

2/8/91

Dear Joe,

When I started writing this personal statement I felt good about it and by the time I got this far yesterday afternoon I didn't. I do not have much more in mind for this and if the new split on my left forefinger gets no worse I'll do that after my morning walking and handling the mail. I think I am saying things that need saying so I want to get it on paper but I also fear that it is duplicative too often and may appear to be vindictiveness. I do not so intend it but I fear it may be taken that way. I have only two more critics in mind, both active, very active, and very disinformative.

Odd thing that for maybe a month the finger I use most just split open at the ends, for no apparent reason. I've not used my right forefinger in typing for that long. Now I'm in the habit of using the middle, which has a better chance of striking two keys because it is larger. But now that 4-5 have healed I get this new one. Must be, as my bubba of beloved memory used to say, something bad is coming out.

You've not indicated when you'll be returning but we hope I am sure I can speak for the still-sleeping Idi - you'll think of getting off at Alexandria and stop of here on your way home.

Best to everyone there,

Harold

3/31/41 Easter Sunday

There have been so many interruptions and intrusions over recent ~~six~~ weeks I've entirely lost control over the content and recollection of the content of the preceding pages. I recall clearly the thrust of what in different aspects of it I've been trying to make clear, total failure at the time of these great crises and since then, but I'll never get done if I try to go back and reorganize what I'd worked on intermittently. I won't have time today to continue writing but I hope to be able to commence again tomorrow.

Much if not most of the cause of my not writing has been my feeling of great weariness. I've just not felt up to it when I was not otherwise preoccupied, as I was on several matters I believed I had to take time for and with the daily correspondence and book orders to be filled. The rate of my heart beat is slower, my blood-pressure numbers have changed, the upper larger and the lower lessened, so I've made an appointment to see the family doctor day after tomorrow. Whatever the cause, I'm tired as soon as I get out of bed (not before, however) and on good days sitting and readings tends to give this feeling time to wear off. Some days it doesn't and most days it has return without any apparent reason. Yesterday this feeling of tiredness was so oppressive that I had no more than reached the shopping center where I've been walking (and resting, alternately) recent early mornings) that I decided it would be unwise to walk. I was home before sunrise and felt this tired until for no apparent reason other perhaps than changing the position of the anti-c,bo,ism hose I must wear when after supper I felt as I've normally felt since the open-heart surgery when not feeling weary. I've grown steadily weaker over these recent months, too. All these and other things have been on my mind and have helped me forget exactly where I am in what I'd planned. I hope that when I resume it will be with a reasonable connection to what precedes.

For understand-
ing and
content

Dear Richard,

2/12/91

I believe that I sent you the beginning of Personal Statement w as far as I had written it but I'm now not certain.

When we spoke last week I told you I was getting the impression more and more that I had not made my purpose clear and that it might also be misunderstood.

So, I enclose a new beginning for the new beginning.

This being Lincoln's birthday, I was reminded of a few of his words and I intended to use them at the end. A carbon of this will serve as my reminder.

He began with what I omit, "Fellow citizens," and then said, "we cannot escape history." To this I intended adding ~~we~~ "We can't, and ~~the~~ government's can't either." Probably in reverse order.

I was tempted to but did not use other simple and appropriate words from that same speech, and maybe at the very end will, "Though the difficulties pile high..."

I hope to be able to get back to Personal Statement tomorrow, but I know there will be several interruptions.

And I'll get a new ribbon and, if necessary, service on the copier.

Best,

Harold

PERSONAL STATEMENT

(This is a new opening to begin with what appears later and I believe ought be first for the readers' understanding of what otherwise may appear to be irrelevant.)

Assassination is a political crime. Whatever the intent of assassins may be, political changes are certain. They can vary widely in ^{their} effects, and they do, depending on the individuals and ^{political} their influence and leadership roles and with the office held when the victim holds elective office. But when a political leader is killed, change, most of all in policy, is an absolute certainty. What is not certain is the nature and magnitude of these changes.

When the victim of the assassination is a president, even/minor changes in ^{what may appear to be} policy have national/significance. ~~A~~ seemingly slight shift in national budget allocations that may not attract much attention can be enormously significant. For example if as little as two percent of what had been designated for domestic needs were to be reassigned to the military, it can mean hunger and other privations for the nation's growing number of people who ~~are~~ ^{live} already below the poverty line in their income.

No matter how similar the personalities, the ^{political} beliefs and the national and international policies of the president and his vice president may appear to be - and ^{it} is usual in United States politics that the presidential candidate selects as his running-mate one who can appeal to a different constituency - they are never identical.

^{international} The policies of President John F. Kennedy and Vice President Johnson in particular were quite different. Kennedy had become a dove with what he learned when the Cuba Missile Crisis almost caused the incineration of the world in a nuclear holocaust. Lyndon Johnson ^{and remained} was a hawk.

A few days before he was assassinated President Kennedy had ordered the gradual withdrawal of what were termed our "advisers" from Viet Nam. This appeared with little public attention in the papers, its is confirmed in National Security Counsel Action ^(NSA. 4) memoranda that have achieved almost no attention, and it was confirmed to me in an interview by General James Gavin.

a few days after Lyndon Johnson was President, this decision was nullified, and

Beginning from

and greatly magnified after Johnson's re-election this ~~change~~ ^{change} with an
policy led to

is one of the most terribly tragic and in all ways costly catastrophes, without a single
constructive ~~result~~ ^{result} and with lingering suffering on all ~~sides~~ ^{there and here}.

^{policy changes}
another of the many illustrations most of which are long since forgotten was a
basic ^{policy shift} ~~change~~ that ~~and~~ continues to have major consequences ^{causing countless deaths and tortures abroad} (and resulted in the atbest
non-productive waste of Billions of tax dollars that thus could not be used for other
and necessary purposes. ^{at home}.

^{again} President Kennedy stated a new national policy, that the United States would not
recognize any military dictatorship that overthrew an elected government. The first
freely-elected President of the Dominican Republic was ^{scholarly democracy} Juan ~~Boa~~ Bosch. When shortly
after the assassination he was overthrown by the ^{Domican military} military, Johnson recognized the
military dictatorship and ^{Johnson dispatched} before long many thousands of our military of all branches to
were ~~involved~~ ^{involved} in support of that dictatorship (when an effort was made to get rid of it)

Although from the earliest days of our country domination of Latin America had been
^{following this assassination} national policy, the extent and the cost of open intervention on the side of ~~many~~ of these
military dictatorships became greater than ever. There is not one of the many Latin
American dictatorships ~~that~~ the United States ^{did} has not supported from the time John
Kennedy was assassinated. aside from all the other costs, such as ^{unaccountable} the tortures, murders
and ^{the} so-called "disappearance" of ~~thousands~~ thousands and thousands of Latin Americans, the
cost in tax dollars is in the billions and political instability in that part of ^{the} world
^{became} is now endemic.

When I was able to travel and speak and be on talk shows one of the most commonly
asked questions was ~~whether~~ ^{and how} whether our political assassinations were by the as same
assassins. Quite a few Americans held this belief. There is not a shred of evidence that
~~these~~ the same assassins were involved in ^{any} two of the four major political assassinations
of the 1960s and there ^{factual} is no reason ^{believe} to ^{they were} suspect that ~~this had been the case~~.

^{John Kennedy was assassinated November 22, 1963}
The assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was on April 4, 1968 and that
of Robert Kennedy was two months later.

While not of the same magnitude, I believe ¹⁹⁶¹ that the assassination of Malcolm X was
an important event and ought be kept in mind ^{in considering} ^{our} when the effects of the political assassinations
is thought of.

These assassinations have two things in common. Each of the victims had had enemies for years but not one of them was assassinated until after he had made a major change in his policies. ^{with four} All these changes greatly increased ^{his} the possible ^{support and} political base ^{his} and leadership potential ^{all} of the victims.

