

Dear Jim: This has been an afternoon of intermindable interruptions so my explanation of the attached letter to Lifton is brief. My purposes have to do with Wakeford-Orloff, for whom he was ripping off my work, the lack of success in which seems to have led to their suing each other; and with, more remotely, what Freed seems to be up to. I'm needling Lifton slim as is the hope that it will inspire him to indiscretion. HE 7/22/75

David Lifton
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7/22/75

David,

I note with approval that you are now taking much less time to mail your letters.

And that you are anxious enough to take Saturday time to write and Sunday to put in the mailbox.

It pleases me much that with such protestations as "I decided not to get involved and further" by writing me and "why should I bother to deal with you in any way" representing the apparent state of your mind you were you nonetheless were able to summon the inner strength to write me about "friends" and "help."

He who does not have you for a friend misses a unique experience. The lexicographer who likes your definition of the word as exemplified also by you is limited to the inadequacies as defined by the Nixons, Ehrlichmans, Baldemans, Mitchells, Kleindiests and others of their circle. I have heard them use the same word.

You have already defined "help" bus, saying you have gone back into your files, it appears you have not gone back far enough. I remember your unselfish "help" when you wrote the New York Times about me and my work. You also "helped" the Times, where there were internal disputes about covering assassination stories. You then "helped" me by faulting me for accurate quotation of FBI reports.

The tragedy is that you were too busy reconstructing the papier mache trees from which the JFK assassination was committed - or was it there unseen removal? - to have dug these reports up yourself.

Had you not also been so preoccupied tracing out all those tunnels Brown & Root dug unseen in Dealey Plaza and filled in as invisibly, "help" without precedent or equal, you instead of I might have forced the somewhat hasty installation of the Zapruder camera in the Archives in time to be there for the appearance of the book in which this FBI report and others were reproduced.

If you had not bent your unique investigative talents to uncovering the web of conspiring all over Texas by Lyndon Johnson and Dean Rusk just before this JFK assassination you, not I, might have displayed this camera to the press (Mike Berlitz of the N.Y. Post) and pointed out for publication its unusual controls never once mentioned in the Warren Report or all 26 volumes or anywhere of which I have heard in all those 300 cubic feet. Late December/ or early January 1967 must have been an extraordinarily busy time for you what with all those astounding discoveries you made for Ramparts, all in the work of others if original sources were not credited. How to avoid those original sources as published no doubt is what delayed this letter from a "friend" whose sole purpose was to "help" for a year. But those on the Times who had twice aborted efforts by the paper to do its own investigating no doubt have sincerest appreciation of friendship and help as you offered them. They must have been quite appreciative for the effect continues to be reflected in its pages.

At lack of consistency with regard to original sources is not a vice of which my dearest of friends and most sincere of helpers can be accused. Thus with the appearance of a book consisting of facsimile reproduction of executive sessions (which I had earlier been distributing by xerox) and a Debelev memo (which just happened not to be identical with the Archives copy) there was the Secret Service's initial interrogation of Marina Oswald naturally not indicated as having been brought to light much earlier in this infamous book whose sin was accurate quotation and of which it is the very first part - the book that required a letter to the Times a year later, after its author had been rebuked for a proclivity toward ripping off.