

Dear Jim,

9/19/81

Your interesting 8/31 has just surfaced as I clean up after the press conference. Amazing that only two carpenters could have handled a job like that in less than two days. Their performance sounds pretty impressive. Sp does your's, all that time on the knees! How envious I am!

By the way, how are the ground attachments arranged in houses like your virtual kite? Bolted to concrete piers?

How did the press conference go? Well, if the AP man had not talked quietly to Lear it would have been a total disaster, almost. The Hartford Courant did a good story but I've not heard that it fed parent LATimes, and I doubt Times would have wanted a story on its wire. The only other story of which I know was for the local paper, whose right extreme ownership is subsidizing some Washington hasbeens who could ~~never~~ have been very much. One of them dedicated himself to wrecking the press conference by seeing to it that I was never able to speak for more than a minute or so at a time without an interruption. I'd said that to make all those many thousands of words in a 113-page affidavit and its 82 exhibits I'd prepared a statement it would take about 15 minutes to read, after which I'd answer questions. But he had his own ideas, asked only obvious questions, not one not included in my prepared statement and then not in any logical order. He was also nudging the Courant man to get him to do the same thing. In retrospect I wish I'd taken care of him instead of being concerned about how the other reporters might take it if I did. I didn't know any of them, not one besides the Courant man.

Each time he interrupted I said something like that is in what I've prepared and I'd appreciate being able to proceed in an orderly way, or something like that, and it made no difference. In the end his piece is entirely from what I'd prepared, for which he'd asked, except for an altered quote, clearly intended to be embarrassing to me. An entirely new experience that I'll remember.

There was some radio attention, not major, and the Dallas papers were there, but I don't know what was used. Something was because Marina Oswald Porter called me and as a result she is sending me a privacy waiver so I can get Lee's tax records. The Dallas Morning News shifted Golz to State after he flipped over the affidavit. And WxPost had Gardner off the Cooke court martial, so it had its own excuse for not sending anyone or using AP's, a nonconformity with it now. I'd expected Rick Smith of the Times and former AP man Dave Martin, now with Newsweek, but neither showed. Jim Manus of CBS asked for the complete affidavit and indicted he'd come but he didn't. When I phoned before returning home to see if he had any questions he said they were sending him out to keep Gardner company but he did not provide their coverage.

One of the things I've asked of the judge is that he refer perjury charged against an FBI agent to the USA. I'm toying with the idea of going there myself after announcing I would, and handing the proofs over. If nothing happens in court. If I decide to do this I'll not be able to without transportation. This time I had more than I could use, the Courant man who'd spent a day here reading the stuff and making his notes and a 71 year old woman friend of ours, who is a member of the press club and had to go to Wx anyway. Came back with her and was quite pleased to see the kind of fine driver she became after he husband developed many lingering illnesses. He died a few months ago. She'd also gotten a very comfortable car for him, more comfortable than the Lincoln she'd had. They could afford such cars. His was always a Jaguar. But very good humans of whom we were/are fond.

Our weather, while still pleasant, took a sharp colder turn last night and the day was like a regular fall day, abruptly from the 90s. If the chimney sweep were not coming in a few days I might have started the stove today but I don't want any ashes to flutter around as he gets careless.

Heard from Dave very flatteringly this week. First time was after he got the affidavit and exhibits. Not knowing that Golz was going to be shifted outside of Dallas and wanting him to have access, Dave's copy was sent via him, for him to copy for himself and forward. Gold did tell me, though, that I had given it all a new perspective for him.

After Dave read half of the affidavit he phoned to say that I had redefined it all for him, which I appreciated much. His later call was to ask how to encapsulate it all for a broadcast he was to make. I read him the lead of my press release and that satisfied his need. I suppose that he made out well and that he usually does.

He says they are all well and happy.

I've never met or written to "crina, so it is interesting that she places this much trust in me. I don't recall what got her to call me the first time and I'm not sure whether she phoned once or twice before yesterday. Regardless of what appears in the papers, she has no doubt that she married "ee Harvey Oswald. Her interest now is limited to being certain that there is a corpse in the coffin. She suspects it was spirited away by the government.

I got ahead of myself in the preceding graf. She did phone me Friday and while we talked it became apparent that she had already made efforts to get his tax records and that she wants them only to see if they reflect income of which she did not know and could be attributable to service as an informant.

She's no dope, is quite independent and I got the feeling she is somewhat religious. I think that after divorce she and her husband continued to live together and I've heard suggestions of a marriage a trois. Which of course is nobody's business. Her independence is reflected by her not remarrying Foster when they got together after divorce.

Well, about supper time. Glad you are able to do all you did and all the good you continue to do.

Our best,

31 August 1981

Dear Harold:

Thanks for yours of the 14th and 27th. Glad to have the rundown on L-fton, and will pass some of it along to Pete.

I went to lunch with Howard and his friend. They both were very pleasant and cordial but I doubt if they visualize using me in any way, not that I expected them to. One never knows, of course, but they know where I am and that I'm willing to help if they feel the need.

And I can report that the deck repair job is done, much to my relief as it was holding up various other maintenance projects I have accumulated. They did a beautiful job, dismantling a large laminated beam -- a 6x12 sandwiched between two 3x12s -- and rebuilt it with new lumber which supports the joists under the deck. I took up all the old decking, painted the new beam and all the joists with wood preservative, and helpd nail down the new decking. Where the two master carpenters really shone was in figuring out how to shore up the joist structure in order to rebuild the big supporting beam underneath everything. The deck at that corner is about 15 feet off the ground, so there was considerable scaffolding and shoring to be done. But they did the whole job in a little over a day and a half. One couldn't ask for better performance.

I've just about recovered from the three days of working mostly on my knees during all the nail pulling, joist painting and putting down the new redwood deck surface. As always, the carpenters left a frightful mess of used scaffolding, bracing, shoring timbers and other discards. After three days I've just about got it cleaned up.

Your findings on all the new material for your new affidavit are quite fascinating, but I find that after all this time I have ~~difficulty~~ difficulty in seeing all the implications that I should. Anyway, I hope your press conference hits the mark and gets the attention it deserves. The Chronicle takes the Times-Post service but I frankly doubt if it will use the story if it reaches them. There's someone on their staff who usually makes sure that sharp stories on the assassinations are downplayed if used at all, but they generally play up the fink stuff. You know the pattern.

I have a new patient, a fine man in his 70s who has been fighting cancer for several years, including a brain tumor. He's a former psychology professor (Texas U) who later took a Housing Authority job in San Francisco up until he retired several years ago. He can still use a walker, and uses me mostly for companionship and to drive him various places. His wife is charming, and so I'm able to stay with him to give her a brief respite now and then. Like most people with cancer in the family, they have found their friends fall away, being unable to deal with the situation for which our culture does so little to prepare us.

Sounds like you've had a good, bearable August, for which I'm very glad. The month has been delightful here too.

All the best,

jdw