

Dear Robert,

8/5/88

Eric Norden, who told me he is doing the Jack Anderson thing for the 25th, was due here 2:15 ago and I've not heard from him, so I begin a response to you 8/1, which I read six hours ago. Norden may have been fired or chewed out because I wrote Jack's friend Les Whitten, his former associate, that Norden was up to the cheapest exploitation that would besmirch Jack and make a laughingstock of him. I told Norden he could come but I'd not be part of any theorizing or Jack's about the mafia in particular. He asked if two woman researchers from out there he has working for him could phone for help and I said if they didn't conflict with an Orioles or Redskins game. Better reasons for this than are apparent. He agreed and just at a crucial point in the Orioles game one of them, I think she said her name is Olson, did phone. I think he said the other is Burt Lancaster's daughter. Olson asked me how to locate a series of people straight from Penn Jones and nothing else. If that is all they can do or how they are starting, I think you can see why I wrote Les, knowing he loves Jack. For personal reasons.

Libra. I've not read and won't read it. The Wx Post's Sunday review castigated it and the author, as an exploiter. Thanks for the reviews you sent. I've started a file on the exploitation of this anniversary, for the future. Don't worry about and don't get to any trouble get what you don't have on this because ultimately it will all come out and I don't need to know all the details to respond if I get any press inquiries.

The Plot to Kill the President, I've been thinking of getting a VCR but we won't use it much and I don't know what features we'll have no use for. Can you give me any advice on this? All I can think of now is taping an Orioles game if we have company or are away or when it conflicts with something on PBS we'd like to see and which we might record instead of the game. I've not been able to take my wife to the movies for more than a decade, she doesn't drive, we can't go to concerts or plays or lectures, so the games are a major part of our entertainment and diversion.

On speculation in 1966 I thought we might be able to get somewhere by asking ourselves who may have considered that he benefitted from offing JFK. Now and for years I've realized that there are just too many such. We can only eliminate on the basis of what we know without reasonable question but we can't responsibly do more based on what we know and because we are pretty much limited to what we have been able to obtain of the official investigations which in no case ever was an investigation of the crime itself.

Mort Sahl initially was a liberal and wedded first to Mark Lane and then to Garrison. He was irresponsible enough then. I've heard he is now of the right and although in general he may state basic truths, as anyone can, he really doesn't know anything about the crime or its investigation.

While I have no doubt that as they all do the Iran/Contra investigation went into executive session for "national security" too often and when it was not really justified, there also is a likelihood that some of that stuff ought have been in executive session. Sahl is silly and wrong when he says that Garrison came within an eyelash of convicting Shaw. The jury was out only an hour and was unanimous.

I remember the Shales nastiness from Oul, thanks. I'd forgotten that Peter Model wrote an article for it, if I ever knew. Interesting that he talks about ripoffs when he did exactly that with what he coauthored for Groden. I don't remember the picture you describe about Loveland in the actual shirt ever being published but I do know that Groden looked for it for me and found it where I suggested, in the over-exposed part of the Martin film part of which was used by Dallas Cinema Associates. Look at the end of the index in Whotographi Whitewash and you'll find Mrs. Lovelady's description of that shirt.

Resumed 8/6. Norden didn't come, didn't phone to say he wasn't, either. Must be off schedule or a bit unhappy.

The Oswald is #26.00

I've not followed the Reds but can't avoid some of Pose's adventures. If he is the problem that team has, Owner Edward Bennett Williams is the problem the O's have. Seems that taking counsel with the geniuses of the game, his chums George Will and Larr King, he started buying a new pennant as soon as they won the series. First he brought in Fred Lynn, a great player but not of the same disposition of the old Orioles and at an enormous salary that this year and next, after three years, still give him more than \$3,000,000, with an no-trade clause. All those who earned the championships were getting much less and were offended, even though they were silent. The Williams et al continued with a great number of almost has-beens at high salaries and they were not only mediocre, they upset the delicate chemistry. And, to make room, they got rid of or neglect promising young one from within the system Others could not adapt to the changed environment. So, last Monday, three Orioles rejects pitched, one the day before, and between the four they gave up in four games only four runs, with two shutouts. Just about all the former Orioles are doing well or great. John Shelby, the Dodgers' center fielder, for one. (Tommy made him feel like a son the minute he arrived, took him out the next day, after he played that night, and got him outfitted in the style popular out there, etc. Said the job is yours until you play yourself out of it, we got you because you want you, and after being on the disabled list twice this year he is still doing fine, holding the record for games with hits for both leagues.

