

7/2/31

Dear Ed,

I couldn't resist temptation and wasted the time to skim the Cooking in the Nation. Shit I expected, but all that gall I didn't. It is one of our major problems, has been beginning with Lane and through Grrison to Bud, all egos primarily, none more than publicists, all their publicity-seeking selfish.

Knowing both the book and the review, there is little more need be said of Cook but one thing that may put it and his knowledge in perspective. Back in the late spring of 1966, Carey McWilliams assigned WHITEWASH to him for review. Instead he sold McWilliams on printing rubbish so malodorous Ramparts wouldn't touch it when they were desperate for something on the assassination.

So you will know, not one considered a "major" critic of the Commission has joined this, far from the first committee, as Cook says. Nor, to the best of my knowledge, has any but one doing really serious work. All the touted committee and all its touted files collectively can't begin to compare with the accomplishments of any single one of a rather imposing if small number of young students whose ages now range from 17-18 to about 25.

Bud had as much to do with getting to be Ray's lawyer as he had with putting men on the moon. He had less to do with the British evidence and surprisingly little more to do with the legal pleadings.

The Dallas researchers he "found" are two exceedingly rich nuts and one very fine, very troubleOridden sincere conservative woman, the richies being as niggardly as Bud, who even sticks me for expenses incurred for him sometimes. Those two are really wierd. And the third, never mentioned by name, is on Bud's board, as is Cook.

The part you marked is one of Bud's more dubious obsessions, Jack Lawrence, the only purpose served by the avoidance of his name being libel-frustration. And all that legal mumbo-jumbo is a single suit recently filed for the stuff that was made available to Kayser.

The sad truth is that he has closed forever more investigations than he has opened. As you know, the Miami stuff is in O in NO, which dates to 2-3/67, and I got it from Bill Barry's story based on ~~the~~ Miami P.D. handouts. The FBI reports Bud couldn't find. One of the bright students and I got them.

When the establishment of truth and the saving of society depends on the salving of the egos of the rich and the paranoid, we are in pretty bad shape.

Best,