

7/15/71

Mr. Carl Stern
NBC News
4001 Nebraska Ave., NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Stern,

Fred Cook's article, a copy of which you gave me, is up to his excellent standard. He has done some of the best writing on Hoover and the FBI. The copy does not indicate the title and issue of the publication. I'd appreciate knowing both, because there is a passage I intend to quote in current writing and I always credit. Should this subject every interest you, I have an enormous file in some ways unique and one of the two largest private files of FBI reports.

The reference to FBI Agent Hosty is inaccurate in a way that can be unfair to Hosty. Oswald did not have his unlisted home phone. He had the office phone and Hosty's license number, provided by his wife, who saw the car. The real Hosty story is really an exercise in duplicity by other agents and the Bureau. They deceived the Warren Commission on all aspects of it. I have the proof in FBI reports in my possession and will use in current writing much interrupted by my efforts to be my own lawyer in suing the FBI. If you'd been able to accept my backgrounding offer, I think you'd understand that in all the suits I've filed to date and most of those I plan, where I may be suing Justice or Archives, it is really Hoover and the FBI. In my C.A.2569-70, where the clerk of the court is delaying my efforts to appeal (today is a month), I have the faked pictures in my possession, and the FBI did the faking. The picture bears their identification.

Cook's reference to "imperial wrath" against colleges is not quite precise. American University was not as much the victim as the non-staff professor, Rose, who lost his job at Frederick Community College (here) over it.

Your interest seemed to be in the Miami tape. Here Cook does not give the full story nor his sources and, depending on second-hand sources (not credited) has, I think, made some errors. The real story is that when Garrison started making noises, the Miami police felt they had to protect themselves. They announced the essence in a press conference of which I have pictures and copies. I added this to my then-written OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS, completed in mid-March 1967. I then began a search through the Archives, which denied in writing that it had any of this material. Ultimately I located more than I was able to use in FRAME-UP and that was in greater detail in the preceding limited edition. I showed you those I did reprint in facsimile. I have more on Milteer, the informant, Bill Somerset, the National States Rights Party, and I traced some of the people mentioned in the tape. The first book to use this tape was OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS and the first full appearance is in FRAME-UP. To date there has been no complaint from anyone, from Hoover to Milteer. Miami States Attorney Gerstein was helpful to me. He also was the recipient of threats. My understanding of the origins of the tape is other than Cook's. The threat was incidental. The real interest was in an anticipated inspired race riot. I find it of some interest that Cook uses as a subhead my chapter title, This Is Your FBI. I enclose a copy of his review of FRAME-UP from The Saturday Review.

As a 58-year-old who hasn't averaged five hours a night's sleep in seven years, I know what it is to be busy, so I can understand how it may be awkward or close to impossible for you or Herb to have accepted my offers of backgroundings. These are much broader than I have indicated to either of you, cover more, some of which may at some time involve NBC in embarrassing ways. From the beginning of the work that has occupied me since 1963, I have attempted to keep as many reporters as possible informed of what I thought they might want to know. Ron Messen will remember part of this. When Bart Ivrey was in Washington and later in New York, I also filled him in. The transcript I gave you I first showed to Jordan in January or February of this year, so I knew NBC's potential interest in it. Because of the interest he then expressed in FFANE-UP, I gave NBC Washington more copies than anyone else (Betty Groebli, who aired Hule and refused to air me, has a copy I am sure she has no need for if you'd care to replace Ron's copy, which he does want).

My offers to background are not to give away what I regard as valuable literary rights. It is, rather, to put the press in a position, at the right time, to perform its traditional and to me indispensable function in a society such as ours. Perhaps the furor over and content of The Pentagon Papers can make this more comprehensible. If I cannot say when it will happen, I am confident that all of the official mythology about the political assassination inevitably will come apart. Were you to spend less than a half hour glancing at some of the evidence I now have, I think you would agree. You might then conceive that there may be a special context in which the stories of these assassinations belongs.

The area of possible embarrassment to NBC involves both the current indictment of Jim Garrison (where I can background you as your local people cannot, and I am full of respect for Ed Planer, who has been helpful to me) and the Hoffa-Partin business. Partin, when last I heard him quoted, says he is coming to Washington to tell all. He may or may not be credited, but there is much he can say. I have a long and rambling confession from one participant that totals about six hours of gut-spilling, on tape. His story is supported by two others, one a respected local reporter, both participants in making the contact. This is a seamy business about which I think NBC would be well advised to inform itself in advance of the possible fact. It would take me about a half hour to tell you, Herb or Wonderer, or anyone else NBC might elect, what I know. It would take much longer to locate my proofs and tapes, which are put away.

The part of Cook's piece that interests me is p. 61, of which I'd also appreciate a clear copy at your convenience. One of the books on which I am writing will have an introduction on FBI informants, on whom I have a large file. They have as hairy a record as Cook indicates, really worse. (This will be a considerable problem with the ~~bgmaa~~-informant, who I know well, in the current New Orleans case. To keep the mob from getting at him - not Garrison - the FBI has had to get him out of the country.)

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg