

3/3/75

Dear Tris, Coffin

There may be less mystery to why Hoover was pushing for a lone assassin in the JFK deal that would appear and would also appear to be logical and reasonable to those fortunate enough not to have devoted themselves to the subject.

Your interpretation of what I take to be Ben Franklin's 2/23/75 Times story angled as he was fed by Jones Harris is of the same character, reasonable but not the actuality. The story was deceptive ^{and} without factual accuracy in several areas unknown to Franklin. The Commission did, too, have that stuff. I aired it Thursday on Panorama. And rather than "two Oswalds" I prefer my own formulation in the first book, finished 2/15/65, of "false" Oswald. Not the same role(s).

Hoover's dislike of the CIA is traditional, back to OSS, I believe. And he did always fear they were out to do him in as well as keep him from what he regarded as part of his proper freedom. Here you mean Cartha "Deke" DeLoach.

But even here, in the context of Whitewash IV, simplifications won't work. They will appear to be satisfactory but in that Byzantine world they'll not be.

I put in more time than a doctorate would take on a book for which I'd sued for the transcript used in Whitewash IV. When I got it I felt it had to appear pronto. Or as pronto as the requirements of the Ray case and other work permitted. Some of the appended documents were for that purpose ^{also} ~~also~~. And more than a thousand pages more I've obtained. I long to return to that book but can't immediately. Too much else has to be done.

It and other work I've done could have an enormous and very beneficial impact if they could appear now. However, I'm a one-man publisher who is into too much.

Even JFK's pre-Presidential love life. Not by search, by accident. I spent four days with one and when I return to that part of the land she'll make a tape for the (distant) future and lock it up. A memoir of the man as a man, not a politician. I'd never heard this as you had through Kerr, but it was no secret.

Much of what I'm referring to has to be confidential until I can complete research and publish. The field crawls with those who seek instant fame and importance, lack the most elemental competence for this kind of work, and steal and embellish. So, from painful experience, I don't let anything out now except to a few of the most trusted. However, there is quite a story in this not even indicated in the new book. If you ever get time to come up I have no reluctance in trusting you. I can't take time to write a couple of rough drafts of books in explanation, though!

Matter of fact, I've had a book that should break the whole thing wide open camera ready for years and lack the money to print. All it needs is knowledge of how much has to be cut from the appendix and the typing of the index already on cards.

Aside from assassin identifications there are fewer secrets than the blabbing of the well-intended (mostly but not entirely) who don't and can't do real work would lead you to believe. What is needed is getting it out.

We, too, are sorry about the Ray decision. It will mean an enormous amount of added work, mostly for Jim Mesar. But in the long run the cause of justice may be better served by this monstrous and entirely unjudicial decision.

If Bud hadn't chickened out on work I'd done while he was living it up in Europe last year the judge would never have dared it. We have more than enough to get the case thrown out entirely by many precedents. He agreed to use it and then got scared. At least I hope it is terror, not worse. This is what I think. He isn't used to or up to practicing that kind of tough law.

Jim will recapture what can be. I'm confident his appeal would delight Zola, if we do not have a Dreyfus for a client. The principle is the same.

Thanks and best,