

Mr. Jim Anderson
38 Wellesley Circle
Glen Echo, Md. 20812

2/26/87

Dear Jim,

The part of the "Manipulation for the Masses" chapter you sent is, I think, quite good. I particularly enjoyed the Haig opening. There are a few questions.

Page 1, penult. line, was Reagan actually "near death?" My recollection may be wrong but I believe the doctors did not so believe. If I am correct, might you precede this with "possibly," making it read "possible near death?"

Page 6, last graf - the FBI never accepted the autopsy report and, in fact, declined a copy when it was offered by the Secret Service. It continued to disagree with a basic concussion of that report and insisted upon the error of the two agents it had at the autopsy. I suggest that you replace "unquestioned acceptance" with "handling of," or "attitude toward and handling of."

At the end of this page I suggest that you begin the next section with LBJ's desire to have Hoover do a book answering the critics, which is what actually triggered what followed. All that you report followed Fortas' visit to the FBI as LBJ's messenger. What you say about DeLoach at the top of 7 is correct but it was all handled for him by the staff under him. My recollection is not clear on whether the ploy was DeLoach's idea. I think it was Wick's, approved by DeLoach and all others, up to and including Hoover. And rather than a mere "messenger" taking the letter to Sid Epstein, it was Wick, who was what the FBI calls "the Number One" man in that office. He reported back at each step and the FBI records include the times. I also believe that Wick drafted all the stuff. That LBJ wanted Hoover to do a book fits in well with what you follow with, Bishop's book.

If you do not mind adding a few words, you can greatly strengthen the penult. graf on 11 with direct quotation of what Bishop wrote and DeLoach amended and juxtaposing the truth, that Revill told the literal truth, Hosty and the FBI lied, and the violence of which it knew Oswald to be capable was bombing the FBI's Dallas office. (Reminds me, the autopsy was not in Dallas. It was at Bethesda.) I have the FBI IG's investigation of Hosty's destruction of that threat Oswald delivered to the Dallas FBI office. He destroyed it after the assassination and the FBI kept that secret. Indeed, praised Hosty for deceiving the Commission, I think with perjury.

In the last graf I think you should read, perhaps copy and use, several pages of Dallas records relating to Bishop - they actually talked the Fort Worth hotel into letting Bishop have the suite JFK used the night before the assassination free.

I don't know what you intend to follow but there is much more on books and articles. The FBI desired O'Leary to do a book on the King assassination. They also had several other writers in mind and I have the records. On O'Leary, one of the reasons for my caution to you that I hope you will check out on your own when you are here is that it actually virtually did his "Leaders Digest" piece on the King assassination and that did turn the entire thing around and on its head. It led Ray to write the judge that if he didn't stop such prejudicial writing Ray might as well just walk over and enter a plea. Which is what he finally did. And thus the FBI's record was never subjected to cross-examination. Jim Leary and I both have Ray's letter, intercepted by the prosecutor and sheriff before it was mailed to the judge. We also have a copy of it as it was received by the judge. O'Leary was embarrassed by some of the disclosures of his, may I cushion it by saying "Relations" with the FBI, and in your own UPI files you'll find his explanation, that the FBI didn't have to edit what he wrote (as he'd agreed in advance) because it gave him everything he used. If there is no file copy I have it as the Post used the UPI story.

We are glad that your mother has improved and that you and Carlotta will be coming ^{up} ~~back~~ after your return from China. May I suggest that you add a little time so that you can go over these materials? I have them in two places. In the subject file in the basement there is an O'Leary file and in my King writing file in my office, bottom drawer, under writers, there is a separate O'Leary file. I think the UPI story is in it. Go over these FBI records without me and form your own beliefs. And copy anything you want.

That you are on Schultz' plane to China now and a story in the papers this morning, that he was refused an advance copy of the Tower report, reminds me of that wretched business. And of an initial and as yet undisclosed lie that may at some point interest someone at UPI. I enclose a page of Hoover's testimony before the Warren Commission, page volume 5. I've marked the part that says the FBI does conduct investigations for the President. At the White House press conference in which this fiasco was announced, Meese was asked why he had not sent the FBI in immediately. He replied that it would have been wrong because they had no proof of law violation, for all the world as though conviction is where investigations begin. The fact is that there is provision for such investigation, if anyone needed such an investigation it was Reagan, and in the several days before the FBI was sent in records were destroyed. Meese made that possible. He not only lied about it, he said that Judge Webster agreed with him.

You are surprised that anyone is still surprised by new disclosures in this mess and you refer to Reagan, quite accurately, as out of touch. However, I find it easy to believe that the wretched business began with some comment or suggestion by him and I find it impossible to believe that he was all that out of touch or that anyone engaging in such blatant improprieties would not cover himself by keeping Reagan informed. I'll be surprised if there are not more surprises. This is because I'm certain much remains secret and many have their own asses to cover and to do this will continue to leak.

Sorry you'll be too busy when you come up to do what you want to do and still have time to tell us about your trip. I hope you've read Harrison Salisbury's The Long March for some background before you left. If you didn't, it is now out in paperback.

Our best,