

Dear Jerry,

1/20/61

If I were to write an article or review of Lifton's book I'd title it "Best Evidence." It would be, as the book is not. I've finished reading it, a joyless chore.

I've marked it up and annotated it in the event I have need to refer back later.

It is a deliberately dishonest job, from beginning to end. It is built around a deliberate and glaring omission of what Lifton knows. There is no possibility of what he begins by theorizing happened and ends up treating as having happened, without question. Throughout there is an overabundance of proofs of dishonesty of intent, as it relates to the evidence and as it relates to Lifton as a person.

For anyone familiar with the assassination literature it is immediately apparent that he presents as his own work - "I discovered" - what is well known in the literature, most commonly my publication. Anyone who fails, with all those notes and footnotes, to acknowledge prior publication of what he claims as his own, just isn't honest.

A little while ago a man called me from California, a stranger. He said he'd just finished reading Lifton's book and he just had to call me and tell me how much he and many he knows are indebted to me for what I did. He called it "Herculean." He recalled having read most of what is not crap in my Post Mortem.

I have no intention of going off on my own on this. It isn't worth the time for me, particularly not now. If a useful purpose were to be served, or if I were to be paid enough to justify the time and suffering (or reliving all this monstrous stuff and so sick and corrupt a person), that might be different.

I've assumed you had a purpose in asking me questions. You haven't said what.

There isn't a single significant fact in all those pages that is new. The conjecture, and baseless conjecture is all he has, isn't reasonable and isn't tenable from the unquestioned and unquestionable fact that any assassination expert must know. Next, however, one's't read the crap as I did and may miss most of it.

For all practical purposes, this could be a spook "black book."

I doubt the book will do well, for all the promos and ads. I believe a paperback will be a disaster. Best wishes,