Excuse the typos. Hva to take my wife shopping.

Hope the strike settlement is good for you people.

Best,



8/1/88

Dear Harold,

Received your letter dated July 26th. I wanted to let you know that I was unable to locate the newspaper article about Cronkite's proposed special on the JFK Assassination. I am almost positive it was USA Today that carried the article. It was just a sentence or two in the Life section. The date would have been either the last week of June or the first two weeks in July. It said that Cronkite had proposed a special on the assassination for the 25th anniversary of JFK's death. The special he wanted to do would have had actors read portions of the Warren Report. CBS nixed the idea. (I suppose CBS felt this type of show would hardly boost their sagging ratings). The article was mainly about (when I say article, I'm talking about a paragraph that appears on pg. 3 of the Life section in a column called "Inside TV" by Matt Roush) a special CBS is going to do on the life of JFK which will be hosted by Dan Rather. It may have mentioned that Rather first got national notoriety reporting on the assassination (of course, it did not mention his faulty description of the Zapruder film). I'm not positive, but that article may have also had the notice of the Jack Anderson special. The Anderson special is two hours linking the Mob to the Killing (sounds to me like it will cover mob connections already mentioned in David Seheim's book and the Ruby mob connections ~~investigated~~ investigated in the House Assassinations Committee Report). Anderson's special was also mentioned in Variety. I had the past two weeks of Variety and it wasn't in any of those, so it must have been in an earlier issue I no longer have. If you really want the article, I can go to the Variety office and try to find the back issue. Let me know. As I remember, the article in Variety was about the company syndicating the special. They were doing four specials to be hosted by Anderson. The first was on the JFK Assassination. It didn't mention what the other three specials' subject matter would be and although (over)

they had no air date as of yet, they mentioned October as a possible time of airing.

I have saved and am including a few articles on a new book called LIBRA by Don DeLillo. I don't know his material, but ~~some~~ a few friends tell me he's a good writer. However, this book which weaves fiction with non-fiction sounds like it falls into the category of EXECUTIVE ACTION. Why we need a fiction solution to the assassination when we don't have the real solution is beyond me. (Reminds me of Woody Allen's line about writing a non-fiction version of the Warren Report). As you said in your recent letter the 25th Anniversary will be a time for more disinformation. The most preposterous idea in the DeLillo book is that the conspirators (a group of anti-~~Castro~~ Castro Cubans and unhappy CIA men) decide they need an "electrifying event". So they decide to shoot at Kennedy but they don't hit him, they miss. But for some reason (I haven't read the book) Oswald, a social misfit, kills the president anyway.

I mentioned a video tape called "The Plot To Kill President Kennedy" in my last letter. This "documentary" is based on material from Anthony Summers book and not an actual documentary of the book, but Summers gets a credit on the film.

After all these years of my interest in the assassination, there is something I must ask you. If you'd rather not answer I understand. I know you have always dealt in documented proof and not speculation. I also know that the murder will never be solved in the way we like it to be i.e. finding the actually gunmen and naming names of conspirators. But having done so much research you must have your theories about what elements were at work the day in Dallas. I am curious as to what you think. Again, if this is something you would rather not get into, I understand. I know you were involved with the

(P.S. - The review of the DeLillo book was also in Sunday NY Times book review section 7/24/88. I don't get the NY Times, but a friend told me he saw it - he threw out so I couldn't get it)

