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Dear Kevin,

I'm sorry that none of you spoke to me before you started the extensive checking on the Roscoe White fairy-tale. Expensive and time-consuming.

I'm sure that in your criminalistics education certain principles were laid down and all students learned them. Perhaps this included some elementary basic principles. Never having had such training, I don't know. But life's experiences also are an education, and in my work I've learned to try to apply two tests to such things when presented to me. First, is this reasonable, and if it passes that test, then, is it possible. I think that the business in which you are involved fails both tests. Ask yourself.

If I'd known that you were going to phone after mailing me first the draft of what was apparently a book proposal, along with his Marines records, and then your own report on part of your inquiry, I'd have made notes and would have been prepared to call other flaws to your attention.

I don't recall a single detail that survives these two simple tests. And as I noted in hand before resealing the envelope, there is no information at all about the JFK assassination itself, which is quite improbable if an assassin left a record of his exploit. For that matter, making a record that could get him killed isn't at all reasonable.

The alleged assassin's son allegedly was told by what is suggested is a fellow assassin that they were used by a faction of the CIA to kill JFK because they were CIA contract agents. Assuming that they were or had been CIA contract agents, and I don't assume that at all, from what you know of the tradecraft, can you imagine that any ~~xxx~~ spookery or anyone connected with one would dream of using any person who could be traced to that agency as an assassin?

Assassins are contract agents? Nonsense!

But if the story were true, can you imagine that the renegade CIA people would permit them to live and spill the beans? Yet then killed?

Can you imagine that anyone connected with such a crime would blab about it to anyone at all? Particularly to one who planned selling a book on it?

There is more like this that if I were to sit and think I'd go into. I've just returning from my morning's walking therapy and have to leave an errand. When I resume later I'll go into the records that should exist and can be gotten from the FBI if this story is true in any detail. That White had been a Dallas cop and that he stole some of the pictures and other things it had gotten has nothing at all to do with the credibility of the story. Nor, for that matters, does it mean anything that his wife had worked for Jack Ruby. No other kind of woman would have worked for Ruby and other cops are known to have stolen such material. Bill Alexander, then assistant DA, even stole Oswald's stuff and gave it to Hugh Alexander, who sold it to LIFE, which then covered itself by paying Marina for the rights. Much was stolen. Even the recordings of the police radio broadcasts were outside the possession of the police and they, too, were copied and given away. First use of which I know was by Bonner in her book. Judy Bonner was a police buff.

If that part of Texas is under an El Paso office, then a FOIA request to both it and Dallas and HQ should get some kind of response and some information, particularly because the FBI likes to keep tabs on and disclose things like this. It helps them look better, as they see it, and they keep more records on such thing and often spend more time on them.

Actually, they keep their own nutty stuff and I've gotten some. <sup>Like</sup> the enormous

amount of work they did when someone wrote Hoover after seeing the Galt name Ray used and the Starvo, which he made up by accident, suggesting an ayn Rand connection. FBIHQ actually went ape over that. They put a ~~team~~ crew of SAs to work on everything she ever wrote. They read it for leads and they indexed all! and disclosed it to me. They are more likely to hide than to destroy. On something like the White story they are likely to have debunked, and that can be useful. (Starvo is a name Rand used in a character.)

I've no clear recollection of the number of such things claimed to solve the JFK case it got and kept and debunked but there was a rather large amount of this in the MURKIN files. Dozens and dozens. Most commonly from those who sought advantage and of these mostly men in jail or those under indictment, hoping for benefit from their concoctions. Your committee, and I do not mean this as a personal putdown because you were not like and did not think like Blakey and his flunkies, went big for one, that St. Louis conspiracy ~~concoction~~ concoction from the criminal who did benefit from it. Got off.

All these stories have something in common, meaning like the one Blakey went for. There is, as with White, some means of making a connection. Take the case of the crook George McMillan went for lock, stock and barrel in his book, Curtis. He made the whole thing up and the FBI's investigation wiped it out. But George did not have that.

I wasted a great amount of time on Jerry Ray because he is a blabber and in the futile hope that Jimmy may have told him something that might be of interest. He had a connection: he was the one person Jimmy could get to run errands and do other things.

Of what can be compared with this White business, I went for only one and after a very considerable amount of time I still don't know if any part was for real. This was a then young woman, 20-21, and she did have real connections. Remember the two boys in Bringuier's store when Oswald was there? Philip Geraci III and Vance Blalock. She was a friend of theirs. Through her I got to Geraci's parents and then to him and got much that, had Garrison not be an egomaniacal nut, he could have done much with. I got enough for him to nail Bringuier for perjury, for example. With documentary proof, some in Bringuier's own writing. And she knew an enormous amount. I never could figure out how she knew what she did. She was the most gifted and the most uninhibited liar I ever knew. But what she told me that - checked out did check out. This was probably because what I decided to check is what did not seem to be too far out. She was a narcfink and I suspect that the N.O. cops kept her supplied with whatever she took in return for her services. I actually found her in the office of the chief of the narcotics squad. She also gave info. to the feds. They confirmed it to me. But in the end, because of the kind of person she was, with a vivid imagination and a gift for gab, for the kind of lingo we all know Dean Adams Andrews for, what I have is what I'm not the kind of writer to handle, what would make a great novel with movie possibilities. I've kept all of that separate for the future, for the offchance that it might make a valuable literary property.

