

9/15/68

Dear Dick,

Before you give serious thought, even for the future, to such an investment as "buying an American", should you not ask yourself whether a man who cannot correctly address an envelope is a worthwhile risk?

Not knowing I had said this error, I was worried, not having heard from you.

Nichols is a gun buff and has done fantastic work on the bullet holes. I have seen it. I gave him copies of what you had sent me, so when you wrote him he knew about you. I agree with you on this trajectory, or the way. It is important, particularly because all the "experts" should have known about it. However, there is no reason to assume, without the work you project, that all the fragments also were not oriented. I now know the car was washed in Dallas. This is not just strong suspicion and hinting, as in Williams. This and the delayed discovery of the fragments, then the still later discovery of more, and the last-minute discovery of the dent in the crown, are enough to satisfy me.

You may be right in valuing this trajectory as more important than Bieberdorf. However, may I suggest the caveat is what given them their significance? I have used the Bieberdorf thing in COUP D'ETAT, where it is not essential, I think effectively. I may do some writing in which this trajectory can fit, and if I do I'll include it, as in COUP, with full credit. I have used it on CBS, with credit, but not since we first talked about it. I could kick myself for believing the Dallas doctors on this, for I could have interviewed B when he was in that area. What I has missed is the thing that swings me on this, the meaning of continuing the treatment after he was known to be alive and going through the violent motions of trying to talk, in the presence of those who should have wanted any statement he could make.

In evaluating Manchester and his sources, you should also consider Manchester as Manchester's source. I now know that some guys around telling witnesses that they were wrong, that it had to be the way he wanted it. Really. MacNeil, then or NBC, for example.

Can you get me a copy of Van Der Vark's entire thesis. I wish these so-called scholars would prepare themselves. Interviewing Alyce, for example, without reference to what he discovered on the sixth floor! If he did, how could you ignore that? This may or may not be the Altgens picture. I give an accurate accounting of it. It was the first picture on the wire. As you suggest, there is the possibility this might have been another picture. In that case, well, all of us, I'd like very much to see it. There is more on the ABC and in *PH*. I have the original source, if it ever interests you. The FBI men about Altgens, but they showed it to the Loveladys (PW, after in case, nose). Of course, they did it. I have some of this in text VIII, etc.

Thanks for the reference to the B picture. I've never been able to find a copy of There Was A President.

Are the Frazier documents not those I had told Hoch send you? The Caster name in them is interesting because a Caster who worked in the TSBD had two rifles in the building and the only way we know of it is through Oswald, then Hoover leaking it to the press to get even with the Commission.

I have sent the Simpson thing to west-coast friends who did very well on the Doyle film.

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Dear Dick,

Before you give serious thought, even for the future, to such an investment as "buying an American", should you not ask yourself whether a man who cannot correctly address an envelope is a worthwhile risk?

Not knowing I had said this earlier, I was worried, not having heard from you.

Nichols is a gun buff and has done fantastic work on the ballistics. I have seen it. I gave him copies of what you had sent me, so when you wrote him he knew about you. I agree with you on this trajectory, by the way. It is important, particularly because all the "experts" should have known about it. However, there is no reason to assume, without the work you report, that all the fragments also were not slanted. I now know the car was washed in Dallas. It is not just strong suspicion and hinting, as in WILLIAMS. This and the delayed discovery of the fragments, then the still later discovery of more, and the last-minute discovery of the dent in the chrome, are enough to satisfy me.

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Can you get me a copy of Van Der Valk's entire thesis? I wish these so-called scholars would prepare themselves. Interviewing Albee, for example, without reference to what he discovered on the sixth floor! If he did, how could you ignore that? This may or may not be the Altgens picture. I give an accurate accounting of it. It was the first picture on the wire. As you suggest, there is the possibility this might have been another picture. In that event, as all of us, I'd like very much to see it. There is more on the ABC and in PW. I have the original source, if it ever interests you. The FBI knew about Altgens because they showed it to the Loveladys (PW, after index, note). Of course, they did lie. I have some of this in text WHII, PK.