Garrison trial. I have always wondered if he was on to something. I know the government discredited him, but it also seems like he was ill-prepared for a trial. Again, I am no expert on the trial. I do know some important information came out of the trial, but as usual was largely ignored by the press. I was in the car the other day and caught a talk show with Mort Sahl on it. I know from what I have read about him that he is uneasy about the JFK Assassination and talking about it, because he was branded an obsessive fanatic and his career suffered from it. A few calls came in and asked him about the assassination and its effect on the elections over the past 20 years. He said, don't think that what happened ~~in~~ in the streets of Dallas isn't in the minds of candidates. He then attacked "liberals" and the ACLU for being too busy holding benefits in honor of Lenny Bruce ~~in~~ instead of being interested in real issues. He also mentioned that the press didn't cover the fact that when Oliver North talked about setting up a special unit with CIA chief William Casey to make sure U.S. foreign policy was carried out (a separate unit from the CIA), Senator Daniel Inouye took the meeting into Executive session and off the record. I assume his inference is that even the Democrats will do what they have to to protect certain information that they don't want the public to know. Then a caller asked about Garrison and he replied that he is still friendly with Garrison who is a judge and will see him when he goes to the Republican convention. He noted the Garrison's prosecution of Clay Shaw was important because he discovered several instances of perjury and came within an "eyelash" of convicting Shaw. He again attacked the press for failing to cover that aspect of the trial. And he ended by saying that in 1979 the House Assassination Committee came to the same conclusion as Garrison, i.e. a conspiracy killed JFK. At this point he flippantly remarked that's when he decided Oswald did it, because

he didn't want to be in agreement with the Federal Government on anything.

I mean to mention earlier when I was on the subject of USA Today that Gordon Shanklin's obituary appeared there.

As I was going through some old files of mine, I came across a couple of things I wanted you to have. One is an article from the National Enquirer in 1973 (don't know the exact date, but you are mentioned). The other article is from our magazine (I don't have a date but my guess would be sometime in 1975). The article is about the critics of the assassination solution and you are included in it. It also has a good deal about your differences with Mark Lane. I must have misfiled them, because I knew I saved them to send to you back then.

Recently, I was looking through WHITWASH II and looking very hard at the Altgens photo. And I have to tell you that although the man in the doorway is dressed like Oswald, he looks more like Lovelady. I know Lovelady was photographed in a vertically striped shirt by the FBI and a photo in a book by Robert Gredon and Peter Model shows a man they say is Lovelady on Nov. 22nd, in a long sleeve red and blue plaid shirt. He is also sporting a beard in that photo. The man in the Altgen's photo has a hairline closer to Lovelady's. His ears stick out like Lovelady's and his temple's have that same line the shows in the FBI photo. On the other hand, I can't say positively it's Lovelady. But it doesn't look that much like Oswald to me.

Even if Oswald isn't in that doorway, it hardly makes him the assassin. I have a pretty good eye for faces and I just never felt it was Oswald.

That doesn't mean I'm right. It's a blurry photo when blown up and ~~from~~ in a regular size photo of the whole shot, the figure is very tiny.

If you are willing to part with one of your copies of Oswald in New Orleans, I would

be happy to make the expenditure. I'd like to have a copy for my own library. If you'd rather not part with one of your last copies, I'll try to track down one of the people you mentioned. If you decide to sell me a copy, tell me what to send (check or money order), how I should make it out and the cost with postage and handling.

The reason I mentioned gypsies in my last letter was only because I was researching them for a script. I was at the library and ended up taking out a bunch of books on the assassination. I hadn't read many of the books issued in the past ten years, so I decided to catch up. I'm continuing work on a film script since I have a lot of free time with the on-going WGA strike. Producers walked out of the talks this weekend, so I don't know when it will end. We're entering the 6th month of the strike, this being an industry town, means a lot of people besides writers and producers get hurt. Restaurants, caterers, make-up people, trucking people, you name it - they're hurting. It's got to end eventually, but in the meantime, we'll have to stick it out.

I noticed you're an Orioles fan (you mentioned it in your letter). I'm a big baseball fan myself. My home town team the Cincinnati Reds aren't fanning much better than Baltimore. Baltimore and the Reds had such great teams in the 60's and 70's, it's too bad they can't get back on track. The big disappointment for me has been how mediocre a manager Pete Rose turned out to be. Great players don't always make great managers.

Thanks for getting back to me so rapidly. How are you feeling these days? I hope all is well with you. Any way I can help (articles etc.) just ask. Take care.

Sincerely

Robert