

8/12/71

Dear Wayne,

Your undated letter postmarked the 10th came this a.m. As you will see when you are here, I'm into so much too much there is nothing by stacks of confusion on my desk while I try to write a book in which the most technical evidence of the most sensational nature must be made comprehensible. Every time I have to stop I get myself a bit confused about what I have done and what I planned to do. So, hoping to have enough time to respond before lunch, so I can resume the writing afterward until I have to leave for the evening, I'll be responding while I read your letter. This also may lead to some confusion. I hope you will excuse it and the uncorrected typos. And that I make sense through all of this.

Your argument re: Y's unimpeded success is potent and completely persuasive. I should have realized it. The only alternative is official sanction, discredited by the crackdowns you report.

It must have been Bud who told you of the agency practise of fixing police records. Our reasoning here is persuasive, too. But on the ease of finding the real Y, there were the publisher and Moore and the dope in the book about where he lived. What was lacking was not ability but desire. While it is true that there often is fragmentation of information, I believe that when assignments are given enough information is provided to make success possible. Not that much vacuum. The rewriting part is quite true, though.

What JFK ass. reporting did you do?

The FBI did not fluff on "Farry". That was the initial, third-hand phonetic made 4th or 5th by the interrogation or Marina and then with all of this verbal, by phone to the interrogation. By the time the question was sent to Texas, the Secret Service and probably the more cautious FBI, which was careful to give the WC no record of it, knew all about the real man because of the N.O. publicity and the JG interest.

I don't have the rap sheet. Bud never gave it to me. As you know, I also played Nancy Perrin Rich straight, not knowing what else to do and feeling this required real investigation, which didn't happen.

The Boxley Y was an entirely different man and they found Brawner, who had a telegram inviting him to join the Bay of Pigs. But almost 100% of the N.O. investigation was fabrication by Boxley and Joel Palmer. Not one bit of it stacks. They, meaning Boxley, merely manufactured what he knew JG wanted, including an identification of Bradley.

On your opinions of the planned M kidnapping, there is a remarkable parallel to what Turjillo actually did, so that can be said to give it more credibility.

There is a simple answer to your question, was Y ever really pro-Castro. Most of these soldiers of fortune are of the right. All I know who say they joined and left Castro unmistakably so. They do things for kicks and for \$\$\$\$. They are without real principle and tend to be violence-prone. Agreed the reality made a good cover for penetrating the right. Again you refer to the rap sheet. Can you please send or bring me a copy? The Nevada connections not inconsistent with your theme.

From the looks he gave me, I can believe Walter may be trying to use Renfro as a scapegoat, but I spoke with R, and W. The caution to you to watch your step in asking about Y certainly indicates knowledge of him, at the least. ...Walter's last comment, as you quote it, is susceptible of the interpretation you give it but it also need not be taken as a statement of fact, can be a logical caution. Makes sense that way, too....I agree Walter seemed strange to me, seemed to resent and/or dislike me. One

question you might want to ask yourself is could he have any reason for sending you down a long, dusty wrong road? Also, I know of no solid, tangible connection between Y and the JFK caper, only Nancy's reasonable connection with Ruby of an earlier time. There is a way in this can make sense but I'd best not tell you until you ~~xxx~~ have completed your own work. I do not want to color your thinking. We can talk about it then. Meanwhile, I think the version of the pictures Ray was shown by Foreman, one of Bud's nuttier nutty associates (almost all are on this subject) made up a tale about that he and lam ost everyone beliefs and none will consider probative disproof. That was not a picture of Cubans but of tramps in custody, some time after the shooting. I'll tell you this story when you are here. Ray discussed this with me, too, and it is in this account not Cubans....I disagree with you on Ray's veracity. I tested it. I doubt almost none of what he told me and thing in those areas the question is of fullness. Instead of lying to me, he merely changed the subject or said he didn't want to talk about it.

Rorke was w writer-soldier of fortune, anti-Castro type mostly mouth who disappeared. Hemming deserted Castro. He is a giant, braggart, soldier-of-fortune type adventurer-enormous liar, had small band called "Patrick's raiders", was well known to feds, etc., in Miami area. Tell you more when here....Heavn't seen or heard of Siegenthaler's book being out, knew it was due soon. He was with Bobby in DJ.

