

Dear Jim, My TIME affidavit in 1996 - Time-Life/CIA

9/25/77

Last night I read a manuscript copy of Carl Bernstein's story on the CIA's use of the press. I'll be attaching several pages of it.

I misspoke myself in haste in the affidavit. Whether or not Hedley Donovan has intelligence connections, and now I'm uncertain but believe I have heard that he did, I did mean C.D. Jackson. I wrote about this a decade ago. Perhaps a little more because I recall discussing this was Garrison in early 1967, end April-first day, and in early November. Probably also later and in connection with what happened to Dick Billings. I did mean Jackson in the affidavit and when it is possible I'd like to correct that.

By and large Carl has done a very good job. Beginning from scratch better than just good. However, I see signs of going a mite easier on the Post than another might have.

He also is a little unfair to the CIA. This was practise in OSS, although I lack specifics except in one case where the question is the dependability of my spot observation and later recollection.

That was a cause celebre of the day. It involved an AP reporter caught in Prague. If not Prague then Vienna but I believe Prague and that an IPT guy is the Vienna case, name of Vogeler who of all incredible stupidities, after we got him out, taught intelligence in a New York college.

Anyway, the reporter, Oatis, also came back. As soon as I saw his picture in the papers I recalled something from my last OSS assignment as a soldier, when I was writing the secret history of OSS secret operation. (It was stolen by one of the Hollywood types in that Branch and was next seen as the Jimmy Cagney movie O.S.S.) In the course of this work I had to go to a training center. Of all the many men there only one was conspicuous, a basic ~~fact~~ ^{fact} to have been trained out and corrected by then. This man had conspicuous eyeglass frames.

I don't know if Carl will be interested in this and perhaps other leads, if he plans to expand the article into a book or if he plans other similar articles. He can now afford to do this kind of thing when it is financially unprofitable. If he wants to go into other media assets, proprietaries and contacts I can help him. If you'll be kind enough to get his address as I asked about two weeks ago I'll do it.

The reason you could not find the story is because it was not out. The papers confused between publication date and date of appearance. The release does not say the issue date 10/4. It says to appear 10/4. If as I think you said the 10/6 issue is now current then the right one should be dated 10/20.

I have a copy already made of the manuscript with the press release. If you do not want it perhaps Howard or Dave can find a use, especially if they do not get the printed version. I made a copy for reading in bed and so I could mark it up without worrying whether you'd want to use unmarked pages. It happens the few notes I made are adequate.

References to Time are 24 and 44, to books 42.

Best,