

P2 of 1/28/75 to Jim White

On your agreement that the name of the grandfather is consistent with the ^{Leigh} ~~the/alias~~ being one of Hunt's unknown ones, would you please consider another possibility in terms of what you can recollect of what you read: is the content such that he could have enjoyed doing the book more than he did the others and thus did a better job? Some of his earlier writing, for example, is much better than what he turned out when he was boiling pots. And while there seems to have been no need for his hiding this moonlighting from the CIA, I suppose it is also possible that there are times when doing that might have seemed expedient. Helms seems to have been Gung Ho! for what he wrote. Perhaps others were not or he thought might not be. The sheer volume is consistent with the CIA subsidizing him to do it. And having read his own account of his own career, it is singularly skimpy. This is to say that he accounts for remarkably little real intelligence work for all those years of which he boasts so much.

The DC library has other Leigh books. Lesar is skimming.

He has established an interesting Weybright connection, with a publisher who has known connections. I'll be learning more when I get copies of his notes.

Going back to your agreement that little new seems to be emerging, let me add two things: more easily could and hasn't and this and more would have come out several years ago if there had not been widespread refusal to touch any of it. I have written some of this and offered it to many. Off the top, with variations in the nature of the offer but in no case not one that would not have led to fuller disclosures:

All TV nets, including PBS through NFACT (with IV); WxPost, LATimes, Time, Newsweek, AFL/CIO, Knight papers, Mollenhoff, London Sunday Times, and quite a number on Capitol Hill.

Hersh did not phone yesterday. He should have had my letter in time to. I did not expect him to and had not written a conciliatory letter.

What he did do is sick. He tried to check Roffman out with George O'Toole, of the PSE jazz. O'Toole is suddenly an expert on the JFK assassination? Because he is a former CIAer? What other expertise can Hersh attribute to him?

Naturally, O'Toole, who has done no real work, had never heard of Howard. So he asked Bud about him. From Bud he learned only that Howard is "some kid in school." Not that Bud could not have been more informative. Not that he does not know of my relationship with Howard. Bud also does not like Howard's strong reaction to a very sick appearance Bud and Sprague made jointly at the Unix. Penna.

What it any influence this has on Hersh and the solid material on Belin we'll see. But it was not the way to be helpful to Hersh or to getting the Belin story out.

What Bud told Jim he had told Goulden about me is that we have personality differences but on fact and analysis he has never known me to be wrong and knows of nobody who dependability or work can be compared with mine. This is a somewhat higher recommendation than I have ever known him to offer. I do think it is not impossible today. I think it is more likely that Bud was much stronger than "personality differences." More like I can't stand the arrogant son-of-a-bitch.

That the Goulden/Washingtonian interest coincides with the beginning of the breaking of the CIA story and follows upon Szulc's clobbering of Kissinger is a provocative coincidence. Both are contributing editors of The Washingtonian.

Evaluation of Marchetti's book: he does not intend uncovering all that is possible. This is consistent with his belief that there is a need for an intelligence agency but not its excesses. Well, he manages not to give the address of the CIA's downtown office for the domestic-intelligence operation. He knew it. I checked it with him. The odd thing is that I had forgotten that Wise & Ross (Wise at least officed in the same building then) gave it years ago. I thus went to much work to figure it out (accurately, further than W & R did). I thus find omission of this specific interesting.

Best,