

George
Dear Dave and Jerry: re Matt Smith's JFK The Second Plot 10/12/92

His publisher, Mainstream in Edinburgh, sent me a copy by air 10/1. It reached me 10/9. Matt phoned me 10/10 to ask what I think of it and I told him the truth, I'd not had time to read much of it. A fudger truth would have been to tell him that after reading just a little I started skimming because the larger first half is an uncredited rehash indiscriminately selected from other books and the Dallas nutcase without sources indicated, without notes of any kind, without any bibliography, and with his uninhibited imagination magnifying to suit his preconceptions.

He had asked me to write a foreword and I declined. At first he gave me the impression he regarded that as a matter of right. I told him I had nothing to do with theories on the assassination presented as fact and he protested his book will be nothing like that. "It is nothing else and it is that on the basis of unjustified, invalid and often silly conjecture" he actually ^{states} presents as fact. He ~~states~~ assumes that Oswald became CIA in Japan, was on his trip and that is how he had \$1,000 - the CIA gave it to him. This is additionally silly because that would not pay the cost of getting him there and situated, with no income once situated. *He is ignorant of intelligence matters but pretends to be an expert on them, too.*

He magnifies everything when it suits him. Like the man who phoned me to talk about the Oswald he knew and had not been interviewed by anyone, ONI to Commission. Matt admits falsely that he agonized about not volunteering. He never mentioned anything about that. And he has Alexis Davis on as one of ^{Penkovsky's} Oswald's Embassy contacts. He was rather one who serviced Penkovsky's dead drops.

Smith was very big in advance of publication on all the pictures it would have. It has a great many but none of any real value as far as I've persevered, about 2/3 of the junk. So many pictures in fact that the publisher used ^{glossy} paper suitable for pictures, what is sometimes used on picture inserts.

I know Matt as a friendly sort who has trouble listening and rarely stops to once he starts talking. He is convinced that he sees, understands what others do not. And what he imagines, usually without a basis for it, becomes in his mind established fact.

I add to this pre-walking comment that he says his publishers has a couple of American publishers interested and that he is coming to the US for the nuthatch in Dallas.

Dick Russell called to tell me his book will be manufactured very shortly and that it has 325 pp with Carroll and Graf having hired a New York p.r. firm to promote it. It is a book on Richard Cae Nagell. Last week by accident - heard Harry Livingstone promoting High Treason 2 on a Boston radio talk show so apparently Carroll & Graf are still spending money to promote it.

^{I've} I skimmed and read more and it gets worse all the time, without a single thing to recommend it unless that be a study of literary incompetence and dishonesty. He knows nothing

about the subject matter itself, has simple things that are well known and twisted, like 544 Camp St. being a "block" rather than a building and the Lafayette street door, which went to Banister's office only, a separate entrance into the building. (He could have cribbed that from Garrison's book.)

From the ignorant and stupid things he says about the USSR and Cuba I presume he is of the dum dum right political extreme. He makes up about them what conforms to his impossible theory centering around Red Bird airport, which I've not yet reached. I did skin to get an idea how much more punishment awaits me and I noticed that where he uses part of my Red Bird airport subject file he says he "found it" in my files. And credits my files for nothing else when he uses a bit more, I shudder to think of how!

Hatt is apparently an insensitive man to have phoned me after stealing so much from me (which does not bother me at all) and others, a man who believes he is a genius who sees and understands what mere mortals do not and cannot, and I remember that he has trouble listening ^{and} the hearing when he is told that something is factually wrong. If it fits what he ^{wy} wants to say it can't be wrong!

The publisher could not have read this trash and published it other than in the belief that anything on the subject would sell.

and most indecent of all, with his lack of notes, sources or credits he pretends that it is all his own original work.

He even uses copyrighted pictures without credit and without permission.

And yet from my impression of him when he was here for several days and from many phone calls I believe he is not aware of how dishonest he is, that it just did not occur to him that he is a thief.

He seem to have enough of that kind of ego and other aspects of an exalted self-concept and unique genius.

I'm down, the right word, to his "The Second Plot" chapter. ...Got to be too much so + just skimmed by page turning and when something particularly ridiculous or preposterous caught my eye I highlighted it. If Britain still publishes penny dreadfuls the standard would have to be abysmal for this to be acceptable! and he is a college professor and still a lecturer and a TV consultant. The Joann Overend who took so many of his pictures is his daughter whose field is church music. She is Overend, his is OverBoard! He seems to imagine and report as fact two separate CIA conspiracies, one to kill, by renegades who control the agency enough for this crime and the second conspiracy, to cover it all up. His Mexico City scenario is the most bizarre of all. Oh! how sick, so very sick! H