^{John} Kennedy had ^{ed in} been of gradually increasing popularity. He first ^{publicly} enunciated in public ^{decision he had made, to} a major ~~policy~~ change, a policy of seeking to reduce the areas of confrontation with the Soviet Union, in his ^{June, 1963} speech at the American University in Washington. In sum, he said we live in one world, breathe in the same air, and will live or die in it together. He made other radical changes, one that is little recalled today is negotiating the first agreement with the USSR that looked toward reduced tensions and toward lasting peace. It was the limited test-ban agreement that, among other things, reduced the contamination of the atmosphere by ending out testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere.

^N King had been regarded as a "uppity nigger" all his short adult life but he ~~was~~ not assassinated then, ~~not~~ assassinated as long as his means of seeking equality for blacks was marching and praying for the right to vote. When he came to realize that his Gandhian ^{belief in} policies of non-violence could succeed only when there was a moral conscience to which appeal could be made ^{and that it} did not exist ^{when he realized} on this country and he saw that being able to vote would ^{in itself} not put food on empty ^{stomachs,} tables ^{he added a new area of activity.} he began a more radical approach. He called it the "POCCAM" in the FBI's ^{extensive spying on and intrusions into it.} Poor Peoples Campaign. Earlier he had come out publicly against our involvement in Viet ^{name} Nam. These changes in his policies that could and I think would have greatly ^{enhanced} his leadership ^{and following were} potential that was feared as his praying and marching had not been feared. ^{it} ^{he underwent} and it was only after these changes that he was assassinated.

^{insert from page 5} Malcolm X, the more militant black leader, also was learning and ^{growing} changing. One of his ^{changes} ~~engages~~ as he moderated was ^{To} ~~end~~ ^{By itself this} what I am not alone in regarding as his sexist attitude toward women. ^{that} ~~that~~ ^{could} widened the base of his appeal and, had he not been assassinated, ^{and enlarged} ~~could~~ and I believe would have broadened his ~~base~~ ^{political} ~~base~~ ^{appeal} and following.

So, while these assassinations of the 1960s were not by the ^{a/} same assassins, they all had in common killing leaders of increasing political influence who were not of the right and who were, among other things, opposed to United States participation in foreign wars.

also in common in all four of these political assassinations is the involvement of the Federal Bureau of investigation, first as part of ~~its~~ its vast domestic political spying, particularly aimed at those not liked by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and especially ^{he} ~~is~~ regarded them as politically liberal, and then in the supposed investigations of the crimes.

Also in common in ~~second second bond in any serious consideration~~ examination of these assassinations is the involvement of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in investigating the crimes and their victims.

Insert above
transfer to page 3

Robert Kennedy had been a hawk but after Eugene McCarthy's spectacular showing the New Hampshire primary, ~~he became an open dove.~~ ^{which told Johnson he could not be re-elected, Robert Kennedy} He had a good chance, such was the popularity of his martyred brother, the family name, and of his changed policy, ~~next~~ ^{to peace,} ~~to deviousness,~~ ^{that he had a good chance} of winning his party's nomination. His victory in the California primary ^{improved} ~~enhanced~~ his prospects. He was assassinated almost the minute ^{his} ~~the~~ ^{victory was} ~~the~~ California results ~~to be~~ known.

In the John Kennedy and the King assassination investigations, the major and the controlling force was the FBI. It also had considerable influence in the California and New York investigations of the Robert Kennedy and Malcolm X investigations by local ^{Director J. Edgar Hoover and his FBI} authorities. ~~It~~ regarded Malcolm X as a danger to the country and as its own enemy.

Its investigations of him the full extent of which is not knowⁿ/is known to be incorporated in excess of the more than 10,000 pages of reports the existence of which it had ~~acknowledged~~ ^{these disclosures do} acknowledged in response to requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) ^{do} that do not include all the records the FBI has at its headquarters ~~and~~ ⁱⁿ its many field offices.

So^{me} ~~one~~, full understand^{ing} of any of these assassinations and/or their official investigation requires an understanding of the FBI's role, methods, techniques, policies and practices in all of them.

By far the greatest volume of disclosed FBI records relate to the John Kennedy assassination. The second greatest volume of these ~~disclosed records~~ ^m relate to its King-assassination investigation, to which it gave the code-name MURKIN, for Murder of King. ^{5/1/68}

~~By means of a large number of FOIA lawsuits I am responsible for the disclosure of its disclosed MURKIN and related records, (some 60,000 pages), and am more responsible than anyone else for the quarter of a million or more of its disclosed John Kennedy assassination records. more than anything or anyone else did. (In all I know about a third of a million pages of government records that had been withheld.)~~

My FOIA lawsuit, Civil Action (CA) 75-1996 in federal district court in Washington compelled it, reluctantly, to give me some 60,000 pages of its MURKIN and related records. I filed a series of FOIA lawsuits that, more than any other single cause, made it disclose the ^{first} ~~approximately~~ ^{pages of the JFK assassination} quarter of a million ~~pages~~ of these records. From all official files I got ~~through~~ through FOIA action about a third of a million pages of once-withheld records relating to the political assassinations and their official investigations. ✓

These successes - and while I never hit the gusher I should have I also ~~did~~ ^{did not} a single dry well - grew into a major problem for one of my years and many medical and ~~EXEM~~. ^{6/10/75} resultant physical limitations. (Although most do not think this way, I was born in 1913, the first ~~member~~ ^{member} of my family ever been born into freedom, and I am more than a third the age of our country had have lived through and observed that much of its history.) [Perhaps better as a footnote on the page.] I believe that while under FOIA the government has the obligation of giving me copies of all relevant records not under any of the several ^{within} exemptions specified in this most American of laws, it also makes me and any other ^{one else} person who obtains copies of official records surrogate for all the people of our country. I may not copyright the records themselves, only the uses I make of them. I therefore have given unrestricted access to my copies to the "any person" of the law. In practise this has at various times meant most of the major media and those who have enjoyed this unsupervised access along with the uses of our copier have more often been those with whom I do not agree. Because the only place I have for this enormous volume of records is in our basement and I am limited in ~~the~~ use of stairs one unnecessary ^{consequence} consequence is that despite unrestricted access to our copier a few original materials have been stolen along with ^{some} duplicate copies I made on first reading of these records for my own use and that of others. I have kept all the records I received exactly as I received them so they may be used in ~~the~~ the future with the assurance that they are what I received and are exactly as I received them, with no changes or alterations of any kind on a single one of these approximately third of a million pages. They will ^{forever} be a free public archive at Hood College, Frederick, Maryland, one of the very best of our smaller colleges.

Extra space 6 fols.

There is no means by which we can make anything like an accurate estimate of the enormous volume of relevant ^{King} records ^{the FBI} it has not disclosed, but there is an ^{indication} that it is ^{enormous} a ^{great} volume from one ^{of its} records that, after months of strongly resisted effort and endless succession of FBI misrepresentation to the court in my Civil Action (Ga) CA 75-1996 for ^{it is an} those King records I finally got an incomplete inventory of the field office records only relating to the FBI's vacuum-cleaner investigations of King, his closest associates and his Southern ^N ^{Conference} Christian Leadership Association. With, among other things, ^{as well as other relevant records} all the rooms-ful of tapes of electronic surveillance ^{excluded} and all the transcriptions ^{and with none of the many thousands of FBI headquarters (FBIHQ) listed. This} of them and other relevant paper, ^{this} incomplete inventory totals 402 pages! ↓

Thus, in an effort to make comprehensible to the reader what is so far from the ^{knowledge of most} experience and understanding of the ^{to provide this understanding, I more often} average American, in what follows, I draw ^{use} more on the more numerous JFK assassination FBI records ^{as a means of seeking to convey this} understanding.
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The major media, as is made clear in my ~~ear~~ seven earlier books, bears full responsibility for the FBI and other agencies getting away with what they did and continue to get away with because ~~they~~ all elements of it failed to fulfill the traditional role of the United States press in not asking the obvious questions, in blind ~~accept~~ acceptance of the unaccept^{able} ^{but} from officialdom and in failing to conduct their own independent investigations of these tragic turning-points of ^{and sensational} history.

