

Dear Hal,

5/25/97

Your letter of the 22 and its enclosures are particularly interesting but came when a reporter from the Memphis paper was here going over King files. I read the letter and then the enclosures, shortest first, and was interrupted often and then forgot where I filed something that I wanted to make a note from!

The Marin paper with the arrogant and ignorant article and Aguilar's response has as its editorial director an old friend of whom I'd lost track. He'll do what that want of him, Not set policy, but Jeff Prugh is a fine person. He'd been with the LA Times. So, if you can please send me that name and address of that paper I'll know where to reach Jeff if I want to.

I've not yet read the articles on the Z film. I found Gutierrez on the block splatter saying what I believe for other reasons but also lacking in what could be essential information: there was a very considerable splatter to the front.

It had happened that the Washington Spectator had sent ~~me~~ Lil a sample copy of that issue so I'd seen it. I also got a copy of the law-review article Holland refers to and I've written a severely critical commentary. It is almost completed and while I do not expect the law review to consider it I'll send it and the ARRB copies. The ARRB is required to make all its records public, when they are finished, and that will be enough on that self-important stupidity Hall.

I've heard nothing from Aguilar for some time. I think he does not like some of the comments I've made. But like so many who know something, he thinks he knows more than he does and he does lack bits of information here and there which do make a difference. In this response he was very good but he also missed what he would not have missed if he'd known.

Judge is well-meaning but he is a nut.

ARRB is off on a PR campaign, as with the Z film, to make it appear that it is doing the job it is supposed to do and hasn't done. We'll see about the medical evidence. I hear they are to release some things next month.

Holland's book was announced in the valuable article from Forbes you sent me more than a year ago. I was then scheduled for publication a winter ago by Basic Books. Which did not do it. Now Houghton-Mifflin. We'll see. I intend to send them when I get the address and the right guy a copy of what I'm doing on this Hall thing in which he depends on ^Hollad.

I've used the ^Holland reference to the Russell-LBJ conversation to note that although he had knowledge of those releases he does not mention their joint refusal to believe the ^ksingle-bullet myth.

I'd let Lifton and Fetzer wait but decided to read them. I believe neither and neither explains when and how it was possible or what was accomplished by what they imagine. Both are self-important atop all else.

There are too many such things to confuse all more, to distract, etc.

All those people should be asking if what they believe is reasonable and if they believe it is, then if it is possible. And then have a real rather than an imagined purpose for it, not in theory by in fact. None do that.

So much of this is done! By those who are less fully informed than they should be to begin with. Mike Gutierrez not being aware of the extensive splatter to the front, so much that it got behind the ^{sun} visors and was all over the hood.

There are many questions about Z that I do not take time for but basic in all this nonsense is that the government did not have the original film and any changes in it had to be found in all the copies made from it. Of which there were some, according to Dallas reports, in addition to those acknowledged.

I see no sense in any of this. It is childish by those who consider themselves what they are not, Perry masons.

Very glad to get this and what you said in your letter. Thanks and best,

Hal

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Dear Hal =

There's not been very much happening out here but I am enclosing some articles which you may find useful + I'll comment on the enclosures shortly.

But first I wanted to let you know that "COPA" will be holding its conference in the Washington, D.C. area from June 13th to June 15th. I will ~~not~~ be able to attend for it is too costly. I'm still behind in paying for my vacation to Florida which was fairly expensive. I had to call up one credit card company + asked for an extension of time which they agreed to.

Actually I was still mad at "COPA" for how they treated me at last year's conference. I never received a reply to my letter to them (most probably because John Judge never circulated it as it would've hit COPA and him pretty hard).

My feeling about COPA is that this

Year's event was late in being put together & so it suffered from that alone. Their form letter requested abstracts or articles & the deadline was a mere five days from receipt of the letter!!! (I was toying with the idea of writing the most ridiculous conspiracy theory in existence I could think of but my logical mind said - no - not even satire could help "COPA" through these days. And the funny thing is that I just saw a graffiti on the wall which read: "KENNEDY'S THROAT - ROSTOW DID THE OPERATION."!!!).

I know by now you've heard & read about the ARRB's "decision" to get the Z-film publicly available. Even the S.F. Chronicle had to publish something on that. With institutions like the ARRB & the S.F. Chronicle around who needs enemies?!

I'm still working on completing my article on the ARRB's performance to date which the English publication is expecting me to send them. I think they'll put it in their August issue. When it appears I'll send you a copy.

A recent newsletter I received from "BACK CHANNELS" magazine which discusses the JFK case & other related matters states that a new book will be out in the Fall, 1997. It is to be called "OSWALD, THE WARREN COMMISSION & THE CIA". No author or publishing house was mentioned but I will call the editor of "BACK CHANNELS" & find out more.

I would doubt that this above-mentioned book is the same as a new book due out by writer, Max Holland. His book is being called "A Need To Know" and Houghton Mifflin is the publisher.

See one of the enclosed articles by Max Holland in the "Washington Spectator". Holland has appeared previously in that journal which I know I sent you a copy. I believe you said you knew of him. Have you heard of either the Holland book or the afore-mentioned book in which the Warren Commission is part of the title? I intend writing Houghton Thiffelin to see if I can get a copy to review for various journals.

Holland's defense of both the Warren Commission & the ARRB is a double travesty. His biases reveal a lack of interest in disclosure where it counts. Notice Holland's mention of Senator Russell's conversation with LBJ on what they thought of the Vietnam war. Why didn't Holland mention the Russell-LBJ conversation about the time when the Warren Report was due out where both disagreed on the Single Bullet theory? Holland had to know of this if he's as diligent as his profession requires him to be.

Other articles of note which I've enclosed I'd like to call your attention to =

First, Gary Aguilar's excellent response in a local paper to a defense of the Warren Commission. I would've added more & in fact, Gary told me he had more to say but space limitations had to be followed.

Second, Joe Backes (whom you've met) writes on what the ARRB has "uncovered". It is a good summary but what is needed are more hard-hitting exposes of what these "distinguished" Board members are doing.

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Third, see the article by Lifton which discusses his views on the "alteration" of the Z-film.

Fourth, there is Fetzer's article presenting his arguments for the so-called "proof" of alteration. I do not buy any of the arguments. Fetzer appeared together with Dr. Mantik at the Lancer conference in Dallas last year & I stood up in the audience & faulted both of them for their spurious "evidences". Mantik apologized to the audience when I called attention to an error he'd made in Z-frame evaluation. At least he was man enough to say "yes - you're right, Hal - I made an error." But Fetzer behaved quite differently & when I stood up & I said I am one who simply does not accept Z-film alteration theory he attacked me & said "Hal - you don't know what you're talking about." There were hisses & boos in the audience directed at me but several people came up to me & defended me. In fact one of the persons who had come up to me ~~with~~ I bumped into at a lecture (not related to JFK) & he said he'd developed film proof which wipes out Fetzer's arguments (and probably Mantik's too). I told him he should get it published as there are too many articles out there claiming alteration with no rebuttals.

The other articles you'll find of interest. Note the new book on Earl Warren - part of it mentions his role on the Warren Commission but it does not look as if it'll be a very probing look.

Anyway, that is all that is new here on the "Western Front."

Do keep in touch!

Best,
Hal Verb