

Dear Hal,

8/23/95

Thanks very much for your 8/21 and all those many enclosures. I've thumbed through them and will later read and file them as I can. I do want to note one of the plagues we suffer, though. The last in that fat stack is a Jack White article that seems to be based on the Cakebread nonsense of the bullet not having only four lands and groves. I held it in my hand and it does. All that kind of crazy, irresponsible theorizing does much harm and confuses many people. That is the kind of thing that can be checked and does not have to be theorized about.

Thanks much for the plug on your show. When you speak to Gary please also thank him for me. I am forgetting more lately and may forget by the time I write him again. Although I send him some things and a letter this morning and several others recently.

I am a bit more pressed for time now because for most of four days I was not able to do much work and for longer not much writing. Two dear friends you do not know, Drs. Gerry Ginocchio, Wofford College, and Dr. Dennis MacDonald, ~~Wofford~~ St. Anselm's, ~~Manchester, NH~~ delivered a joint paper at a sociologist's confab in DC the end of last week and then came

up. Their paper, which they plan to enlarge into a book, was on the institutional failures in the JFK case. Then Lil got a painful attack of what the doctors now believe is diverticulitis, so I've been more or less of a nurse. She was so ~~old~~ weak I feared she might fall and I'm so feeble I feared I'd not be able to prevent that. So Dennis and his wife provided support yesterday morning, delaying their return for that. Fine people. Lil is improving but is and for a time will be on a restricted diet. Both men were Dave Wrono's students as undergraduates at a different time and became friends in graduate school.

If Dave is going to COPA he did not tell me of it. But if he is near here he will not have to be persuaded to come. We are very close friends and have been for years. He in fact retyped NEVER AGAIN! for me. I did not know until he sent me the first chapters retyped. What a great favor that was!!!

I like Aguilar very much although we've never met. I do ~~not~~ expect him if he is at COPA. Last time several fine people did come up and I hear from them every once in a while. My fear for him is that because there is so much he does not know he can jump to what seem to be reasonable conclusions when they are not and thus damage his rep. His moving seems to be good common sense. But it will probably take much of his time getting ready and getting straightened out after the move. He's phoned me from time to time between home and hospital. One time a retired FBI SA who is a fan and has become a friend was here. The conversation rather blew his mind. Gary was en route to surgery and while both driving and speaking and listening he also turned the pages of a book!

Thanks also for writing PW. If you get a reply I'm interested!

Last evening Lonnie Hudkins, who has been a friend for years and used to visit us when he was on the Balt. American phoned to tell me that he has proofs of

Livingstone's Killing Kennedy. He says it is a frightful, disorganized, irrational mess due in October. C & G would go to that expense but I've no indication that they sent any review copies of any of mine they published, ever. And on NA! I've asked them and Gallen six times for copies I said I'd pay for without response. But the mail and calls I get on NA! and still on Case Open are the best ever.

That was Rather being Rather. I do not look at any of those shows and that silliness I'd not heard reported. With his income, to say nothing of his wealth, he has to make car payments? Or payments on a mortgage? The man has no shame.

I've spoken to Debra Crouch in the past. She seems to be a nice person. Thanks for telling me she might call about those redactions in the transcripts I do not identify from what you said. But be aware that some of those were disclosed several years ago.

In thinking and writing about the shots may I suggest that you refer to them as those officially acknowledged because there may well have been earlier and later shots of which we do not know as for example if a silencer had been used. We know there were more than three in any event.

I've never met Randy Robertson but I've been favorably impressed by his work that I know of. I've suggested to him how he could do it.

I've been expecting to hear that a Livingstone diatribe against me once he read NEVER AGAIN! and realized that it does to his concoctions appeared in The Investigator or The Fourth Decade but I guess it has not yet. He knows, if you see it, that I wrote NEVER AGAIN! in 1992, which was before his personal killing the Truth was out, so despite what he says I did not have him in mind in what I said about the back of the head not being blown out. By the way, Lonnie says that in his coming drak he has Z as one of those who allegedly joyed with his film!

I've not heard from a single talk show about the book. Not that I expected to. But I'll be surprised if not one had been told about it by a listener.

Thanks and best,
Heal

-1-

HAL VERB
P.O. Box 421815
S.F., CA. 94142-1815

8-21-95

HAROLD WEISBERG
7627 OLD RECEIVER ROAD
FREDERICK, MD. 21702

Dear Hal:

A few days ago I did my last TV (live) show on the Cable network (it was the 14th program + the final in the series). I told the viewers that I (we) decided to renew the series beginning some time in 1996 but I couldn't say exactly when this would be.

For my guests on my last show I invited Gary Agular and Bill O'Neil both of whom you know through correspondence. Both Gary and I mentioned your book, "Never Again" + I believe the viewers were impressed with what we had to say (certainly the camera men, who discussed the show with me, were).