That role fell to little-known private citizens most of whom had no background or experience in such matters. ^{about these crimes} What is known other than the official accounts is known ^(what government chose to say of them) only because of these efforts ^{these} by private citizens who came to be known as "critics."

After the first few critics' books, of which my "Whitewash: the Report on the Warren Resper Report," completed mid-February, 1965 and published in limited edition August 17 of that year, most espouse conspiracy theories by means of which, in varying ^{ways and} degrees, ~~they~~ pretend to solve these crimes. ^{They don't}

Without exception all ^{such works} are ^{they} seriously flawed. The result is that the more attention ^{most of them} ^{they} attained the more confused and misled the people who from my extensive correspondence still suffer the ^{as a result of} pains of these crimes. (another consequence of these theories)

of the assassinations presented as facts is that ^{all the branches of} both the government and the major media that failed and misled and misrepresented ^{tend to be} are exculpated.

^{For many years,} When anything relating to the assassinations reaches newspapers, for example, the usual reaction ~~for years~~ has been, "More of that junk," and it is discarded and ignored.

I have and have read innumerable FBI records in which it makes its own choice of the more outlandish writing and circulates memos in which it presents these writings as ^{typical and as} justifying and validating all it did and did not do.

It is for ^{these} ~~this~~ reasons, and to make a record for history, that I ~~begin with~~ ^{later} include in this personal statement an illustrative sampling of these books and their authors. The reader now and ⁱⁿ history should understand ^{that} to a large degree ^{we} ~~the~~ critics also failed to meet the responsibilities ^{we} they voluntarily assumed.

Nonetheless, these critical failures did serve to raise questions ignored or lied about by government and, compared with the monolithic failures of all the basic institutions of our society, the institutions on which we depend for our freedoms and our own ability to seek to preserve and perpetuate the ^m pale into insignificance. Yet they, too, should ~~be~~ understood if the truth is ever to be known.

There is no ~~without~~ live defendant to take any case to any court in the JFK case, ^{also} There is little present likelihood that, given the failures and abdications of the courts and the major media in the FOIA litigation that did ~~bring~~ rescue from officially-ordained oblivion more than enough official information to prove that the government did lie ~~of~~ us about it, that the JFK case ^{will} can be officially re-investigated. Indeed, were it to be it would be once again the government investigating itself.

In reaction to public pressures built by some critics the House of Representatives did create a Select Committee on Assassinations in 1976. From ^{m/} ~~my~~ personal experiences with its top staff in its earliest days it was apparent that whatever individual Members may have thought or intended, this committee was, to the degree possible, ^{going to} support the official "solutions." It did. Were the Congress once again to examine into the official explanations of these assassination, it would really be investigating the FBI. No real

and thorough investigation of it has ~~was~~ ever been made by any Congress and no Member can hope for political survival if he is ever part of any real and ~~there~~ thorough investigation of it. ~~#~~ such is its power and its willingness to use its power and its record of using it.

In the King case, however, there is a live defendant, James Ear Ray. Under the law he has but one recourse before the courts, "new evidence;" and this "new" evidence^a, which is really the old evidence buried, misrepresented, ignored and lied about, is for the first time in this book.

The disgraceful, the dishonest ^{official} government record is one of "The King Conspiracies."
~~xxxxxxxx~~ Defining conspiracy is easy; proving it is not.

Under the law conspiracy is a combination to do what the law says is wrong plus an overt step in pursuance of the conspiracy. Taking a step, an action to advance the purpose or purposes of the conspiracy, is required because otherwise it would be no more than ~~talk~~ talk and talk, as it should be, is protected by the First Amendment. Proving that as few as two people put their heads together to do something illegal and they^m took that single step to impliment it can be a complicated and ~~f~~ difficult thing to do in court.

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

This is not a first-person book because, as too many others have done, I intend to portray myself as a hero. I am not a hero and in no sense at all is any of those who beat their own chests and proclaim their non-existing heroism.

Nor is it in an effort to stake out a claim of ownership of the subject of political assassination as others, ~~fake~~ ^{icd} falsely, indecent ^{10/} have from the first done and after two and a half decades still do.

9A ~~subject.~~
~~Nobody owns, nobody can own this tragic, this terrible ~~subject~~ I am certain history~~
~~will ultimately record, as despite revisionism, which is usually profitable and name-~~

~~building) these two most costly crimes in our history, the assassinations of two of the President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were perpetrated at greatest of Americans, at just the time their potential for national and international leadership, it is beginning to record.~~ ^{increased 11/28}

~~Only the people own ^{their} our history.~~

However, if any such claim could be asserted, I am more entitled to do it than any other, particularly more than those phonies who would have it believed that it is they who discovered ~~the~~ sex, they who invented the wheel, the import of their writing and speaking. All they have discovered is how to make dishonest money and all they have invented ^{is} one of their crooked means, ^{inventing untenable} ~~the~~ untenable theories that at least in some instances they knew to be false and impossible when they made these captivating mythologies up.

I am more entitled to make the claim that nobody can with honesty or decency make because, as will become clear to those not aware of it, despite all the many mythologies and other fabrications, it is I who, with not inconsiderable effort and cost, brought to light most of what is factual about both crimes. I did this in seven published books and

so many lawsuits against errant government under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) I can't remember them all. My records of these lawsuit alone fill ^{file drawers} _____ filing cabinets and _____ file boxes.

My first book, "Whitewash: the Report on the Warren Report," was completed and in the ^{who abandoned it while drooling into the fall over his "gold plated best seller"} 15, mail to the contracted publisher by the contracted date, ~~xxxxxx~~ February 1965. It was published ^{it} in limited edition, when there was indication it was about to be stolen in France, ^{on} August 17, 1965. It went into general circulation May 7, ¹⁹⁶⁶ of that year.

These two assassinations, of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., each in his own way a great American and a great leader, were perpetrated when each, ^{man} after much thought and experiences of great danger, had initiated new policies, policies that, with each man, were already adding materially to the national and international ~~index~~ respect and leadership each had already earned.

Kennedy's first public display of the radical transformations already begun in his policies was in a speech at American University, in Washington, ^{five months before his November 22, 1963} ~~the time before he~~ ^{was} ~~assassinated~~. He asked the entire world to understand that we all live in this one world and that if we were not to die together in it we had to find a way toward lasting, international peace ^{in it}. Although it then was not known and although they still remain secret, he and the USSR's leader, Nikita Khrushchev, had begun the exchange of about 40 long letters in which they had begun groping ^{to} the peace neither survived to attain.

King had learned ^{there} that is a limit to what could be achieved by praying, marching and making other demonstrations so that blacks would be permitted to vote. He had learned also that the Ghandian ~~pacifist~~ peaceful resistance could succeed ^{is} only where there was a moral consciousness to which appeal could be made and he found it lacking in this country. He decided on the ~~poor~~ Poor Peoples Campaign (POCAM to the FBI) to seek economic as well as political justice and equality. ^{be able to} Poor people had to eat as well as to be able to vote. His campaign had hardly begun when ^{on April 4, 1968, in fact} he was assassinated. ?

History ^{as to a large degree it has,} will ultimately record, ^{we} believe, and will find public acceptance for ^{it} ~~its~~ ^{recording of} who obstructed and ^{who} denied the nation the truth about this awful crimes and who, ~~intending~~ ^{or} pretending to intend to bring truth to light, buried it deeper.

But only the people, not any individual, ^{The nation's} will own this, the people's history.

Extreme

another reason this is a first-person book is that I was James Earl Ray's investigator. I got him his pro bono counsel who took over after those of his choice, ~~of~~ ~~of~~ of the right extreme (politically), had failed to get him the trial famed criminal lawyer Percy Foreman intimidated Ray out of having. Together, with me doing the investigating, we did get him an evidentiary hearing in federal district court for Western Tennessee. It extended over a two-week period beginning _____. Ray then was denied a trial - imagine, in a crime of this magnitude, after more than two decades there has been no trial, no judicial determination of fact - but we did subject the evidence officially alleged against him to cross-examination and we did prove it was untrue.

For the habeas corpus proceeding to determine whether or not there would be the evidentiary hearing ~~that~~ ^{then} would determine whether or not Ray would have his day in court with a public trial I conducted the investigations. These investigations resulted in the affidavits attached to the earlier proceeding and they produced the live witnesses who testified and were subjected to cross-examination at the evidentiary hearing. ~~They are~~ ~~my own work and this is therefore a personal account of that work and what it yielded.~~ These investigations were my own work and this is my personal account of that work and what it yielded.

Another of the reasons for making this a first-person book is to make whatever record it can make for history of ~~two~~ ^{who brought what to light} what came to light ~~did~~ ^{who} and (did not) ^{and resistance} and of the enormous, almost overwhelming official ~~re~~ ^{information that} opposition to disclosure of ~~what~~, under the law, the people have a right to know. The government's record of ~~of~~ distorting, misrepresenting, lying that extends to - and I mean the word ~~literally~~ - the felony of perjury- should shame the nation forever. *I refer to my personal experiences of more than a decade in these many Fed'l lawsuits.*

But even being the first, the most persistent ~~XXXXXX~~ (the characterization of one federal district court judge) and longest-lasting of those who have used this law so that the people might be able to learn what truth is recorded in those once-secret, ~~xxxx~~ government files, was not heroic and it bestowed no rights of ownership on me. *in a small a*

Rather was it a boon. It made possible, in the words of the Robert Frost poem that *A John* Robert Frost's poetry *or Kennedy liked* so much he had that ~~poet~~ *poet* speak some of his own lines at the ~~xxxx~~ truly memorable inauguration. Kennedy's most remembered words of that day *have* are pertinent: ask not what ~~your~~ country can do for you, *rather* ask what you can do for your country. *ce.*

Frost wrote of the promises we have to keep in the miles we go before we sleep, *Thus* ~~a~~ *time* closer for me now that I am, despite fifteen years of serious illnesses and a ~~an~~ half-dozen surgeries, including to the arteries (one of which has been of ~~plastic~~ *to* for more than a decade) and the heart itself, all of which limited what I am able to do, not far from my eightieth birthday that I so long ~~against~~ the odds to reach in what productivity remains *with* in me.

But as the Catholic Kennedy's favorite book of the ~~old~~ *old* bible, as it is mine, the Old Testament Ecclesiastes tells us, beginning with the reminder that all is vanity and ending so poetically, with the certainty that there comes a time when the ~~grinders~~ *d/* will ~~cease to function~~ *cease to function* and ~~the~~ *the* keepers of the house", our bones, will crumble, there is no ~~certainty~~ *cert*, except that all the rivers do run into the sea, yet the ~~sea~~ *sea* is not full. So I can only hope that more ~~may~~ *may* will be possible for me and that others, eschewing personal glory or ~~remuneration~~ *rewards*, will continue the rivers of information and truth flowing so that the sea of factual information will be ~~available~~ *more* to the people ~~so that~~ *with* more of the ~~at~~ actualities of those most awful of crimes that turned the country around and turned

the world around with ^{them} ~~it~~ can be better understood

This is the requirement of representative society, essential to its functioning.

It may mean more to me than ^{some} it does to others because I am the first member of my family ~~ever~~ ^{ever}, from the beginning of time, to be born into freedom and because my life, which is more than a third of the life of our country, has been a life in which it has been possible for me, in the course of ^{to live} ~~walking~~ those many miles, ~~has been~~ a life in which I have been privileged to make an effort to keep some of those promises that are made ^{in us} at our birth.

extra space

It trouble^d me ~~much~~ ^{extra space} during ~~the~~ the earliest of the years in which it was possible for me to travel and to speak, ~~was~~ most often to collegiate audiences, to audiences of still formative minds, that to be truthful and not to abuse the trust of those young people of what I regard as one of our best generations I had to paint a grim picture of the failure of all our basic institutions in those times of great stress and since then.

My work has not been a quest for a solution ^{to} ~~to~~ what ^{now} ~~is~~ insoluble, ^{insoluble} ~~insoluble~~ because government saw ^{it} ~~it~~ that no solution is possible. I have not written any whodunits, ^a ~~no~~ novels ^{guised} as non-fiction. ^{this} ~~is~~ ^{now} the JFK assassination. ^{none of my books on it is}

All our institutions ^{at} ~~have~~ and continue to fail us, all the ^{branches} of government ^{and} and with a few exceptions, all of the media, including all of the major media. This is what my investigations, my research and my writings ^{leave} without question and ^{Honesty} ~~Honesty~~ compelled me not to sugar-coat this before those audiences.

As I thought of this, because it did trouble me, I came to understand a truth that could in and of itself be informative to those audiences, could help them to better understand the ^{country} and the world in which they live and to which ^{some} might think of how they might keep ^{Frost's} these promises.

Years before I did, which was after my last book was being ^{printed} ~~published~~ in 1975, while I was hospitalized for the first of my venous thromboses, I should have recognized ^{and then I did} ~~the~~ ^{possibly} fact that this is the only country in the world in which I could have done what I've

13A 48

Three of those great political thinkers wrote a series of essays that collectively became known as The Federalist Papers. Giving wider application than Alexander Hamilton had in mind when he wrote ^{the twenty fifth,} about the military, making it apply to ^{all} the ~~entire~~ federal government, he penned these prescient and memorable words that are ^{my} confirmed by life and its experiences and observations and really apply to all governments:

past and present,

done. In Great Britain and its dominions, I'd have been prevented, if not also jailed, by the Official Secrets Act, so ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ it would not have been possible there or in ~~Canada~~ Canada, Australia and other English-speaking countries. In the USSR and those countries they dominated by it I'd have been lucky to suffer no more than confinement in a mental hospital. In many other countries I'd have been guilty unless acquitted at a ~~trial~~ trial, that was prejudiced against me to bein with I were ^{later} acquitted.

So, for all its many ~~failings~~ failings, failings ~~that~~ that have multiplied in ~~the~~ more recent years because all those institutions continued not to work as intended by those ^{remarkable men} known as our founding fathers, men I believe to be the greatest and wisest political thinkers of all time, ours is still ~~the~~ best system of individual freedom ~~and~~ yet devised by man.

And while it grows increasingly difficult and closer to impossible for individuals to make it work, as once in Andy Jackson's words, "one determined man," I did make it work, those of us who can ought- must- make the effort. *insur from Prologue re FOLT amend*

43H here

Our ^{confirms them} history since three of those great political thinkers, ^{INB} give broader application than Alexander Hamilton intended when he wrote the twenty-fifth of The Federalist Papers, ^{saying} when he had the ⁺ military in mind. ~~How rote penned truly memorable words my life and its experiences and observations apply to ours and all other governments,~~

are "For it is a truth, which the experience of all ages has attested, that the people commonly most in danger when the means of injuring their rights are in the possession of those of whom they entertain least suspicion."

