

Mr. Joe Cabot
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9/19/88

Dear Mr. Cabot,

The second George Bush appears in the Dallas FBI index I got in FOIA litigation. Besides, my knowledge of how the FBI works ruled the candidate out.

If anyone had merely read the stories Lorenz was putting out about herself, with assists from Sturgis, there were so many inconsistencies and contradictions it would have been obvious she lies.

Lifton's theory is entirely untenable, destroyed before birth by the sources he used.

Marrow is a faker and his Betrayal is exactly that, of truth and people's trust. He made the whole thing up. After I read the first two paragraphs I knew this was so and as I remember, never went past the second chapter because continuing was obviously a waste of time, the book being a complete fraud.

Problem is with fake books, most people lack the knowledge and/or background to make ~~it~~ critical analyses as they read.

And publishers go for them in the belief they are profitable.

Best wishes,


Harold Weisberg

Where Was George? (cont.)

Where was George? The saga of Vice President George Bush's alleged involvement with the Central Intelligence Agency in 1963 grows curiously and curiously. In an article in *The Nation* of July 16/23 ["George Bush, C.I.A. Operative"], I reported the discovery of a memorandum from J. Edgar Hoover, then director of the F.B.I., saying that "Mr. George Bush of the Central Intelligence Agency" had been briefed by the Bureau on November 23, 1963, about the reaction of anti-Castro Cuban exiles in Miami to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

After the article appeared, the C.I.A. put out a story that the George Bush mentioned in the memorandum was not Vice President George Herbert Walker Bush; he was George William Bush, who had worked for the agency in 1963-64. Although the agency claimed that his present whereabouts were unknown, I located George William Bush. He told me he was a coast and landing-beach analyst with the agency in those years, with the rank of GS-5, but that he definitely did not receive the F.B.I. briefing in 1963.

As reported in my article, Vice President Bush, through spokesman Stephen Hart, denied that he was the man referred to in the memo: "I was in Houston, Texas, at the time and involved in the independent oil drilling business. And I was running for the Senate in late '63. I don't have any idea of what he's talking about." Hart added, "Must be another George Bush." When I first asked the C.I.A. about Hart's theory, it invoked its policy of neither confirming nor denying anyone's involvement with the agency.

But after the *Nation* story received wide coverage in the media, the C.I.A. evidently changed its mind. On July 19, agency spokeswoman Sharron Basso told the Associated Press that the Hoover memo "apparently" referred to George William Bush, who had worked in 1963 on the night watch at C.I.A. headquarters, which "would have been the appropriate place to have received such an F.B.I. report." She said this George Bush left the C.I.A. in 1964 to work for the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Why did the agency break with its longstanding policy of "neither confirm nor deny"? Basso said it believed "the record should be clarified." Another C.I.A. official told the A.P., "We put a lot of effort into this."

In fact, the latest C.I.A. release seems less a clarification than a strategic obfuscation. Hart of the Vice President's office put out the same data to Sarah Perl of *The Nation*. Both Perl and I called the Defense Intelligence Agency, and a spokesman confirmed that George William Bush had worked there between February 1964 and July 1965, performing the same duties that he had with the C.I.A., those of a civilian-grade government intelligence research specialist, leaving with the rank of GS-7. His last known address was 401 Cambridge Road, Alexandria, Virginia. A check of old Alexandria city directories showed that a George W. Bush, "emp

US govt," did live at the Cambridge Road address in 1964 and subsequent years, and that he shared the house with Chester K. Bush of the U.S. Army. Current city records show that the deed to the house is in the names of Colonel Bush and his wife, Alice, and that a George William Bush at that address paid his automobile decal fee to the city this February.

I called Colonel Bush, who said he was George William Bush's father. He confirmed that his son had worked for the C.I.A. and still lived at the house, but said he could not come to the phone because he was ill; he asked me to call back the following evening. When I did, I spoke to George William Bush, who is 49 and works as a claims representative for the Social Security Administration. He said he had worked for the C.I.A. for about six months in 1963-64. When I read him the Hoover memo about the F.B.I. briefing, his response was, "Is that the other George Bush?"

While in the C.I.A. he had never received interagency briefings because he was "just a lowly researcher and analyst" and worked only with documents and photographs. He said he "knew neither one" of two people the memorandum mentions as also being briefed, William T. Forsyth of the F.B.I. and Capt. William Edwards of the D.I.A. "So it wasn't me," he said.