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I have sent the Simpson thing to west-coast friends who did very well on the Doyle film.

I have no idea what Sprague and Trent are working on. I do know that if they have anything it would fit into COUP, and that Trent knows about COUP and asked to read it.

I have never believed Ray killed King. I have what I believe is most likely on that killer (the killer) in COUP. From the very first, I called him "Oswald", saying as was a decoy, the white Mustang "Oswald's getaway car", etc. That you have through Dawney is fascinating. However, let me tell you this, for whatever it is worth. Dawney enjoys a fine personal reputation and he has become involved in the case. He is, as you know, publishing Joesten and he believes in him. Let me know what Joesten is a crook, irresponsible, an inventor, etc. I know that he knows it because his representative asked me for an evaluation of OSWALD IN THE CRIME. I was shocked. Then Dawney made me a proposition to junk OSWALD IN THE CRIME and collaborate on a book with Joesten. This meant cutting him in for no reason at all because he had nothing and knew nothing. Joesten will hurt us much before this is all over. I withdrew O in NS from Dawney's consideration.

I share your feelings on Similes and have writer Gary. It strikes me as strange that Similes has not written me, never made any effort to get a copy of the book which deals with him at such length. I want to know what is in those pictures, and withholding them until the book is published is one way of helping not getting it published.

When you write your brother, see if you can learn anything about a Dr. Fernando Sanchez, apparently RDE, a doctor of "Lipstick On The News"; Dr. Carlos Ringuier, Major Jose Duarte. I know a little about all three, but not enough.

In discussing Epstein, who you do not believe, with your brother, why not let him see that on one all hands, Garrison is fallible, but this has no relationship to the facts of the case (have references in NS). Ask him how Epstein could write a book-length piece on the Garrison investigation without any reference at all to the contents of the case. Obviously, Epstein knows nothing about it, or he'd have used it in his book. But if he had the unlimited access to the Garrison files he claims to have had, why is there no reference to them? If you'd like, I can give you a copy of the piece I did that I'm copyrighted. I'd like to ask to your brother sometime, if there is any chance he knows anything, unless he is convinced it is right and proper to kill presidents.

If for your lectures you need slides of the Wesley Plaza area, a few of the pictures and exhibits I used in the first two books, I can lend them to you.

On Garrison: I have never combed his files. I do not know what he has. I regret to say that save for Boxley, of whose work I know little, I have no reason to believe there is anything of great significance outside the Shaw case that he has not originating with one of us. I am not at all impressed with the work I have seen there, less with the workers. I have never seen such a flagrant incompetence, and some of what I have seen can not be explained as simple incompetence. It is not good, but I say it as I see it. Dick, and the place is a shambles, and the biggest leak is in himself, who has an unfailing capacity for trusting the least trustworthy and mistrusting those who are trustworthy. The record on the latter is already clear enough. I assure you of the former. Rather, vice versa.

In the copy of Van der Kerr, p. 40, what is the last word, line 10? The handwriting at the bottom also is illegible. Last two words. The ABC thing makes me believe it is Altgens three, but if that is a rent in the sleeve...Re: w/ a very clear print!

May I add the Dawney-Ray stuff to COUP?

I knew about the Hall-Enquirer, but thanks. I rarely see it. They now have something on Sirhan they promised to send me but haven't. What Hall gave them is but

11-11-1964
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Mr. [Name]:
I have your letter of [Date] regarding [Subject].
I am sorry that I cannot give you a more definite answer at this time.
The matter is still under consideration and I will contact you again as soon as a final decision has been reached.
Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,
[Name]
[Title]
[Company Name]

Very truly yours,
[Name]
[Title]
[Company Name]

cc: [Name]
[Address]
[City, State, Zip]

Enclosed for you are [Number] copies of [Document Name].
If you have any questions, please contact [Name] at [Phone Number].

a fraction of what he gave me months earlier, on tape. I have the names he left out and many of the incidents. So you can feed me if you get anything on the names. This happened at Lester Togue's. He is the guy who gave Hall the bail money and arranged for him to be sprung. Really way-out right, Hall has a friend there Wally (of Wiley) Yates. If you ever come across any Dallasite of this name, please let me know. Hall was connected with all the west-coast extremists, talking about some of them, Garrison about the others.