Lee Harvey Oswald was killed while he was in the custody of one element of government, the Dallas, Texas, police department. He was killed only because they made it possible, and thus our system of justice, public trial before a jury of peers, was frustrated.

in Tennessee

James Earl Ray is in jail for the rest of his life because he was framed by both local and federal governments, with the complicity of the British government, which ^{It} connived ^{Ray} in with ours to violate the extradition treaty under which he could not, legally, ~~that treaty prohibited extradition for political crimes~~ have been extradicted to face trial here and because, to this day he has been denied any

local reporting by thinking of using fellow-amateur operators in the hope of picking up such messages and by filling in the gaps in his account of hurricane damage in lower Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore ^{weakly} transmitted in ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ much interfered with ~~from Berlin, Maryland and nearby~~ Morse code and written out in longhand by my friend Howard Layton. I phoned our joint account to the city desk in "takes," paragraph by paragraph.

Unexpectedly I then got an early education in greed and corruption.

Delaware's only daily papers, morning and evening, had common ownership, ^{edited and} and were published in the same building, ^{the west side of} on Orange Street just south of Ninth. It was late in the morning when I phoned the story in. That meant it should have appeared in the ~~sixxxxxxxx~~ sister evening paper. But its city editor, Harris Samoniski, not knowing that our correspondent was also the correspondent for the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, saw a chance to make a few extra dollars, and ~~he~~ ^{he} phoned it to that paper, expecting to be paid for it. He wasn't and the Bulletin got that Pulitzer.

When the Pulitzers were announced and my managing editor, lispng, gray-haired Charlie Grey, who'd married my sixth-grade geography teacher, Annie Laurie, was outraged and indignant. He ran a page-one complaint and expose and Samoniski got other employment, out of town.

trial, impossible as, this may seem to be to ~~most~~ ^{because the system failed us.} many if not most Americans.

Government ^{is} ~~and governments alone~~ ^{are} ~~entirely~~ ^{responsible} for ^{keeping} ~~preventing~~ the American system of justice from working.

The only possibility left was our vaunted free press, our major media, and as is not unusual in our recent history ^{the press} ~~and~~ Thomas Jefferson soon regretted ~~saying~~ describing as the institution he prized above all others, was ~~complacent~~ ^{basically}, accepted the ~~un~~ ^{was} acceptable, and wound up and remains an arm of errant government.

As a result it was left to ^{and unknown} ~~private~~ ^{try to meet the press's obligations to,} citizens to seek truth and to try to publish it. None of us had an influence and none had any real means. Most of the few of those earliest of us known as "critics" had had ^{no} ~~any~~ relevant training or experience.

In high school at ~~about~~ the time of The Great Depression I was the managing editor of the Wilmington (Delaware) High School News when my friend the editor was in scholastic difficulties ^{and precluded from other particular activities, I was the actual} and I in fact editor the paper that won the prestigious Columbia University School of Journalism "all America" honor rating. ^{also} I edited my University of Delaware ^{College} ~~school~~ paper from time to time, ~~although that title and~~ ^{I then} ~~for similar reason and in that~~ same time period also worked for the Wilmington Morning News and was a contributor to the long-defunct Philadelphia Ledger Syndicate, ^{it} which distributed the first or one of the first Sunday-feature ^{of news and feature} sections and stories. In about 1932, as a News reporter, ^{having} who had been a radio amateur, when I was not able to type because of injury to my right hand,

14A I made it possible for a reporter I've never met to win that year's Pulitzer Prize for local reporting by filling in the gaps of his account of ^{hurricane} ~~the~~ ^{impoverished} ~~the~~ ^{and} damages on ~~lower~~ Maryland's Eastern Shore sent from there in much-interfered with Morse code and written out in hand by a fellow radio amateur, ^{I phoned the copy I completed} and by phoning it in to the city desk. ^{Beginnning in 1936}

Later I was first an investigator and then the editor for what was popularly known as the United States Senate "Civil Liberties Committee." During that period I was borrowed by the Department of Justice to assist in a sensational prosecution of some sixty corporate and deputized gun-thug defendants who had conspired to murder and otherwise harm and frustrate the efforts ^{at union organization by the} to organize into the United Mine Workers union of those inhumanly abused miners of "Bloody Harlan," ^{in Southeastern} Harlan County, Kentucky.

Inside the OSS this was known as "the Paris case," not after the city but because that was the name of the ranking non-commissioned officer.

After Hitler invaded Poland in September 1939 and started World War II

Then I became a magazine correspondent, including being the Washington correspondent of what then was the third largest picture magazine, after the ~~old~~ LIFE and the ~~old~~ LOOK, of Click Magazine. ^{Fa/} For it I conducted investigations that led to the publication of a series of exposures of Nazi cartels and their ^{crimes} interference in anti-Hitler defense efforts. Whether or not realized, our government took ^{over} some of the corporations I exposed ^{after} as ^{them} enemy alien property. Some were major corporations of that era. I took all the information I developed to the Department of ^{of} Justice, because we were not at war, ^{Joe Barkin of that component,} it was suggested

(My prediction of Pearl Harbor and much of the Japanese subsequent military successes appeared less than three months before it happened.)

that I take this same information to the British, which I did. In effect I was a criminal because I was not registered as a British agent when ~~I was working for~~ ^{in fact I} voluntarily and unpaid, by taking significant ^{economic} intelligence of significance to it, ^{military} to two ~~agents~~ ^{British agents in economic warfare attached to but not housed in the embassy.} agents at least one of whom had been a reporter.

^{was} There is no mention of any of this in what is supposed ^y to be all information about me provided by the Department of Justice and the FBI, ^{belatedly and incompletely} belatedly and so very hesitatingly provided in response to my information requests that invoked both FOIA and the Privacy Act, ^{solidifier,}

When as a ~~soldier~~ ^{was} I was assigned to the Office of Strategic Services, the OSS, ~~the~~ forerunner of the CIA, ^{its} the remarkable conservative Republican politician who headed it, General "Wild Bill" Donovan, had an assignment awaiting ^{my security clearance} the conclusion of the investigation in which my "security" was cleared. Donovan felt strongly the traditional ^{superior} obligation to

those under him. Four brave young soldiers who had volunteered for an almost-certain death in a parachute drop into France, behind ~~the~~ ^{at Dave Foxley's tavern in Cabin John, Wash-ington, D.C.} Nazi lines, were in a ~~bad~~ ^{They} military ~~to~~ ¹⁵⁴⁹ jail after conviction on an unsuccessful ^{appeals} through the whole system of military justice. Donovan believed they were framed but his prestigious and experienced lawyers had ~~not~~ ^{not} failed to get ^{him} acquittals. He had staff counsel of extraordinary ability ~~was~~ ^{of} the most famous of whom may or may not have been involved. (I took not a

single piece of ^{OSS} paper with me at the end, unlike so many others, not because I did not want to but because we were not supposed to remove anything classified, so I ^{no longer} do not remember. ^{the lawyers involved one of Donovan's later famous lawyers became} One was later a Supreme Court Justice, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, ^{and}

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Arthur Goldberg. Another was an unrelated Donovan, the man who negotiated the return from Soviet captivity of Francis Gary Powers, whose CIA U-2 plane had been shot down deep inside Russia. ^{This Donovan} He also negotiated the return of the Bay of Pigs prisoners, captured in the ^{failure} of that ill-conceived ^{CIA} effort to invade ^{Castro's} Cuba ^{to} and establish a "government in exile"

that the United States would recognize, along with its ~~own~~ CIA-drafted constitution, the ^{up} writing of which was assigned to that reactionary spook of later Watergate infamy, E. Howard Hunt.