Bush said he left the C.I.A. because he was offered a job by the D.I.A. at a higher grade and salary. He said he stayed at the D.I.A. until he joined the Social Security Administration in January 1968. He professed he was "a little bit amazed, but not entirely surprised" that the C.I.A. and the D.I.A. had divulged his employment with them. "I didn't know they were at liberty to release all this," he said. "It was certainly without advance notice." Bush said he had not known of the story in *The Nation* about Vice President Bush's alleged 1963 ties with the C.I.A.

There was a minor discrepancy in this George Bush's account of his background: Although he told me that he went directly from the D.I.A. to the Social Security Administration in 1968, the 1967 Alexandria directory lists his occupation as a city social worker. When I inquired about this job, Bush said he had held it for "about a year" before going to work for the Social Security Administration. City personnel records show that he joined the Alexandria Department of Public Welfare as a social worker trainee on August 2, 1965, rose to the rank of social worker on August 10, 1966, and left on January 12, 1968.

The Social Security Administration confirmed that Bush is currently employed in its Arlington, Virginia, office, and other points in Bush's story also checked out. He told me that before he joined the C.I.A. he had been living in Honolulu, where his father was stationed in the Army; that he had attended the University of Hawaii; and that he had worked for the Honolulu Department of Social Services and Housing. The Honolulu city directory for 1962-63 lists Chester K. Bush, "emp USARPAC," as residing at 1172 Koloa Street, and City of Honolulu personnel records confirm that George William Bush lived at that address while working as a trainee social worker for several months in 1963. The registrar's office of the University of Hawaii confirmed that he attended classes there from the fall of 1959

through the summer of 1961, graduating with a B.A. in history on September 1, 1961. The age he gave me checked out as well: According to school records, he was born on May 18, 1939, in White Plains, New York.

In the Alice in Wonderland world of intelligence there is always the possibility that people are not who they say they are. And there is that discrepancy about his job as a social worker, for which there could be a perfectly innocent explanation. At my request, Victor Navasky, editor of *The Nation*, called Bush again and had him repeat his story about his work with the C.I.A. in 1963-64 and his statement that he was not the man of the F.B.I. memorandum.

Why did the C.I.A. indicate that George William was the Bush in question without attempting to locate him first? Why did the media report the agency's version without checking further? And where was Vice President George Herbert Walker Bush on November 23, 1963? If he was working for the C.I.A. then, why hasn't he told us?

JOSEPH MCBRIDE

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CALVIN TRILLIN

When I heard that there were four press people for every delegate at the Democratic National Convention, I figured that what each delegate must have had to worry about was which four he got. As much as I hate to say anything that could be taken as even faintly critical of my comrades in the press, there's no point in trying to deny that some of them can be a trial late in the evening.



"What they assigned me was four turkeys," I can imagine a Democratic delegate named Pete telling his pals when he returned from Atlanta. "Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble."

"I didn't know they split the reporters up that way," Pete's cousin Cy says. "I thought the point was for all 16,000 of them to interview Jesse Jackson at once and see how close they could come to writing exactly the same story."

Cy's interest in the subject is more than idle curiosity: He was chosen to be a delegate to the Republican National Convention in New Orleans, and it occurs to him that having four reporters hanging around might crimp his style on some of the Bourbon Street forays he had been looking forward to. Cy can be a trial late in the evening himself.

"No, it was right there in the newspaper I read on the plane going over to Atlanta: four reporters to each delegate," Pete says. "When I found that out, I asked for David Brinkley. I've always wanted to meet David Brinkley. I like that deliberate way of talking he has, pausing after every word or two. I always wondered whether he'd order a beer that way. So I told them that if they gave me David Brinkley, I'd be willing to take one of those gorillas who yell at each other on *The McLaughlin Group*."

"So what was Brinkley really like?" Cy said. "Did you ask him what Cronkite is really like? What I'd like to ask Cronkite is what Dan Rather is really like."

"I don't know what any of them are really like," Pete replies. "The press office people said Brinkley was already taken. He'd been taken for ages. Apparently, if you want anybody as well known as Brinkley, you've got to get in your order months ahead of time. Maybe years. They tell me that it's even worse with the Republicans: Apparently there's some delegate from Orange County, California, who reserves William F. Buckley Jr. from convention to convention."

Cy is not happy to hear that. He's about to leave for New Orleans, and he hadn't even known about putting in your press people order. He sees himself being assigned three hard-shell Baptists from the convention team of the Religious Broadcast Service, plus a teetotaler from *The Christian Science Monitor*.

"Sid Brightsen got a break," Pete says. "All four of his press people were from a Japanese television crew, and they basically didn't speak English. Sid just invited them to his hotel room at 10 every morning and said very slowly, 'Party unity. Win in November.' They'd smile and go away, and Sid would have the rest of the day to himself."