Start using salt when you read Bud's writing, as on Bolden. He is pretty far out, alas, does little of his own work, assumes rather than investigates, and a germ of a possibility becomes uncontested fact to him rather easily. We have had some pretty strong disagreements over this and other things I regard as unethical and wrong. He can't get the taste of solving the assassination out of his mouth and it drives him to that of which he would otherwise be incapable. He really lacks knowledge of the basic fact of the JFK assassination, preferring what he would like to be the case. This is a warning between the two of us. Be careful and believe nothing of this sort without an independent check. This is a major problem for me.

There are possible Viet Nam connection on JFK. I don't look at it the way you put it, a a conection between the Diem killing and his. We can discuss this, too. I have a ~~xx~~ related book researched, need writing time.

Let me make this general comment. There has been so systematic a covering-up and so much wild, irresponsible writing and talking that nothingness soon gets a kind of credibility from no more than repetition. Too many, like Bud and JG, with some means but no inclination to do any real or hard work, seeking to use others because of their own means, know practically nothing as reality and get way down all sorts of blind alleys, no one of which they remember when they head down another. All that effort and \$\$\$ could have done some good is JG and Bud had not been spending it. They are simply detached from reality and driven to extremes by personal ambition that, no matter how commendable it seems as an objective, in practise has, without exception, been counterproductive. I have spent so much time cleaning up behind our own nuts I hate to think of it. I don't think ~~xxxx~~ I'll ever get over the emotional cost of frustrating that insanity JG, Bud's buddy Bill Turner, Boxley and Palmer had hoked up to mark the JFK anniversary in 1968. Sciambra told me I saved JG from disbarment. I had Bud go down with me when I tackled it. He sat around looking pretty, did nothing to help (even with a few \$\$\$ when he knew I was broke), took me to w wonderful dinner one night after I had succeeded, treated me to a bottle of Scotch when I was working close to 22 hours a day while others lolled around, and then simply ran out on the mess. But Bud and all the others believed this absolute rot demeaning to the intelligence of a cub scout. Can you imagine the disaster if it had not been stopped-new false charges against even a dead man, meaning a man dead long before the crime he was about to be charged with?

Waybe, lot of real nice people go batty on this subject. Be careful, please.

Best, Hal

Dear Harold,

Glad to get your comments. I respect and appreciate your judgment on these matters. On several facts, however, I apparently expressed myself badly if not inaccurately. I do not think your judgment and mine differ too widely on the central points at issue. As far as characterization of Arbenz as left-wing, I merely used the terminology as short hand to convey political attitudes--a dangerous practice that tends toward oversimplification, if not damage to the subject under discussion. I should have qualified this characterization as saying "left wing" by the standards of the Dulles-Nixon-McCarthy philosophy that prevailed at that time.

I think dates are important things to remember here. Policy zig-zagged. What might be contrary to CIA policy in 1963 might not have been standard policy in 1959-1962. I realize that the CIA--and certainly not the FBI, as I know from personal experience--did not encourage Castro movement during the Batista reign. I was working on newspapers in Texas, and I am familiar with the many crackdowns on neutrality violators during the 1956-1959 period. I covered one incident which involved a shoot-out in the bay on Corpus Christi where gun runners dropped a whole cargo of weapons rather than allow the Coast Guard to seize them. Also, the FBI crackdown was hard in the San Antonio, El Paso area where shipments were moving from Chicago, St. Louis to the Mexican border.

But as you may recall, I stated that Y was Gen. C's one-man pipeline into the Castro organization in Mexico. He needed that pipeline to know what he was up to, and JY was a natural: experienced commando fighter, expert on weapons and explosives, and furthermore, a commercial pilot. I believe it is significant that all of Y's schemes succeeded (documented by Moore's book, corroborated by The Miami-Herald) despite the fact that he used such means that were hardly conducive to success. (point of clarification: I mean the three successful deliveries of firearms and explosives from U.S. to Mexico.)