(While I do not here go into it, I have a prima facie case that Hunt and through him the CIA prevented publication of my first ^{Hunt} books when it ~~was~~ and I were represented by a literary agency whose New York office ^{was used as his own by Hunt} ^{could cover in domestic courts -} ^{genera prohibited by law.}) This first ~~OSI~~ ^{an additional} ~~OSI~~ assignment was a kind of apprenticeship for my political-assassinations work. Six weeks after I began that ^{assignment} job those soldiers had been freed, I did not conduct any investigations in the field of ⁱⁿ outside OSI files. ^{What} I used to exculpate them was the existing records that had been overlooked by the lawyers. ~~7 folders~~

~~Similarly, the government's records, primarily those of the Warren Commission and of the FBI, which did virtually all of the Commission's investigating, are full of what in any trial, if with all the publicity of the ^{council} ~~two~~ almost two days before he was killed he could have been tried, ^{and impartial} if any jury had not been influenced by the unprecedented, around-the-clock publicity by the ^{is exculpatory} ~~police~~ despite the efforts of District Attorney Henry Wade to stop it, could have been empanelled and ~~it any of that evidence could have been used.~~~~

James Earl Ray is in jail for the rest of his ^{reputably} life because of similar abuses and still other abuses Oswald did not live to face, including the exceptionally effective FBI leaking that led ^{Ray} him to believe he could not get a fair trial and because his last of several defense counsel before he was ^{sentenced, this was then} convicted, the country's most famous criminal lawyer, Percy Foreman, ^{Foreman had little trouble getting Ray to see that he would be better off with the coerced guilty plea, which he could later withdraw, than he would be if worse off when as he expected,} ~~bot~~ ^{Foreman} threatened and intimidated Ray and led him to believe that he'd be worse off when as he expected, Foreman threw the case. ^{Foreman} This is not without precedent in Foreman's fabulous career and he appears to have been rewarded by the federal government when ^{Foreman} it saw to it that after conviction in one of the cases he did ~~fix~~ ^{fix} against his own client ~~he~~ lived to die a natural death without a day in jail. This is not the only

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(Thus it can be seen that Edgar Allen Poe's story of "The Purloined Letter," which out in the open, nobody could find because it lay ~~unhidden~~ unhidden on a table, is a useful text of this kind of work. So also is "Alice in Wonderland," where "through the looking-glass" down is up and up is down. And what George Orwell teaches in his writings about "Big Brother" and rewriting of the history of the past to control the future.)

In the "the Paris case" our adversary system of justice malfunctioned because of human error. In the Oswald case it did not have a chance to function once Oswald was killed and no government, local or federal, ever considered that anyone else could have been the assassin or an assassin.

To a large ~~degree~~ degree the Warren Commission erred and failed because such bodies, including committees of the Congress, are not bound by the rules of evidence under which the adversary system works. ~~The Commission and its lawyers had no adversary to dispute or the obligations imposed upon them, to make non-judicial determinations of fact.~~ ~~There is also no judge~~

The Commission and its lawyers had no adversary to dispute or refute them and there was no judge to keep them from doing what they should not do. They were not up to the challenge of being their own adversary and among them all there was not one ~~man~~ willing to be their "devil's advocate."

The only court to which the Warren Commission had to answer was the court of public opinion. By all polls the American court of public opinion, despite the monolithic support for the Commission and its conclusion by the major media, turns its thumbs down on the Commission and its conclusions.

The Commission's Report cannot survive a careful. critical reading.

The government's own records, primarily those left by the Commission and of the FBI, which did virtually all of the Commission's investigating, are full of what in any trial - if with all the publicity of the almost two days before Jack Ruby killed him Oswald could have been tried, and even if an impartial jury could have been empanelled after all the unprecedented, around-the-clock prejudicial publicity - is exculpatory.

as will become clear in this book
This is true also of the King assassination, of the records the FBI could not avoid having and that it suppressed until I forced it to disgorge ^{some of} them in C.A. 75-1996.

11/18/76

The failed
 Because of Scotland Yard's spying on Ray and its interception of all his communications, including relating to counsel and his defense, the FBI was aware of Ray's second ~~choice~~ *choice* of a lawyer to defend him. In a June 17, 1968 *an "urgent" and* enciphered teletype ~~to~~ *designated as "urgent"* FBIHQ its London office, known as are its other foreign operations as the embassy's "legal attache," *a "legat"* reported that Ray had written the Birmingham bar association asking that Arthur Hanes, Sr., represent him. (44-38861-4667)

The legal attache warned FBIHQ, the apparent reason for sending the message in code, that ~~it was sending the information~~ *this was* "in absolute confidence" because "any leaks would embarrass British government and jeopardize legat source."

Because such spying on Ray and intrusions into his ~~xxx~~ defense are wrong there could and probably would have been an outcry from lawyers and others. This would have embarrassed the British government. But it was only the beginning, as we shall see, of the most systematic and deliberate violation of all of Ray's legal rights by all involved components of all governments, national and local.

Unless ~~defesne~~ *transgressions they* counsel know about it ~~he~~ can do nothing. As we also shall see, even when ~~he~~ *Hanes* suspects it ~~and~~ *of even after* intrusion into the privacy of Ray's communications with and relating to counsel were prohibited by the ~~judge~~ *Memphis/ Preston Battle*, they persisted, with FBI knowledge ~~and~~ *and* participation ~~and~~ *and benefit.*

The adversary system of justice can also be aborted and frustrated by corruption. It was in the King assassination, as we shall see in detail later, first by an egomaniacal, wealthy writer, William Bradford Huie, who intruded into it by paying Ray's lawyers large sums of money, ostensibly and publicly for Ray's defense but actually to get the conviction Huie actually believed he had bought. First it was Arthur Hanes, Sr., former FBI agent who quit the FBI because he regarded it as too liberal, and then the country's most famous criminal lawyer of that day, Percy Foreman.

Ray's first choice as defense counsel, was also one of the most famous in the country, he F. Lee Bailey, of Boston. After Bailey received Ray's letter, forwarded by British counsel arranged for Ray by the U.S. Embassy in London, Bailey phoned Fred Vinson, Jr. on June 17, 1968 to discuss accepting Ray as a client. Vinson then was Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division - the man in charge of Ray's prosecution under the charges filed against him by the FBI in Birmingham, Alabama. *complaint* *two months to the day earlier*

According to Vinson's memorandum on Bailey's phone call *to Attorney General Ramsey Clark* ~~to the attorney general~~, with a copy to Hoover, Bailey stated, in Vinson's words, that he would consider handling the matter only if Ray's defense was that he did not commit the crime. "

That ~~this~~ was Ray's statement but following this conversation with Ray's chief prosecutor on the federal charges Bailey declined to represent him. (44-38861-4700) (Get a clearer copy from the original xerox in the main file) *18t here*

~~Ray's second choice was Hanes~~, who had attracted considerable attention by defending those accused of killing the white civil-rights activities *at*, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. (check spelling) and when, *Connor* acting as Birmingham's mayor, he had ~~supported~~ supported Chief of Police "Bull" Connor after he had turned high-pressure streams *jets* of water from fire engines and *set* vicious police dogs loose on peacefully-demonstrating blacks.

(In the 1930s Connor was the subject of an investigation by the Senate committee for which I was then editor. The evidence, published in Volume 3 of its hearings, is that when he was chief of the private police of the Tennessee Coal & Iron Company *m/* he and others had kidnapped a college professor, Joe Gelders, who believed that blacks should enjoy the civil

Those steel plates over the windows had nothing to do with preventing escape or with protecting Ray. They served only to work on him psychologically, as they did. He did not once in nine months know whether it was day or night, whether the sun or moon were out or invisible. The constantly-running tape recorder and the closed-circuit TV likewise had nothing to do with his "security" or impossible escape. They also served as ^{additional} psychological stress on him and his ability to make decision and they were, quite obviously, also a means of spying on him and his lawyer.

as we also shall see
Which is precisely what the Department of Justice "security" book prescribed - intercepting all his communications, including with counsel! (italics)

side it, along with many locked steel doors, plus closed-circuit TV and microphone monitoring around the clock. He even put a wash-cloth over his eyes to sleep.

Atop all the psychological pressures and stresses, all the isolation, even from all the other prisoners, all the visible spying and all the most prejudicial stories leaked and inspired by the FBI, after Foreman moved in and Ray fired Hanes, Foreman had no trouble at all convincing Ray that he would throw the case if Ray did not agree to the guilty plea. Foreman was pressuring him ~~xxxxxxxfamily~~ ^{colice} to accept. Foreman even tried to pressure Ray's family to pressure him into the plea.

