JL, DW, HR - the Turner/Christian book HW 12/24/78

I read the crap yesterday and last night after the doctor told me to stay in. I do feel okay, too.

It is the typical over-written, dishonest approach and work I know of both of them, with the typical give-aways. And it boils down to Jerry Owen, who may be no more than a not atypical con man of the kind not uncommon re the assassinations. This you believe all they say, as I do not. Not even quotes.

It is a Christian book, plugging him all the time, with infrequent mention of Turner and constant mention of Christian's alleged work. I suppose Turner is in it for the connection, the writing and the credentials of a former FBI SA.

Essentially it is a rehash, with much on Owen and what they allege relates to him. It is largely the work of others, infrequently or never credited and with the typical Turner touch of pretending to be generous in crediting others. Which makes it appear that as the rest is their work, which it is not. Turner is a professional literary thief. In this case, while there is no mention of Charach or Fensterwald, there is great play for (the dead) Lillian Castellano. But none for her associate, Fred Newcomb.

There is some, I think inadequate use of the secret transcript I used in Post Mortem (without mention of it or me or how they got this transcript) and there is the direct theft of Lane's fabrication regarding Weditt, uncredited and faithful in all details to the entirely uncredited source. Or, only the same gross error, stolen. I cite these as illustrations. I am sure that much of the rest is similar and that much of what is credited to a Christian interview is actually his duplication of others, like Charach, Newcomb, Castellano, Kevin, etc.

Christian is not a professional newsman, regardless of radio or TV experiences. He is a ~~/~~ luftmensch, a promoter and con man, with the kinds of connections he has in the book, I think overworks. When I discovered this, when O in NO was first out, I detached myself from him. I discovered it when he undertook, without asking, to rewrote a press release I had drafted. Hoch was there. It was thoroughly unprofessional, editorializing extensively and unnecessarily and it was exceptionally arrogant to do this kind of thing, especially with me right there and without even discussing it.

The book is really about a civil trial, of Owen vs. a TV station, KCOP, in which some RFK aspects were dragged in. It is rough on the LAPD, which can't be exaggerated, and as a reflection of Turner/Christian investigation managed to omit all the legit. criticism I do not recall being published but extant and quite visible. Despite his extensive work in the field Christian has nothing on the destroyed evidence than I published. I have what I have not published but he does not have that. Or, no real investigation by either of them save for some on Owen, not the case itself.

When he refers to others in putdowns, like Bob Maiser and Rusty Rhodes, the dishonesty of the men and their work raises questions about the honesty and impartiality of the comment. However, the names he drops are not invented. He had these connections.