

O'Toole press conference on appearance of Assassination Tapes from reporter's tape

I listened to this tape that is frequently of poor quality and often inaudible first while driving and then while working around the house. These comments are not complete and it is not now necessary for my purposes to pay closer attention to this interview now. Perhaps after completing the reading of the book I will listen to it with more care and under conditions that will permit better concentration.

One of the interesting minor points is that James Harris said he represented The New York Review of Books.

To me the most interesting of what I've heard is his exculpation at the beginning of both Humes and McCloy. With Humes he said the machine proves that Humes was telling the truth when the proof that Humes had lied and knew he was lying when he made the statement is public.

Bud knows this yet has been associated with O'Toole from the beginning and in the promotion of this book and in an article in the NYReview.

This tape can be used to destroy the PSE in my opinion. It certainly is more than enough to disprove the validity of the use in this book and to raise new questions about the book and its sponsorship.

Dicks question did Penthouse finance his work.

Plugs Epstein's focus on Warren as responsible for the whitewash.

There are touches throughout that so closely parallel how I have responded to the same questions that the conclusion he has paid close attention to what I have said is raised. Obviously I have no way of knowing.

However, the anti-me part is apparent as it is as far as I've gone in the book.

There are places where he fixes upon the identical words I used, as in the taxi incident at the bus station, where he also refers to the woman who was about to take the cab in which Oswald is said to have been as "a little old lady." Even in this is a direct quote of Whaley using the same words on which I fixed of all those he could have used is against the law of averages.

On the 1/27/64 transcript he here also refers to it as "recently declassified by the government," saying no more about it. Where he goes out of his way to seem to give credit to others, as Epstein and Bob Smith and in the book quotes from others what I first said, his departure from a scheme is provocative at least.

Guicione "has staffed an extensive investigation to make this public." (intro of Guicione.)

G. calls it "sweeping investigation." Dates at period "when the Watergate investigation was breaking wide open." But he also has nothing to say about who financed this supposed two years of extensive work and all that travel. He has instead a quite excessive description of O'Toole as the man who...

Despite WWIV O'Toole opens with my work on Russel, but omits me and refers to when Russell went public "in 1970." Penthouse had WWIV and O'Toole knew the story whatever his source. That it is not the result of research is proven by the date.

He refers to new information in support that will appear in three weeks but declines to identify his own article (with Bud) in NYReview on the ground he does not have the editor's approval. That is a reason?

On Humes, "He was asked" about his conclusions and the answer was, "No, we think that stand up very well..." O'Toole: "There is no doubt in my mind that he believed essentially what he told the Warren Commission." O'T surprised because he was suspicious only over burning of protocol.

When he gets to McCloy he also exculpates the staff from this machine.

HW 4/1/75