She claimed a CIA connection and there was much that could be taken to confirm it but I was never convinced of it. Yet some of the things she did know correctly have no other apparent explanation.

Before returning to records that should be available under FOIA, one story about her. Early one Good Friday morning, she'd come to my motel room ~~early~~ and we'd had breakfast, at the Fountainbleau, and returned to my room and were talking. The phone rang. It was Garrison's chief investigator, Louis Von, and he asked me if she were with me. He had Jim Alcock, one of Garrison's top assistants, with him. Garrison had told them to get her and me and to see if she could take us to the Cuban training camp she claimed to have been to. We joined them in the coffee shop and were drinking coffee and talking when she excused herself, saying she had to go to the little girls' room. I've skipped something. We'd been talking about the CIA and she'd said some things about it in New Orleans but had said she could not remember the name of the station chief. Now it wasn't at all common knowledge that the CIA had a covert operation there and most people were not aware that it did. That it had a Domestic Contact office there was in the phone book, of course. Well, she pranced

a few feet out of the coffee shop on her way to the ladies room when she turned around, came back with a big smile on her face, and said, "I remember his name. It is Leake." And that was his name.

She had at 20 or 21 a larger collection of credit cards than I'd ever seen. Or have since. She claimed they were part of her CIA work. She had business credit cards, too, including one for an art gallery!

Well, if the FBI did know about the White story, as this summary says it did, and did have a copy of his journal, it undoubtedly did some checking. It would have confirmed his Marines career and his Dallas police employment. It would have had special interest in the wholesale theft of JFK assassination evidence. It would have checked to see if in the Marines, especially at Atsugi air base, they had been or could have been associated or worked together. This and more would have been before the general JFK assassination headquarters records releases and the HQ copies should have been included in those releases. Dallas undoubtedly would have had records, if only as the Office of Origin, and they would have been within my then ongoing litigation and would have been disclosed to me with them. There is no gap in what was disclosed to me that could explain any withholding of them. They would have been included in the records disclosed to the Church committee. (The FBI's code name for that was Senstudy, by the way.) And your committee could have gotten them from the FBI if it had asked. Your Philip Dale Jordan would have been questioned and there would have been FD302s on the questioning, and if it had had the journal, there would have been FD340 envelopes on it. At the least.

Can you imagine the FBI sitting on something like this and withholding it from two Congressional investigations? Too much danger of getting itself in serious trouble if it did. And why would it want to keep anything like that secret? Particularly when it had this long rivalry with the CIA.

Reminds me: Allan Sweatt, the sheriff's chief criminal deputy, also had quite a collection of pictures and other JFK assassination materials. He told me so himself. Even told me where he had them. In the presence of one of his deputies.

What makes more sense to me is that White's son Rick, knowing that his mother had worked for Ruby and his father had been a cop and stolen all he had stolen, and knowing that his father, as a Marine, had been in Japan when Oswald was, seeing the commercial possibilities if he could pull the con, made it all up. If the father hadn't.

Before I end, another story about this chick that relates to credibility. We'd ~~get~~ gotten into an expensive car, the four of us, when we left the Fountainbleau, and had started to drive toward the bridge across the lake, to St. ~~Tammany~~ Tammany Parish (whose police, by the way, did give me pictures of one of the Cuban camps, took them for me and mailed them to me) and she asked Ivon and Alcock, who were in the front seat, "Can you still smell the stuff when it rains?" That blew their minds! They asked her how she knew. It turned out the car had been confiscated from a dope dealer and that when it rained some hidden dope that the police had not been able to locate did yield an odor. She merely smiled and said she knew him well, hated him for a trick he had played on her, and recognized the car as soon as she saw it.

She did not take us to the camp she said she'd been to and I believe she'd made that story up. But I did go back later myself and got the real story on the so-called camp at the McLaney place. The one that was raided. If you've forgotten, it was owned by the brother of the tennis star, the brother who was a mafia type involved in pre-Castro gambling in Cuba...I also found Ricardo Davis' girlfriend and from her got a first-person account of their mad dash to warn his guys that there was danger of a raid. And her husband, who also provided me with information, was a sheriff's deputy there. This is to add to what I said about the fact that there are coincidences.

Good luck!

*Harold*