You mentioned the San Francisco incident. I didn't want to get into that because it is very complicated. The Miami-Herald had a very interesting story about a hearing before a Miami federal commissioner who refused to allow the FBI to return Y to San Francisco on a charge of violating FCC statutes because Y's lawyer used a clever ruse to prove Y could not have been on the high seas in the Pacific (SF got jurisdiction because that was where the nearest federal judicial district and nearest U.S. port) where the alleged swindle scheme occurred and in Miami at the same time. His presence in Miami was established because of the alleged kidnap attempt of Masferrer.

Disposition of that case--according to rap sheet provided both by the Miami intelligence squad and Bud Fensterwald--is not shown. Furthermore, the arrest by FBI agents prior to the hearing before the federal commissioner is not shown either.

I believe either you or Bud explained to me that it is a habit of the CIA to load the police records of their undercover agents with enough bizarre charges so that when the agent outlives his usefulness, there will be enough evidence to discredit the agent in the eyes of the public. There is a difference, however, between the records of say, Lee Harvey Oswald and JY. Oswald's record was loaded with such incidents as AWOL, illegal possession of a pistol, and the street scene in New Orleans--all without any pre-publicity (they were not sensational or newsworthy.) But in Youngblood's case, ~~these were~~ many of the charges that have been aired against him in the press, are not reflected in his official police record. For instance:

(1) Illegal departure from U.S., or illegal entry into Brazil--not reflected. Miami Herald has several stories, quoting state department officials, Miami intelligence officials, and

(2) FCC violation--swindle on the high seas, etc, etc...

The Masferrer kidnap attempt, however, is reflected by the record.

(MORE)

One point you made I might differ with you. You said: "if the FBI read Youngblood's book, they would have known where to find the real Youngblood...."

First, as you and Bud make very clear on several occasions, the FBI is not always as efficient and systematic as its unreal mythology lead many people to think. Remember the feed-back of misinformation that prodded the FBI to convert Charlie Stephens from a drunken derelict to a reliable, material witness. This was not a premeditated attempt by the FBI to suborn perjury, but a result of the careless, fragmented operation that seems to accompany assassination investigations.

*Premeditated*

Let's take the "if"....remember, Nancy Perrin Rich told her story shortly after the Kennedy assassination...the FBI was in a hurry to prove there was no conspiracy as reflected by the statement made by Hoover less than three days after the assassination..."there is no evidence that Oswald acted in concert with others..."

There are probably ~~hundreds--~~ if not thousands of Youngbloods in the FBI file. In fact, there is a Jack Youngblood who has been a fugitive from Nashville state prison since 1953 after he killed another inmate and escaped. Obviously, this is not our JY.

*Book*  
*Search*  
*Remember How Dallas FBI agents fluffed up on Fennie (they said "Fennie" and on Marina's inconsistencies)*

From my experience in covering both the Kennedy and King assassinations, I noticed how fragmented the FBI investigations are. For example, the Memphis office gathered local evidence in a vacuum --not knowing what other FBI offices were digging up elsewhere. Their results were sent to Washington, where some mastermind there pieced it all together and made deductions.

The FBI in the Dallas office may not have known of the existence of the gun running Youngblood of 1957-1959. Also, if my suspicion is correct--namely, JY was an undercover for CIA--then would it be difficult to assume that the CIA had been successful in expunging all references to Cuba or South America from JY's FBI record. As you can see by looking at Bud's copy of JY rap sheet...there is only one item that suggests a Cuban connection, and that was the conspiracy to kidnap, and Bud got that from Miami police the same way I got mine. This does not mean that the FBI's record reflects this incident.

Plus, the ~~agents~~ Dallas FBI may have checked on ~~agents~~ *Chris Rich's* story without having requested any information from their Washington office about a Youngblood with Cuban connection.

After all, Bud and I fell into a similar trap. Through Bud's Dallas researcher, we checked every Youngblood who lived in Dallas for 15 years, without ever having locating our JY.

You know more about the Boxley-Garrison connection with Youngblood, so please enlighten me on it.

Now, we get to the kidnapping scheme. The gimmick of getting two bona fide cops to arrest Masferrer and deliver him to the airport where Youngblood would fly him to Cuba ~~xxx~~ has a certain ingenious--if not ingenious--beauty to it. JY could later contend--if he got caught--that he had no knowledge of a kidnapping scheme. He is only a pilot--not a lawyer--and as far as he understood the situation he was merely flying back to Cuba someone who had been extradited. NOTE THIS WAS IN APRIL, 1959. The U.S. still had diplomatic relations with Cuba. Castro had just completed a good will tour in the U.S. Alth ugh David Lawrence and some right wing critics had already started their propaganda war to discredit Castro, a neutrality--if not a slight edge in his favor--prevailed in public opinion polls.

Remember, this is a matter of record. Two Miami Springs policemen were named, arrested, and indicted. They were suspended while under charges, and they were never reinstated. Also, at least five other kidnapping attempts against Masferrer were aborted from 1959 to 1961, one involving a Dade County deputy sheriff, and one other involving a Miami beach detective.

(more)

If you still have Moore's book on JY, read toward the end. JY meets ██████ Masferrer in a Miami bar after the kidnap attempt fizzled. A put-on dispute emerges. Now, Moore may be no ██████ Ernest Hemmingway, but he is capable of writing better dialogue than this staged spat between JY and Masferrer.

Here, it was necessary to hide JY's connection with the CIA by conveying to the reader that JY joined up with Castro originally because he detested the Batista regime and the likes of El 'igre. The question I am raising is: Was Jy ever pro-Castro in the first place?

Then, the question of Moore's book and the effect on JY's usefulness. At first glance, I would tend to agree with you. But then ask yourself this question: what kind of image does the book project of JY? Soldier-of-fortune, an ingenious and resourceful man, tough, and a man who would do anything for money? What better advertisement could produce an undercover agent--one whom the officials in the CIA could automatically disown if anything ever went wrong. ██████

The book--like Gen. Walker's imbrolgio in Germany--would endear JY to the extreme right wing, anti-communist organizations. The book may have been the cover needed to get JY now into the extreme right wing organizations so the CIA could use him as a pipeline there as it used him as a pipeline into the Castro organization in Mexico in 1957.

Here, JY could launch operations--well heeled by private sources of wealth--that would fulfill policy objectives, but yet, if such operations should fail, the CIA can say that it was not involved--that it was strictly a privately promoted scheme. This might explain the CIA's role ██████ vis-a-vis assassinations: JFK, MLK, and RFK.

Talking about the casino charges, ██████ the rap sheet of JY. Most of the offenses for assault and battery were filed in Las Vegas and Reno. I wrote a reporter who used to work in Las Vegas, and he said he thought he recalled a high grade bouncer and courier by that name that worked for one of the big casinos there.

Also, the Miami Herald quotes Youngblood in 1959, while JY was in the Miami police station awaiting to be booked for the kidnap attempt, that he had a wife and baby in Reno. Herb Lau, Miami ██████ News columnist, who was probably the only newspaper reporter to ever be close to JY, said JY talked several times about a cattle ranch in Nevada and that JY--in the non-western ██████ environment of Miami--wore cowboy boots and hats on several occasions.

As far as Bob ██████ Livingston's law partner, I talked to him about JY long before I ever met Renfro says, or discussed him with Renfro. I recently revisited him, as Bob Livingston can confirm. ██████ he told me is that Renfro put words in his mouth about JY being in Memphis at time of King's slaying. I am convinced that Walter is trying to use Renfro as scapegoat. This is because Renfro was not around, and as I say, I had not formally met Renfro, when I first approached Water in 1969 and asked him about JY. He told me voluntarily about JY calling him after the King slaying, and saying he had been picked up. It was Walter's revelation which sent me to Jowers. Jowers not only confirmed it was JY, but informed me that investigators for the Public Defender's office had reached him first (Hugh Stanton Jr., not Hugh Stanton Sr., I believe talked to Jowers because I later talked to Stanton and while he would not confirm or deny being the man to show Jowers a picture of Youngblood, he told me "to watch your step when you go around asking about him (JY)...". ...I think Renfro just happened to pick up some information about JY either second hand from Walter or from Hugh Stanton, and then began to inject himself into the mystery. Walter did confirm, however, that Renfro had met JY back in 1963, but ██████ Renfro has a bad memory. He identified JY as a blond-haired "Kirk Douglas looking" man with a big husky frame. Walter said he is not blond at all, but dark haired, dark complexion, with high cheekbones and is part Cherokee Indian. He is well built, but NOT extremely tall.

