

Dear Hal,

not

1/14/97

Thanks for your fat package with your 1/11. I've ~~not~~ ^{not} yet read the enclosures but I respond as soon as I can not to forget. And I enclose what you asked for. And a bit more. I've marked that passage in a new story. The tape was released but the Archives tells me no transcript of it.

The storm did not damage Mills personally but I've heard from him that it took a crew and a collection of trucks to save the furniture in the home of his wife's aunt and uncle. The water got to the ceiling of their home. They live near a river.

He is a general's man.

There is no libel in the "inquirer cracks at Groden. He is an irresponsible nut and a subject-matter ignoramus. He can't even steal straight.

I've been wondering how the Simpson defense got to him, or vice versa. I've wondered if Oliver Stone recommended him. Stone seemed hung up on him.

I'll read all you sent with interest.

I am certain you are correct in saying that Gary is "simply not aware of the hard evidence." He has not had the time, busy as he is. It is a general truth.

For your friend who wants to argue against the Z film having been doctored, if he gets one of the clearer version on TV and looks at about frame ³²⁵⁻² 355-6 he'll see that the back of the head is intact and no blood is yet visible there. Or on JFK's short collar.

The FBI and "credible" evidence: myth. That is what it wants least of all.

You may be right about "vica. He has to be nuts and ego-maniacal. I've never read his book or had anyone speak to me about it. But holding that back was hurtful because not knowing the truth the LaF's got Marina to plug their bad book on the Oprah Winfrey show.

Glad you found some use for the used part of the tons of paper I'm using up. I've done all my writing for years on those clear sides. Since the 1972 or 1973 energy crisis.

I might have gotten a little reading in but we had a visit from a great great nephew we've not seen in years. He is in his second year of college. Weighs close to 300 lbs at 19 and may be, if you are a football fan, the fastest long ~~paper~~ passer in college. If you are a fan, getting an accurate pass of in .8 seconds is considered good. He does it in .5. The Saddle football team has asked his small college about him. He wants to be a sports teacher in high school. Good boy. But it is not my supertime. Thanks and best. and maybe more after + read what you were kind enough to send.

Hal

I believe I told you but in the event I didn't I've been working on a series of book-length manuscripts. This other side is from one that is completed. I've been saying little or nothing about them to avoid the time and strain, and these days I'm not up to the strain I once flourished on, of controversy over them. Some time ago I completed ^{one} Groden's two disgraceful books. It is away being retyped. After reading the first-rate job Lifton did of selecting from the testimony and the testimony itself I may want to add a brief epilogue on Groden as a liar under oath. So first, is this copyrighted? If not, how is it properly credited? Or can I just refer to it being the transcript of that questioning?

If they had gone into those two books they could have hurt him even more.

I limited myself to those two books.

If I had an address for Liz Smith I might send her the proof that Judith Campbell Exner is a liar. I have it from the CIA.

There is little chance Groden would sue anybody for libel if he could get a lawyer. Besides being a certified liar and thief there is the question of how much can be collected, how much had his reputation been hurt. He'd not be worth more than 6 cents in damages!

Many, many thanks!

We were lucky, by the way. Those white envelopes you have been using are not as thick as this one and often they were torn. But the contents was always undamaged. This heavier envelope was torn open across the entire bottom and mostly across the top and once again, no damage to the contents. Not a single piece of paper was even dogeared!

Later 1/15: Late yesterday I got the Russell-Johnson tape from the LBJ library. After college classes resume Jerry McKnight says he thinks he can get it transcribed. I'll then be sending a copy to you.

I think I'll add a short epilogue to the Groden manuscript based on his appearance as a witness in the Simpson case. For this I'll appreciate what is not in the transcripts, lawyers' full names. Gelblum mostly. And of course, any further available transcripts. I'd like to know how the Simpson defense latched onto Groden. I suspect perhaps through Oliver Stone. Perhaps Lifton knows?

Hal

-

HAL VERB
P.O. Box 421815
S.F., CA. 94142-1815
1-11-97

HAROLD WEISBERG
7627 OLD RECEIVER ROAD
FREDERICK, MD. 21702

Dear Hal:

Thanks for writing and asking about how I've managed through the recent big storm.

Actually, the storm didn't affect my area in the way it hit other areas of California. There was a plentiful supply of rain but it never entered my apartment at all & caused no damage. I appreciate your concern.