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rights of all other American. Geldeys was flogged with thick leather ~~beats~~ belts that had large buckles and ^{two his flesh, he} was left for dead. He survived to testify and to ^{display} demonstrate the permanent scars that remained after the beatings. Ironically, it was Connor's fire-hose and police-dog brutalities, caught by TV cameras, that ^{marked} a turning point in the civil rights struggle. His bestiality shocked the conscience of the ^{nation} country.)

Ray is in jail for the rest of his expectable life because of ~~abuses~~ official abuses of our system of justice ^{some of which} that Oswald suffered before he was killed and because he was the victim of the corruption of this system.

The FBI, denying it all the time, as usual, waged an exceptionally effective campaign of prejudicial leaking that not only led ~~to~~ Ray to believe he would not get a fair trial - he wrote the ~~trial~~ Judge, Preston Battle, and told him so. Despite Battle's order that Ray's mail not be ~~interfere~~ ^{interfere} with and not be read, only skimmed to be sure he did not plan what was impossible, an escape, the FBI's files I got hold a xerox of this letter to the judge - xeroxed before it was in the mail.

Escape was impossible because the Department of Justice instructed the ~~sheriff~~ Shelby County, Tennessee sheriff on how to make an entire cell block of the country jail, in Memphis, escape proof. The Department's "security" ^{design} for Ray ^{24-hour illumination} design included steel plates over all the ~~alread~~ ^{alread} barred windows, guards inside the cell block with Ray and outside it, and ~~closed-circuit TV and microphone monitoring around the clock.~~ 19A

~~Atop all the most prejudicial and widely-distributed stories leaked by the FBI, Foreman soon convinced Ray that he would throw the case if Ray did not agree to enter a guilty plea.~~ As soon as Foreman was recognized by Battle as Ray's counsel and then bamboozled Battle into appointing the public defender, ^{Hugh Stanton,} as his associate counsel, he authorized ^{Stanton} ~~to initiate~~ negotiations for a guilty-plea. This is the way he began Ray's "defense."

As Ray correctly saw his situation, he would be worse off if convicted by a jury because under Tennessee law after a guilty plea he would be entitled to a "new trial," the language of the statute, if he sought it within 30 days of entering the plea Foreman insisted upon.

~~throwing cases wa not~~

This growing of a case was not unique in the fabulous career of the country's most famous criminal lawyer.

The odd thing about Foreman's fame as criminal defense counsel is that it was not the major source of his income. In those days when lawyers could not advertise Foreman got the publicity that attracted ^{from his criminal cases} ~~his~~ the clients who made him rich, not infrequently wives who sued wealthy husbands for divorce. His record is one of seeming to get his kicks out of hurting people. (See especially Frame-^{Chapter} Up, cahoter 7, pp. 62ff)

In a dispute with Mrs. ~~Henry~~ Geneva Ann Singleton, who had agreed to give him 60 percent of what he got her from her husband, Foreman ever tried to take the fur coat off her back -in ~~the~~ ^{the} wintertime. That court would not let him do it.

Mrs. Singleton and Candace Mossler, defendant in one of the most notorious and sexiest murder cases, are among his clients who sued ~~of~~ Foreman. Mrs. Mossler had had to cough up all her ~~her~~ jewels in advance because, if Foreman failed to get her off, she'd not get a penny of the wealth of her murdered husband.

Without having any reason to believe they exhaust the possibilities, I easily developed two other cases of the same era ~~in which Foreman got a client who was innocent~~ ^{similar to as his "defnse" of Ray} in one he got an innocent client convicted, in the other he sold his guilty client out ~~on behalf of another~~, and in both of these cases he ~~did~~ ^{did} what appeared to be what the ^{That Bl in particular} government wanted, at least preferred. And he did get a reward from the government: he didn't spend a day in jail after he was caught and convicted (cite case from files.)

In _____ James Miller, a successful ^{convict} hairdresser, was wrong^{ly} charged with being part of a ring that smuggled narcotics into the United State from Canada. Some of the alleged details are the same as ^{those} when Ray actually did smuggle narcotics into this country, from Canada. ^{Foreman was Miller's lawyer, Miller} He was convicted, Foreman would not handle any appeal, as he made clear to Ray's brother Jerry and John he would not for James. He told them he could not afford all the time and work appeals require. *(late Edid Hrg pp.)*

Then Stephen B. Duke, principled professor of criminal law at Yale University, devoted three years of his life to undoing what Foreman had done to Miller. He won on appeal and Miller was freed. But by then he had been ruined financially and ~~had~~ lost his successful businesses.

(Author's files on the case of United States v James Miller and of correspondence with and documents from Stephen B. Duke; news accounts from Time and other publications. See also Frame-Up, esp. pp. 62 ff)

^{Nelson B. Hunt and Hunt,} The other case involved ~~the~~ wealthy ~~acknowledged~~ sons of the Texas oil billionaire H.L. Hunt. ~~(He also had unacknowledged sons.)~~

These two sons suspected that some of the ranking employees of the ~~Hunt~~ ^{empire} operations were stealing. So, they hired a wire-tapper to get proof. And, they under-estimated one of the ^{ir} prime suspects, Paul Rothermel II, former FBI SA and the old man's chief of security. Rothermel detected the wire-tapping of his ^{home in} Richardson, Texas home, a Dallas suburb. He informed his friends in the Richardson police department and they caught the wire-teppers, ^{with the tapes} ~~with~~ tape-recorders and reels of tape.

One, a young man named ^{Joseph} John Kelly, was represented by Percy Foreman. To keep Kelly quiet he was given a job as night-watchman by an associate of the ^{Hunt} ~~ant~~ brothers. One of his jobs was to see that all desks were secure at night, nothing left out. In doing his duty he blundered onto ^{a collection of} ~~a~~ ~~several~~ records that, among other things, reflected that a large sum of money was going to Percy Foreman to set Kelly up.

~~Kelly got himself another lawyer, Harry Patschen, Patschen ^{showed} showed me the originals and gave me xeroxes. (In author's files.)~~

The rest is a long story involving federal prosecutions. Foreman was found guilty

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Duke must know and

Kelly ^{PJ} got himself another lawyer, Jerry Patchen. Patchen looked me up in Memphis seeking information on Foreman when I was there in October, 1974. He showed me the originals and gave me zeroes. *of them.*

As Patchen wrote ^{Duke, to whom I'd referred him, on} ~~me~~ November 11, 1974, "Mr. Foreman got his ethics confused with his pocket book and accepted \$100,000 from Nelson Bunker Hunt, behind Kelly's back, to pack Kelly silently off to the penitentiary."

The rest is a long story involving federal prosecutions. Foreman ^{w/} was found guilty but he never served a day in jail. He died of natural causes on _____ at the age of _____ (fill in from file and obit/and cite)

~~ultra-reactionary~~
The Hunt brothers ^{ultra-reactionary} wised up. They got themselves a progressive ACLU "cause" lawyer ^o and he kept them out of jail, too.

Philip Hirschkop, of Alexandria, Virginia, defended unpopular clients so vigorously reactionaries in the Virginia bar tried to disbar him. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ They failed.

Hirschkop told me the evening before he left for Dallas to defend the Hunt brothers that he had "paid his dues," as indeed he had many times over, and this time he expected more tangible rewards. He got them and he more than earned them: the Hunt brothers also did not go to jail.

~~Foreman~~
After ~~Duke~~ got Miller put away for a crime of which he was innocent and Duke took up his defense, John Mitchell was attorney general. Richard Kleindienst was his deputy, the man usually in charge of day-to-day operations in the Justice Department. Duke sent Kleindienst evidence of Miller's innocence, to no avail. It was ~~the~~ then head of the criminal division, Will Wilson, who notified Duke that the government insisted on ~~pressing~~ resisting Miller's appeal and that the case would proceed on schedule.