I am rather glad to get the 7/28 Enquirer. I know Bill Dick personally and like him. We speak by phone fairly often. He had not told me this, not sent it to me. It makes sense. There are other things that fit, too.

Got to get to other work. Thanks, including for the closing compliment.

Sincerely,

Samuel Weisberg

... of ... in your line ...
... of ...
... of ...

... of ...
... of ...

...

To:
Date:
Re:

DEPT. OF CLASSICS
QUEEN'S UNIV.
KINGSTON, ONT.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY MEMORANDUM

11 September 1968

Harold:

I just received your three letters via Gary Murr. It's a relief to be in touch again. By the way, I get mail in Kingston, not Windsor. I cannot understand how any of my mail got to be posted from Windsor, for Queen's Univ. mail was being transported across the border and mailed from Watertown, NY.

Thanks for the address of Dr. Nichols. Lane, in Dissent, mentions Nichols' location, and I wrote to him a few days ago to inquire whether he had run tests with the scoped Carcano. I am fully convinced that the Carcano was not used in the assassination. I restrained myself from asserting that publicly because I could not crack the problem of the two fragments that the Secret Service said they found on the floor of JFK's car. If the rifle tests confirm my assertion that bullets fired from the Carcano were on an extremely high trajectory, I would feel justified in raising the suspicion that, like CE399, the two fragments were also planted.

I consider the question of the trajectory more important than the Bieberdorf affair. You may wish to know how that exhibit attracted my attention, for I shall give you references that you may wish to use if you discuss the issue. Penn Jones in EMC 2 mentions an incident regarding harmful first aid to LHO in the jail. When I read his account I supposed that Jones was referring to the Bieberdorf Exhibit, even though his account does not exactly correspond to it, so I made no special mention of it to Jones or to anyone. Later, however, I realized that Jones depended on the account that Manchester describes. In both accounts, a Dallas plainclothesman administers artificial respiration. I suppose that Manchester got it from some vague newspaper account. It was clear, though, that neither Manchester or Jones knew that the situation was even worse than they thought.

Recently I read something that casts yet another shadow over the question of the treatment of LHO. In his Masters thesis for the U. of Indiana, Richard Van Der Kerr discusses interviews that he conducted with Dallas TV newsmen. Tom Alyea told him: "I thought ~~xxx~~ that they'd take him (the wounded LHO) to either Baylor or to Methodist Hospitals; they were closer to the City Jail." Van Der Kerr's thesis is titled as follows: Crisis in Dallas: an historical study of the activities of Dallas television broadcasters during the period of President Kennedy's Assassination. The quotation is from p.38.

Van Der Kerr's third chapter contains material of interest to Sprague, so I Xeroxed it and sent it to him.

Enclosed is a copy of p. 40 of the thesis, which might interest you. There he refers, I suppose to the possibility that Oswald is the man in the doorway of Altgens photo. You discuss the same incident in W38, ~~xxx~~ p245 (Dell). Probably the picture referred to is Altgens, but a couple of discrepancies suggest that it might be another, especially the remark that the picture had not been sent out on the

2
wire service by Monday (25 Nov.). It is my understanding that Altgens was the very first photo to hit the wire.

I believe that the Keroxed pictures connected with Bieberdorf came from the following book: Reagan Morin, Assassination: The Death of President Kennedy (Signet #3315). I chopped up my books in order to arrange stuff for presentation at lectures, so I can't be sure which one this came from, but I think it's Morin's book.