What

apparently

please note

ingenious

Walter also confirmed that JY wrote him letters from a well known hotel in Mexico City during the pre-Cuban revolution days, about 1957, and 1958. Walter said:

"He was always urging me to come down to Mexico and that he could show me ways of making a lot of money...he told me he needed a good lawyer and a man he could trust...."

On my last visit, he restated his admiration and friendship for JY, but then made a statement that was contrary to one he made when I first talked to him. He told me JY would not get involved in an assassination attempt when I talked to him in 1969, because number one, he was not a racist, and number two, he would not do it for money because he was smarter enough to make money in much safer and more secure activity.

But the last time I talked to him, he expressed fear that JY would ~~probably~~ probably be capable of doing such a thing, and he gave me a very ominous warning..."JY would tear off your head without the slightest hesitation if he thought you were trying to connect him with this (assassination of King)". If JY was daring enough to participate in the assassinations of a president and civil rights leader, he would not "think twice about knocking off an unknown lawyer or an obscure lawyer like myself..." *L (Reporter)*

It was ~~Walter~~ who first hinted JY could have been connected with JFK's death..as far as I was concerned, I was concentrating only on the King assassination in 1969, when Walter told me that JY, a second companion visited him in Memphis in November, 1963--about four days before JFK's assassination in Dallas. He went out of his way to tell me this, as if he were suggesting that I should think there was a connection. A strange guy, this Walter Buford. He is not known for being a braggard. He is quiet, moody, and a very successful attorney for his age.

It ~~was~~ after my talk to him in 1969 that I started probing for the connection with the Kennedy assassination. Stanton, a right wing conservative, who is very popular with FBI agents, hinted to me in a bar one night--he was drinking ~~in~~ in the presence of an old acquaintance I knew ~~in~~ in San Antonio, and who later moved to Memphis, graduated from law school, and became an equity court judge--there was a connection between JY and the Kennedy assassination, and that the FBI had pictures of him.

Now does this make sense? Remember Ray telling Bud that Percy Foreman was a ~~conspirator~~ anti-communist Cuban? JY passed himself off as a Cuban and other latin american types before Foreman. *(some time)* according to Bud, said the FBI had been trying to arrest this man for ~~some time~~ Ray said he did not know nor recognize the pictures Foreman showed him. Now, isn't this consistent with the statement made to Livingston--namely, he doesn't know Youngblood. Because Ray is not a paragon of veracity, would it be illogical to assume that he ~~may~~ have told the truth to either Foreman or to Livingston?

Now, you mentioned two times in your letter that were not too clear...."Rorke's cfashed plane..." and "Hemming & Co." or the meeting in Guatemala. Please tell me more.

I remember something Wise wrote about in "Invisible Government". That as part of the CIA scheme to destroy Castro's jet fighters, a group of B-26s took off from Guatemala to destroy the planes, and then land in Miami and South America to make it appear that the B-26s were part of Castro's Air Force, and that they had bombed the jet fields while defecting to the U.S....

ON OTHER MATTERS: Have you seen John S. ~~Spencer~~ (I am not sure of that spelling)'s book on ~~the CIA~~ *Secrets of the CIA*. Like you, he does not pull any punches with Canale, or Judge Battle. He tears them apart while sparing Ramsey Clark. He hits on the same ethical questions you raised about Hule, Hanes and Foreman compromising justice for the pursuit of money. *(more)* *Send to Public*

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Although you have many of supporters in the form of readers, your numbers among the so-called professional writers have grown by one. Let's hope it is contagious...

I read and enjoyed Bud's <sup>piece</sup> on the treasury agent who was framed in Chicago. That was all new to me. Give Bud my congratulations and compliments.

The Fensterwald piece is startling in its implications. It suggests that there was first an assassination plot on Nov. 2 in Chicago. Then an assassination plot (as documented by the Miami tapes reported in your "Oswald in New Orleans" book and my peregrinations in Miami last summer) on Nov. 9. For some reason nothing was planned (or perhaps we do not know about it) on Nov. 15. Then, on Nov. 22--it happened.

Do you attach any significance to the fact that JFK's assassination was only three weeks after the assassination of the Diem brothers in Vietnam?

Your friend,

Chastain

*Chastain*