Cy hadn't even considered the possibility of foreign reporters. He envisions himself followed around by four solemn-looking men from Saudi Arabia who wear flowing robes and shake their heads sadly every time he reaches for a beer. "I knew that San Francisco in 1984 was my last chance for a real convention," he says.

That was a Democratic rather than a Republican convention in San Francisco, of course, and Cy has always been a Republican. But he had been eager to check out some clubs in North Beach, so Pete had agreed to switch conventions with him if they were chosen delegates. They figured that, since nothing has been decided by delegates at a national political convention since about 1956, it wouldn't make much difference who went to which one.

"My turkeys could speak English, and they never stopped," Pete says. "Griping about their editors, bragging about the fancy hotels they'd stayed in. This was all while they were supposedly interviewing me. I kept saying, 'Don't you want to know whether I'm more liberal now than I was in 1984? Don't you want to know whether I think Michael Dukakis meant to snub Jesse Jackson when he didn't tell him about Lloyd Bentsen in advance? Don't you want to know about my demographics? I've got some dandy demographics here. I got demographics that'll knock your socks off!' They'd just order another round and talk about old times in Saigon."

Cy is thinking. "These guys sound like my sort of guys."

"I don't know what you're going to do about this in New Orleans," Pete says.

Cy knows. He's going to ask for David Brinkley, and hope for the worst.

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8/5/68

Dear Mr. Sabot,

Please excuse the haste with which I respond to you letter here today.

You ask about Marita Lorenz and her story, which should be plural, because there were a number that are not entirely consistent with each other. I don't believe a material word she said, particularly not about the alleged trip to Dallas. Ditto for Frank Sturgis.

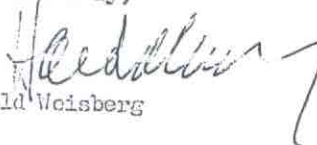
The Nation goofed. There was an entirely different George Bush and he was not in a position to be the George Bush now v.p. There may well have been a third one, also not t.e.v.p.

I'm glad to get your summary of what Roettinger said but I don't believe anyone could possibly confirm what she said "about Dallas."

I have no trouble believing that the suit against Weberman was dropped for reasons of cost because there was no prospect of collecting from Weberman as he lost.

It is not easy to find a less trustworthy source than Spotlight.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg

WHERE WAS (IS) GEORGE?

In our last issue Joseph McBride reported that Vice President George Bush was referred to in an F.B.I. memo, dated November 29, 1963, as a representative of the C.I.A. Bush, through his press secretary, said he was in the oil business at the time; a C.I.A. spokesman told McBride he would check, and then a day later gave the standard response: "I can neither confirm nor deny."

Last week, however, C.I.A. spokeswoman Sharron Basso told the Associated Press that, yes, there had been a George William Bush in the agency, who was apparently not the George H.W. Bush who is running for President. The other George, she said, left the C.I.A. in 1964 to join the Defense Intelligence Agency, and his present whereabouts are unknown. Asked by Sarah Perl of *The Nation* if the agency would offer any proof of George William Bush's employment, a spokesman there said, "You can take my word for it." McBride says, "I stand by my story." Note to George William Bush, wherever you are (if you are): Please call *The Nation*.

The Nation July 30/Aug. 6, 1968

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Wow, you were right on the money about this! If it may be so bold, how did you know of the existence of the second George Bush? For that matter, if George 1 & George 2 are both telling the truth (see accompanying article) that necessitates the existence of George 3. How did you know about this?

I'm aware of the Spotlight's reputation; however, ~~the~~ coverage of Lorenz' testimony seemed accurate, which for me was the issue. Furthermore, the story was confirmed by a wide range of sources; confirmed that she had repeated the story, I mean, not confirmed that it was true. I suppose it means that there are gullible people on the left and the right.

I am waiting for a reply from Roettinger; I want to make sure that this story was what ARDIS had "verified"; then I would be very interested to learn what their methodology is... I'm wondering if there might be a degree of wish fulfillment in this; if Roettinger worked w/ Hunt in preparation for the Guatemala coup (which he may have if his biography is accurate) he may have developed a dislike for Hunt; not an uncommon occurrence I understand. Maybe he just wants to believe it.

If I could trouble you with a couple more questions; what do you think of David S. Lifton's "Two-Casest" argument? It's bizarre, but compelling... Have you read Robert D. Marvin's *Betrayal*? I've just started it. It seems like a

poorly written and outlandish spy fiction to me. But I'd like to know if its worth continuing with; if it has any valid information.

Thank you again for the time you've taken with me.

Sincerely,
Joe Cabot