

Dear Jim, Rolling Stone 10/10/74/WxPost's WG reporting 11/10/74

As you may recall, I began to get suspicious of the Post boys when they would not follow the most solid Mullen leads. Finally I broke all contact with both and was in touch with Spassman and others for a while. As time passed I developed the theory that they were being fed, not just leaked to. The Cassidy chapter of The Uninvasion, written as seen as I read All the President's Men, uses it to show that the CIA was the feeder. That, in effect, the CIA gave the Post its Pulitzer.

I know about Fink doing their research for them sometime in early 1973 at the latest, when I was looking for someone to edit the first draft of the first and everlong WG book. A friend of a friend, a man who spends much time at the Library of Congress, knew Fink and that he was working there for Bernstein and Woodward. So, I made no contact with Fink.

There is, of course, much the Post did not use. There is also the sanitized line of the Post's boys book, which required no real WG data. This should have left Fink in possession of much stuff of the kind that one would expect Rolling Stone to go for. Of the Post boys let him have anything they got and didn't use.

Taking Fink's case as an example, I'd say they were lying to what he dug up in the Library and not feeding him hot leads to use in his digging for them. There is missing from this Fink piece what the Post had and didn't use on the break-ins that I got from the Post, some of what was ripped off from me. The exception in this case is that I had copied and filed elsewhere some of this before I ran out of copying paper and still have some of the pages the Post didn't use and apparently Fink didn't have because I can't imagine him not using official knowledge if not connection with these break-ins if he had it. His piece seems to be restricted entirely to what was printed. It has a few more details on some than I had, mine coming from two sources other than these secrets, the Post and less frequently, the Times. On the other hand, with some he adds significant details that I have included in the secret book that are not secret.

Somebody ran the ship pretty tight. Tight enough so the researcher would not have secrets. And what secrets? Those that reflect badly on the CIA. I go into this with Walters' testimony - not the published version - before the oversight committee.

Harold Thompson did not by himself put me to sleep but I fell asleep reading his to me today. For the first time in a long time I got some physical exercise, a stiff bout of sawing - imagine sawing in this climate into November! - followed after a short rest by pulling out for sawing downed wood and pushing over dead trees and dragging them out. I'd spotted these trees last year as those that would not fairly fast, enough to leave me stupor if I had given them time. My stance mending I can use a saw in the nearby woods and keep the honeyuckle and poison down better. It was tiring, enough so I again wandered at my lack of stamina. So, instead of working on the short clips I'd had been keeping for me, which would have required getting up and sawing to file, I read longer pieces. Several were from Petering. I found Halsett's informative and misinformative but interesting. The last of this series was Thompson's. I remember now the big opening banner about this great accomplishment of rewriting overnight and had saved it for last, expecting the best.

Ten full, large pages for this nothingness? Of course they had ten pages to fill, which becomes a commentary on the new breed of political scientists and their editors of the new journals of political commentary. You are aware of my strong letter to Rolling Stone on this plan to have Kaiser do an article on assassination theories, which limits them to nuts and gives nuts and misinformation all that attention. This is of the same cloth. And Kaiser is what kick, as Lesar told me yesterday or the day before in wondering whether he would speak to Kaiser. It tells me again that for all their skills they remain political babies and editorial incompetents outside these skills. Compare, for example, with what I've written. And this is not to brag, because I was too deeply into too much else when I wrote. But in 1972 I wrote what today requires no rewriting from developments and more than six months before this Thompson piece titled a book with enough understanding to anticipate the kind of mistake he and all the genius at Rolling Stone did not. When asked by a German publisher's representative the one of the month of the break-in or thereabouts I gave resignation as one

of a very limited number of possibilities. I believe you were in accord with a group of elder fellows like us, having no direct contact with all the people the Rolling Stone crew do daily, could see this clearly enough, what kind of collective judgment do they have getting themselves beaky-trapped into that kind of situation, with 10 pages outated in a minute and with all that space to fill on deadline?

If nothing else the reaction of the Nixon hardcore to the Nixon language should have warned them he was on the way out, the questions being how and when.

Perhaps in my weariness I missed what is worthwhile in Thompson's piece. I needed over it often enough before getting a longer night's sleep. I recall clearly enough his juvenile record as a petty thief, all those fucks and shits he spoke that he had to preserve in imperishable type. How he began any with a portable TV with which he scaled the fence around the swimming pool of the expensive hotel in which he worked so hard. The Bass ale. His consternation when his story was ruined by evil old Nixon. (They couldn't even anticipate that confession of direct, personal knowledge and involvement would not force sympathy?)

If I missed what I should not have, please tell me.

What this tells me is that Rolling Stone is an over-rich, extravagant commercialization of the young that produces attractive writing that is not helpful to the understanding of their world by the young, that it is far kinder of Establishmentarian deal.

It did not take this to tell me. The Rolling Stone approach to assassinations had already told me it is an irresponsible operation when it deals with serious matters. It can and probably does produce some good stuff, but when it gets into what requires insight and understanding, as these kinds of stories do, it lacks both and fishes out to its special audience exactly the same kind of misdirection that the straight Establishmentarian press does.

Either way the trusting young and the smaller percentage of trusting not young are not informed or are misinformed.

When I went to bed I was awake enough to think about this until in bed I fell asleep. I look back on a decade of reading with only breaking stories of which I have not less than a million words in completed books. I can't think of any rewriting that is required by events. The clearest thing to it was hogged, Garrison. There I reduced it to an expression of hope. The first 80 book needs no changes from developments. The second, almost completed, with narrower focus, also needs none. Not if one man or no special genius can write books this way, a language with all those fancy light brains can't?

If a ten-year record of not being censored while writing of breaking stories is not proof that it is not hard, what can be? If it were all that hard I'd not have been able to do it. In the book about to come out, written before these events, when Nixon resigned all that I added is a footnote on the date. No more was needed. This book has such on Ford. No word now needs changing and none ever will.

I guess that what I am really saying is that the basic understanding is easy for those not unwilling to understand, and that this new breed, its its special kind of infernal exercise, doesn't give a fuck or care a shit. It takes away from its special audience, achieving a kind of fake and status at the same time, and what else counts?

Maybe one thing: that the fucked-up minds find it fun, distinguishing somehow between fuck and shit.

Don't stop where you can't make types out. I wanted most of all to record that there really is nowhere people of any age can turn for dependable information.

Which is what I'll tell Kaiser of himself and his journal should he call me while on his junket they are paying for. And others from whom I have mail to answer, this new breed of young commercializers calling themselves the Assassination Information Bureau.

Thanks and best,