On the July TV show I did a review of your book (and I also discussed Mailer's Newman's + Cockburn's). I sent a very long 8-page article to the "Fourth Decade" on Cockburn + since I've heard nothing from them I assume it will appear in their next show.

Gary mentioned on my August program that David Whome will be a guest speaker at the Copa event in October.

1995 in Washington, D.C. I haven't seen him since about 1991 when I first met him at the Dallas convention. It'll be a real pleasure to renew our friendship. He is one of the best and sharpest critics I know.

Perhaps - and if time allows - I can get him to come and visit you when I get to Washington. If you will recall I've set aside the dates of Wed. Oct. 18 + Thursday, Oct. 19 for a visit to your place. I do hope that David can make it for at least one of those days.

You'll note the enclosures and I will discuss those a bit later but before I do there are a couple of questions or points I want to raise.

First, I did take your suggestion up (on writing "Publisher's Weekly" and ask why they hadn't done a review of your book (or recent books). I sent the letter to the editor on August 3rd and as of this date have received no reply..

Gary Aguilar told me that around September will be moving from Hillsborough to Marin (which is closer to S.F.). Since he has an office in S.F. by moving he'll be able to get to his home sooner. He told me that where he presently lives they feel isolated and the danger is that they would become considered "too stuffy". Gary said he didn't want to have his children become "spoiled brats". I really like and admire Gary - he's late to the case & considering his political back-

ground (he came from a real conservative Goldwater family) he has come a long way. No one knows and can present the medical evidence better than he can. What I saw him do to Artwohl at a conference was first rate!

Bill O'Neil (who has written to you about Quiroga & Bill's belief that it was Quiroga who picked up the FCC pamphlets in New Orleans) has asked me to ask you about a comment you made (to me) on Newman not having recognized Martello's "slip". Bill wondered if the "slip" you referred to could relate to a report Martello filled out about Oswald wherein the phrase "all interested parties being notified" (on Oswald's arrest). It is Bill's belief that if this, indeed, is what you're referring to it shows that Martello "slipped" up indicating he knew of Oswald prior to the arrest. I believe Martello is discussed in Newman's book on page 319.

The S.F. Chronicle on August 11th reported on a David Letterman show (of Aug. 9th) wherein Letterman asked Ian Rafter about "changes" being made by CBS. Letterman was wondering why Andy Rooney, described as "quite loved in his criticism of network management over the years", was able to get away with this "criticism".

Here is Rafter's reply & I think it is classic Rafter: "He's like you are, he's bullet proof. He can say those things and nothing happens to him."

I still have kids in college, I still have car payments, I still have a house note to make."

That's the end of the Rother quote but it points out what a shining example of journalistic integrity Rother has been all along. Why couldn't he have said this around the time he was reporting on the assassination & doing all those "CBS Specials"? At least we'd be able to point to his "journalistic responsibility" and "credibility".

Of course he did say this after more than 30 years. And one more thing about this "revelation" (confession?), the writer on this interview noted that Rother earns \$3.5 million a year.

As W.C. Fields ~~once~~ once noted a million dollars can cover a lot of sins during a year (and he said it way back when a million meant you were in a super-charged financial class).

Debra Crouch may call you. I wrote an article for their next issue on the "top secret" Jan. 1969 transcript. I figured out the redactions & why they were done, they want to highlight my article with pictures, etc. and they seemed very excited about it.

I hope your Mailer book is continuing. Among the many enclosures is a "History Book Club Review" on Mailer's book. If I'm not mistaken it is lifted from the "Book of the Month Club" review (a copy

of which I sent you in a previous letter).

Now to refer to the enclosures:

The most important of these (in my opinion) are:

(a) the 9 page excerpt from Ray Marcus' latest "Addendum B" to his first addendum. The excerpts refer to Posner & I thought you'd be interested in seeing what he's written. Ray made only 125 copies of his new "Addendum B."

(b) The Don Olson & Turner 1971 "photo evidence" report in the "Journal of Forensic Sciences". Gary Aquitas sent me a copy which I knew of but did not know what they had written. It virtually confirms the COPA paper I delivered last year proving the first shot did not miss but struck JFK (& not from behind); (c) The "New Republic" book review on Mailer.

at certain points he almost seems to be saying that Mailer is concocting a fairy tale but at other times seems in agreement with him; (d) Randy Robertson's article on "The Late Arriving Fragment" (see page 25 of the "Fourth Decade" excerpts). Robertson takes a very good position on the "double head shot" evidence; (e) "A Distinct Echo" (by M. Maglio) on the Acoustics evidence. See page 27 in the excerpt included from the British publication, "Dallas '63". It is very well documented & very scientifically based. A fine work, indeed.

All the other items enclosed I suggest you read after you've read the ones I've noted above.

I'll be in touch soon again.

Best,
Hal Verbit