I just noticed that the picture is also printed in the following: There Was a President, p.98-- published by Random House for NBC.

The picture is one of about three that appear to have been taken by the same photographer with the same camera. Sprague may know who took it, but mainly he is concerned with photos related to Dealey Plaza.

By the way, Bieberdorf was deposed by counsel (13H83-89) and confirmed that most of the FBI report on him is correct-- he makes some corrections.

.....

Forget about returning the Zapruder picture that I sent you. I got a much better version-- larger and in color-- and do not need the tiny picture. It is frame 235. I believe that I mentioned that the white blob that obscures JFK's face and right temple is a white blob even in the good color version. Clearly the picture was doctored, but it's possible that at the early date when the frame was published in Paris Match it was done for reasons of taste. The picture must have shown JFK's right temple wound.

I wrote to Paris Match in Paris and inquired what made their reporter believe that the "sniper's nest" was the second floor window of the Dal-Tex; they replied that they could find no record which might help them to answer the question. I suggested to Sprague that he contact Paris Match office in New York concerning the matter. They might also have pictures that he has not seen.

The documents on Bandle are enclosed. I also sent copies to Sprague who is also interested in Frazier.

There is nothing to report on Simpson. I wrote a few times asking for a reply of any sort, but never got an answer. I got the address from Victoria phone book, so I assume that the address is genuine and that my letters arrived somewhere. If the Simpson that I wrote to was not connected with the assassination, I cannot understand why he should fail to respond and simply tell me so. I used university stationery in the hope of investing my correspondence with an air of respectability, so I doubt whether he would think me a crank. I have simply given up on Simpson, for I do not know what else to do. Perhaps if you know someone in the area you can direct him to find out whether the lead is genuine or not. Here is the address that I used:

Ralph V. Simpson
781 Fairview
Victoria, B.C.
(phone 384-7644)

To:
Date:
Re:

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY MEMORANDUM

I am delighted to know that you have more books under way. Let me know when stuff is available, for I want to read everything.

I am not surprised, of course, but am very glad to know that you are working on the other assassinations. I have been in touch with Sprague on the recent killings, but have not bothered you because I doubted that I could add to what you already possess, and mostly I was just full of suspicions.

I am pursuing a certain hypothesis that is beginning to bear some fruit. I can't briefly explain what what led me to believe as I do, so meanwhile please trust that speculations have some basis, although nothing definite.

It's my notion that Ray did not kill MLK; that if he was alive at the time and involved in the plot, he was paid first to attract attention to himself, and then to run. I think Ray is a decoy, and that perhaps a few people may have contributed to the formation of Ray's recent history and movements. Specifically, I am pursuing the notion that the man who was arrested in London was not James Earl Ray, but might even be a man connected with the JFK killing.

Peter Dawney, who published a couple of Joesten's books, is making inquiries for me in London. He has already spoken with "Ray's" (let's call him the False Ray--FR) ~~brother~~ ^{brother} and will soon speak with FR's ~~solicitor~~ ^{brother}. Also he is seeking witnesses who might have seen FR in London. As I receive reports from him I will pass them on to you and Sprague. The first is enclosed. I sent Dawney some photos and asked him to determine, if he could, whether the man who was in London was in fact the James Earl Ray who is depicted in the various news photos. I also sent photos of one of the "three tramps" who were arrested in the RR yards after the killing on Dealey Plaza. Sprague associated that man with an FBI composite drawing of the suspect who killed King (Sprague calls him Frenchy). Dawney's first report indicates that although the London Ray was not Frenchy, he probably is not JERay either. I sent Dawney more material and more reports will follow. I shall pass them on.

Gary Hurr and Trent Gough interviewed witnesses in Toronto, but Gary gave me no definite information about the results, for I gather that Gough told him not to share information. Gary's cryptic remarks left me guessing whether the witnesses identified Frenchy as the Toronto Ray or whether they simply said that he was not the real Ray. In any case, it appears that something "interesting" resulted from the interviews that confirmed somebody's suspicion about something. That's the confusing extent of my information about the Toronto Ray. It infuriates me, this secrecy.

