the new thing book. It keeps growing as I write but I think it will not be too big and is structured so it can be cut easily.

Having no typist and not knowing whether I'll be hospitalized again I've decided to push with the writing, leaving places to be returned to when I can't do that writing as I got. It is, essentially, off the top of the head.

But tomorrow will be another Playboy day. It begins with leaving for regular blood testing so I guess until they are finished I'll not be able to write. I'll have to leave Thursday not to make Friday too long a day. Early plane for Detroit for a convocation speech at a black college. Floyd is going with me. If Jim can lean hard enough maybe I'll have to get an early start Thursday to go over what DJ is supposed to have finished searching for last week in an FOIA case - an estimate week of professional time in searching.

Jim and I had much to discuss the phone prevented and then he had to leave because he marveollosu baby was getting fretful. Maybe we'll do it Thursday if the DJ has nix.

Otherwise things are about as they have been. I attribute your long silence to your long hours as the term's end nears. However, when you have time, please let me know about the request I asked you to make for a friend. Best to Duane, Sincerely,