I note also your concern about Bill Mills. I just heard from him (he sent me reports on witnesses which he was generous enough to send me) & he mentioned nothing about the storm affecting him but I doubt that it did. You may hear from him about this.

Now to get to some other points or queries raised in your most recent letter to me.

You asked about whether I had any items on Groden-Simpson & the answer is - yes - I do & the enclosed will answer your query. It is quite

substantial. The newspaper articles are all I have but the xerox copies of the Dave Lifton commentary (34 pages in all) & the "Pathfinder Personal Edition" of the Simpson trial which includes Groden's testimony is the more interesting. Both the Lifton & the Groden testimony were supplied me by an excellent researcher (who, incidentally, came to my defense when I attacked Mantik & Fetzer for their claims at the recent Dallas Lancer conference that the Z-film was altered). In fact this researcher is writing a scientific reply to Merlik's hypothesis which he hopes to get published in the Fourth Decade. I suggested he also put it in the British journal ("The Daily Express"). When it appears I'll send you copies.

Lifton's vendetta against Groden comes crystal clear in his 34 page ~~diatribe~~ diatribe. It appears that the prosecution must've used Lifton's sources (such as copies of contracts) to accomplish what he's done. But now it is on record & Lifton can't claim it isn't public knowledge.

I thought the enclosed National Enquirer article on Groden was foolishly slanderous (but knowing the reputation of that paper they probably figured to get away with slandering Groden because they felt or knew he wouldn't sue them (too much money to raise).

The whole episode (trial + newspaper accounts) smack of a comic opera that not even fiction could create. (Can anyone top real life??!).

You asked about Gary Aguilar & why he hadn't written. Most likely because he's moved. (He's moved twice & this may well be the reason). I saw him recently & we had dinner together. He had asked me to loan my copy of your book "Whitewash II" (on the Secret Transcripts). He may be writing something on this but I don't know. Incidentally, when we had dinner together the La Fontaine book came up. Apparently he ~~is~~ puts faith in them & as you well know you & I don't. I think Gary places his faith because he simply is unaware of the hard evidence we know of & the utter lack of it possessed by the La Fontaines. It is as simple as that. I had no time to discuss with him the inconsistencies so Gary left believing their fiction.

I thought you'd be interested in a statement made by the Acting Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Dallas office (letter dated 12/26/96 to a writer - not myself). He states: "As you are well aware, we continue to accept and investigate all credible information concerning the assassination of President Kennedy."

I should mention that the letter is co-signed by ~~William~~ Wilbur M. Gregory, Jr., Chief Division Counsel,

I don't know these FBI memos but I should note their use of the word "credible". Since I know what kind of information the letter writer provided (it had to do with alteration of the Z-film) you can imagine what their "follow-up" consisted of. Believe me this writer's hypothesis is absurd enough & he even takes the position of a shot being fired at JFH by S.S. agent Hickey! (With "evidence" such as this who needs a Review Board??!).

You asked about my thoughts on why Evica has yet to publish your article on the La Fontaines. I can't say for sure but since Evica's wide & far-reaching conspiratorial hypothesis may not include the La Fontaine's version of conspiracy, perhaps, this is why he's held it up. Otherwise I can't understand his reasons. Evica's claims have to be read to be believed - he is that far out & may even have gone further than even Livingstone! Since Evica & Lefton controlled the Lancer conference in Dallas it is difficult to say where fantasy ended & reality began (if indeed, reality, was even in the picture to begin with. I have my great doubts).

By the way in going over the National Enquirer article I note the writer's comment that Grodin came up with the idea of the JFH body being altered when, in fact, that this Lefton's "gem". Can you

-5-

imagine that "crackpot" Groden denying in a court of law that this "body attraction" theory isn't Groden's invention but Lifton's & what would Lifton say of this Enquirer article? "Hey, they're stealing my theory & putting it in that "crackpot's" scenario." What can the average reader say of this (according to an ad in this ~~same~~ very issue that paper reaches 18 million readers)!?!

One last item I'd like to request before I close this letter. On one of the letters you sent me, on the back page of it, there was a comment by Senator Richard Russell which apparently is a quote he made to LBJ. The quote is: "a man good enough shot to put two bullets right in Kennedy, he didn't miss that whole automobile."

Can you provide the origin of this quote. It sounds like it could be in the transcript of the discussion held between LBJ + Russell apparently conducted via phone but I'm not sure. I'd like to use this for my own work.

Thanks again for your help.

Best,
Hal Verb