

6/6/70

Dick's 6/1 (Howard)

Two negatives pleasures are in today's mail: a copy of Huie's sanctimonious horseshit and the Councillor approval of Sprague's computershit. To Dick's apt comment of the Sprague attitude, Howard, I would add one thing: a total incapacity to learn anything at all from countless such experiences, each some kind of disaster, and the ultimate, major one. It is not all ego-tripping, either, for he is, without doubt, sincere and persuaded. He persuades easily, usually with no more than desire. He is in the company of the vocal majority.

Just finishing piece for Enquirer on Ray suit-Ray. Hope a responsible piece will encourage them to the thought other responsible writing is available. They asked for heat and I called Kleindienst repetitive liar and dared him to sue me, having chickened out when I sued him.

I have complete agreement with that on which I do not comment. Advice to Howard on what to include in his book is good, save for two things, both of which I've discussed with him in the past. There should be full credit, sometimes appraisals of work (not when he feels the state of his own knowledge in specialized areas may not warrant, viz Judy Donner and Dallas Police, where I presume he has no interest, but a convenient example), and printed rather than published, as we have gone into. There may be more than my work, and, while not a book and neither legally copyrighted nor original, there is "ohn's "copyright", which has publication as a prerequisite.

Skolnick, in order: Interestingly enough, Skolnick may have duplicated what he got from another source, for I now have what for Skolnick is his originals (and he teaches investigations!) and this phone slip has a direction to "Hazel" to send it to S SK. Bud's secretary's name is Carmen. However, Sk could have gotten it from Mosmer, Dollen's attorney.

Part time instructor: Understand, I'm not wasting the time to read Sk's suit, but he is this, at Columbia College. I now have a list of what Russ gave him and Russ's letter stipulating conditions. He also gave the COUP footnotes and our correspondence, etc. Sk used footnotes. One reason I am so interested in tapes is to see if he picked up one on my inexcusable and careless errors that I didn't catch, Paul did.

Braden-Bradley: Increasingly I come to distrust Bolden, conjecturing mental illness. I believe he fed this to Skolnick. It is significant that Bolden was mentioned no name not mentioned by Garrison. And in like context.

Excellent point on craziness of asking incompetent court to make incompetent rule on FR, which is outside purview Freedom Information act also. Almost as weird as asking that the law under which he sues be declared unconstitutional. This can serve, but not legally, to buttress acceptance of Report.

Interesting point on quagmire. I think I use it in same sense in epilogue to W II. I didn't think he'd read even that. As of 2/7, he knew the names of only Lane and Jones but apparently had read nothing at all.

Motive: I keep this in mind also, but as of now I have no reason to believe anything more than self-seeking. He needs publicity like you need air. Not motive but result is key. It can be very bad. My own court situation is not yet clear, but I think my major problem/cost will be transportation. The court clerk seems disposed to be helpful. I have filed pauper's oath, which eliminates all costs, fees, etc and, if there is any appeal, a transcript. Hustily,

1 June 70

to Roffman/ Weisberg

Dear Howard/Harold:

I have little to send you with this letter except comments on your correspondence

399 base-- Nichols: I received Nichols' 399-base photo from Harold, and will have it copied as he instructed. I agree with Harold that no differences appear between this and Harold's photo. I'll have to look at the photo more carefully, and may comment further later.

CC-buckshot: I disagree with Howard that this case provides a "good analogy" with JFK case. In fact I think it a poor analogy--no analogy at all, really. The reason is that the CC alleges that a bullet exited JFK's throat at a velocity of about 2000 fps. CC-buck does not have near that, even as initial velocity. It is likely that a bullet exiting at 2000 fps. will produce a wound visibly different from an entrance wound. It is equally likely that a CC-buck exiting will produce a wound very similar to wound of entrance, at least in that it will be small and round. Eyeball examination may not detect the important differences.

Document. Addendum: I'll send this later by separate mail. It is not too heavy.

Dum-dums: The "A" scratched into the nose of the so-called Walker bullet is probably an identification mark placed there by ~~the~~ a cop who received the bullet. ~~This is the~~ The bullet nose is the normal place for making such marks.

The "A" on the nose of dum-dums has to be filed deeply into the nose, so that it cuts deeply into the lead that is under the copper jacket. Normally this would be filed, not scratched with a knife.

Roffman book: I look forward to seeing draft. Do not be reluctant to use other people's published material, for much that has been published bears importantly on what you have to say. Consider making a complete record, rather than a record of new things, for often the new seems irrelevant without reference to the old.~~xxx~~

Roffman letter to Rhodes: Excellent stuff; good luck with it. The spelling "Oliver" is wrong. The man's name is Clivier.

In item (4), do not use the word "transpired" with reference to the word "changes". This is nit-picking grammar and not very important, but should be changed as follows: "if any such changes have occurred, I would like to know under what circumstances they occurred".

On item (5), check Robert Frazier's testimony for indication whether 399 was stuck in wax or similar substance for examination. I believe so, but am not sure.

Slides-- Roffman: I am most interested to see what you have. If you want slides made of your slides, I can do it cheaply and with excellent quality. I can't get prints more cheaply, though. Prints cost me about the same as they would cost you.

I cannot properly visualize the "tan residues" that you describe in the color slide of 399-base. Would like to see this.

Skolnick (mostly for Howard): The copy of Coup pages that I sent you are not sufficient as proof of stealing.

That the phone slip re John Hurt came from Bud is not rumor, but fact. Harold confirmed this with Bud.

Many thanks for the Kevin-Skolnick interview. It convinces me all the more that Skol is out to ruin us, not the Warren Report, on which he can bestow only benefit.

The "part-time instructor" mentioned at the top of p.2 is probably Russ Trunzo, who (with innocent intent) gave Skol all the material from Coup.

I would be most interested, Harold, to know how Skol came to identify Braden and Bradley. If you know, please pass the info, or if you can guess. I have a copy of the Dallas letter that you sent me, but shared that info with no one.

I do not have legal knowledge sufficient to determine what would be the result of a certain thing in Sk's suit, but will here set it forth as a possibility as though my fears are grounded. In the suit, Sk asks that the WR be declared null and void. This in itself is sufficient to get the suit booted out of the courtroom door, for the WR has no legal standing whatever, anyway, and Sk's request is moot from the very beginning. What I wonder is this: will the WR gain some legal standing ~~when~~ as a result of ~~xxxxxxx~~ Sk losing his suit? I don't know.

On the basis of reading the interview, I'll bet my sweet ass that Sk did not read any of the 26 vols., and probably very little of the works by critics. Except in search of stuff to steal, of course. The word "quagmire" (p. 11, line 13) is one that Harold sometimes uses. I don't know of others who use it.

The suit and interview are sufficient to prove that Sk is a thief and (worse) that he well knows he is a thief.

I cannot now attribute his activities to stupidity. I think he is out to get us-- Harold, really.

In letter to Sprague I told him my opinion of Sk and denied that I was greatly influenced by Harold's view, though our coincide closely. Sprague and others have been lapping up Sk crap. They think any sort of publicity is good, considering not at all how all of this will recoil back on the purveyors of this crap.

There's no use talking more about this, for you know well how I feel. I have no doubt that Harold can stop Sk legally, but it's going to cost.

Have to stop now.

Still,

Jick

As Harold:

Enclosed is The Councilor's
article on Sprague's latest.