....

Gary told me that Similas was going to give him pictures for an appendix to his book. I wonder, though. It appears that Similas is quick to make promises and slow to deliver. As far as I know, Gary has not seen any of Similas' pictures. I can't figure out what's going on. We have to consider the possibility that there may be something about Gary that causes Similas to be distrustful of him, for if Similas is as erratic as Gary says, anything may be going on.

4
in his head. I may be going to Toronto soon and will try to arrange with Gary to have me see Similes too. Perhaps it might do something to reassure the man that somebody besides Gary is interested in him. I don't like to butt in on Gary's "baby" but something has to be tried to break this ridiculous deadlock.

.....

I'll write to my brother and ask whether he has or can get the Cuban "classbook" that you mention. He might supply it even without admitting that he was CIA. I doubt whether he will co-operate, for I can't even penetrate beyond the first veil of getting him to admit CIA attachment.

I have a good excuse to write to him on the topic, for he recently sent me a copy of Epstein's New Yorker article on Garrison. Even before I read the article I wrote and told Tony that I distrusted ~~XX~~ Epstein, and said I would comment later.

Isn't Epstein a beauty, though! That swine! It appears that someone asked him what he could do for his country, and that he responded appropriately by setting himself firmly among the ranks of the disgraced. He even managed to insert in his article a subtle defense of the Warren Report; he puffs out his defense like a quietly hissing fart-- and we all know that they smell a lot worse than the boomers. Henceforth I'll advise people that I have long suspected: that they may regard Epstein as an authority on the only question about which he has authoritative qualifications: What does it profit a man to lose his own soul? I wrote him a brief note and said something like that.

I am making arrangements for lectures in universities in Ontario and Quebec as soon as possible. When I first began to talk on the assassination my material was in disarray, for I burst out on very short notice. But the stuff is nicely arranged now, and I can give an infallible account of what happened on Dealey Plaza. Needless to say, the recent shedding of good red, white, and blue blood has done a good deal to stir interest-- it was there before, but by now it is frantic.

Enough for now. There are some enclosures with material that you may already have seen. I ~~xxx~~ send them anyway, in case you missed them.

Recent developments assure me that Garrison will never be allowed to try Shaw or anyone else connected with the assassination. Can I be assured that even though there may be no trial, Garrison's evidence nevertheless will someday be made public? I hope that Garrison has made arrangements to have the stuff disclosed out of the country if (when?) the worst happens, and when the present covert police state becomes overt.

Cheer up, though. If they resume selling Americans, I'll buy you.

Still,

Dick

Dick Bernabei

2/15/68

Dear Dick,

A letter from Gary tells me you have mail again, so here is the accumulation.

By no means you should also have the Handle documents from Paul. I mislaid my copies. I think they fit your theory. Hank was here for a week, leaving today. He didn't have time to talk about it, but I know he and you are in contact, which is fine.

Gary Schoener was here about a week too, and Vince Islandria for a weekend, so we've had company and are tired.

I do have three unpublished books! My record. This is not counting incomplete ones of book length.

Anything new on Simpson? I want to go west as soon as I can, which means when I have another speaking engagement that pays the fair. There is another film in that general area that I am interested in, and I'd like to try and get that. Meanwhile, what is the status? Have you confirmed that he has a film, what its contents might be, where he was standing, whether or not the FBI ever had it. If they did the chances are he no longer has the original, perhaps not the complete film.

There are two similar cases in which the original was edited and an edited copy was returned.

Sincerely,

Harold Eisberg

1/1/68

Dear Sir,

I have been very busy in the last few days and have not had time to write you.

As you know, I have been very busy in the last few days and have not had time to write you. I have been very busy in the last few days and have not had time to write you.

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Yours faithfully,

John Smith