These three men, ~~xxx~~ the three in charge of prosecuting for the government, were themselves soon convicted criminals, Mitchell for his many offenses in what got to be known as the Nixon "Watergate" fiasco, Kleindienst for perjury and Wilson for hank-panky with banks in Texas.

Three convicted criminals presiding over American justice at the highest level. ^o

Just because the ~~the~~ wealthy Foreman and the super-wealthy Hunts did not go to jail does not, of course, mean that the FBI and the Department of Justice did not prosecute other cases with vigor ^{at least} as with poor Miller.

And poor ^{poor} John Ray.

The FBI dreamed up the notion that John ^{n/} could lead them to James before James blundered into the hands of Scotland Yard. That John and James had never gotten along, that James did not ^{even} know where John lived, none of this meant anything to the FBI. To it when it was so desperate, having not the slightest notion where Ray was and never getting close to him, it ^{figured} insisted that James and John were brothers therefor, ipse facto, John knew where James was and was just holding out on it. So, first it brought ^{right} pressure on him by ^{of} getting him to lose the license he had on a bar in St. Louis (cite St. Louis FBI records filed under John in office files) and then it charged him with driving the "switch" car ^{for} as a bank robber ~~who was acquitted!~~

What was the FBI's proof? After the local police searched John's car and found nothing at all in it (cite record in FBI files under John) the FBI searched his ^{a/} car and lo!

right out in the open, it said it found the fingertips of rubber gloves said to have been used by the bank robbers to leave no prints. ^{Why they would not want to leave prints on the FBI and not include in its reports. And FBI did not ask for any explanation.} ~~no prints~~ ^{rubber gloves and leave no palm prints}

These successful bank robbers who could pilfer the bank in broad daylight and get away with about \$50,000, according to the FBI, did not have enough sense to ~~either~~ ^{to} throw these fingertips away or to keep them until they could. They just left them right in the open in ~~the~~ John's car to be found there. ^{... FBI and its stupidity!}

At least the FBI says so, anyway. (Cite record)

Much as ~~this~~, like so much in fact and truth does sound like an amateur's novel, it is the grim truth and it gets grimmer.

There were three alleged robbers. Two, Benny Goldenson and _____, were in _____ when _____ started a racist fight in which he was killed by the black man. Goldenson ran ^{up} to his room, according to a colorful account I got from John after he was in jail, and before he could get away with the loot he was picked up, in the room, ^{with the loot} by the local cops. Who had not bothered to get a search warrant.

note on John Ray on p. 24, or use an insertion

(John liked and trusted me, as Jerry and their sister Carol Peper did. He wrote me from jail often, sometimes enclosing proofs. I checked out those things he said and, as with his account of the bank robbery and what followed it, ^{as it seemed} all he told me ^{was} proven to be true.

All my correspondence with all the Rays and with a number of prisoners in federal and state jails, including the envelopes that in those days recorded the censorship, and all ^{are} ^{in my files} the tapes of my many interviews ~~have been~~ preserved for the historical records.)

Taken to St. Louis and ^{u/}tried the judge held that the \$500,000 could not be used as evidence against Goldenson and ^ehe was acquitted. He had a good lawyer.

John, who had no ~~o~~ money, was defended by J.B. Stoner, who was head of the National States Rights Party. Stoner had started that minuscule ^{racist} faction of the right extreme because he had found the Ku Klux Klan too liberal, as he told me.

John was tried before Judge William Webster. The United States Attorney for the St. Louis area had that \$500,000 on a courtroom table and, again according to John's accounts, kept fingering it and calling the jury's attention to it.

Now John had ~~never~~ ^{legally seized} in any way been associated with that money to which the jury was continuously attracted. But Judge Webster permitted it and John was convicted. Judge Webster gave him 18 years for ~~driving~~ ["] allegedly driving the switch car for ~~xxxxxxxquitted~~ the man found not guilty of robbing that St. Charles, Missouri, bank!

Before Long Judge Webster was FBI Director Webster.

And after his widely-praised ten years in that job he was appointed ^{to be} and became Director, Central Intelligence. ^{Lee Miller(?)}

^{11/20/68} The third bank robber was caught in California before too long. It then turned out that he was not only an escapee, a wanted man, he, ~~xxx~~ he had also been an FBI informer. And had gotten married. He appeared before still another judge, _____ . Judge _____ praised

_____ for reforming, witness he got married, he also sentenced him to no more than _____, which means that his total time in jail for having escaped another jail and for the heist of the bank was only _____ . (Vite records in office file and perhaps use

direct quotes, identify case, get dates, etc) (if note is used as an insertion, it should be here)

~~all~~ all of this and so much more that comes to mind ~~serve~~ to remind me of the proud boast of our Department of Justice. Like that engraved over the main entrance to the Supreme Court, "Equal Justice Under Law." "Equal," ~~as~~ as we have just seen.

after Ray's coerced guilty pleas I filed several Freedom of Information requests. The FBI ignored them. Its internal records that I got years ~~later~~ later actually say that because they did not like me the law does not apply to me. (Get ^{and} ~~and~~ cite. ^{if} nowhere else I used it in (75-1986))

is the
 The Department's Civil Division, ~~the~~ its component that generally handled FOIA
 It's Joseph ~~Calla~~ ^{Calla} wrote me on for existing records
 litigation, ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~concerned~~ that they were not complying with my requests, (because I would not
 believe ~~them~~ ^{what they said} anyway. (Get and cite, quote exact words) (5 USC 552(a))

These people were lawyers. I am not a lawyer. But the language of the act does not
 require any legal education. It says that "any person" is entitled to government informa-
 tion that is not within any of the ~~see specific~~ ^{specific} exemptions of the Act, (5 USC 552)

So, I filed suit, C.A. 718-70. Despite ^{Justice's} ~~perjury~~, which is what I called it without
 any protest in Frame-Up (since it was published, in 1971, I won- with a summary judgement
 at that, not an everyday occurrence, when I sued for ^{copies of} ~~the~~ public records, public in England,
 that is, used in open court to get James Earl Ray extradicted. (For a full account see

Frame-Up, pp. 398-454.)

After parking my car I walked to the main Justice building, to the closest entrance.
 It happened to be in the middle of the building's Pennsylvania Avenue side. Over that
 door was a no less proud engraving into the stone: "The Place of Justice Is a Hallowed
 Place."

The door was locked - the only locked ^{level} street-door of the entire large building.

Then and since then I have found it appropriate that the single locked door was
 under this boast that in my long experience with the Department ^{and its many components, like the FBI,} was not ~~once~~ justified.

(For a full account, including the ludicrous consternation ^c ~~cum~~ spectacle it caused while
 those eminences of the law and justice decided which would have to soil himself by complying
 with the order of the federal court by ^{handing} ~~handing~~ me the file (which include the later "good
 Guy" of the Watergate Department of Justice, William Ruckelshaus (right), then head of the
 its Civil Division) and excerpts from the alleged incriminating evidence none of which was
^{really} ~~in any way~~ incriminating, see ^{"Frame-Up"} ~~Frame-Up~~, pp. 398-454. My wait was so long I actually fell
 asleep in Ruckelshaus' outer office. ^{finally,} ~~and~~ when the file was delivered, these public records
 records of a public trial were inside a large envelope stamped of all things "Secret"!)

(Extra Space)

except by the United States Marshals and the Bureau of Prisons, which gave me ready
 access to prisoners who wanted to speak to me or to whom I wanted to speak.

B26

faced with the political assassinations ~~g~~ all of them - the executive and judicial systems failed along with the adversary system of justice. The third branch of government, the legislative, long was silent. Years later it compounded these failures when the ^{use} House of Representatives established a special committee to investigate them. (give official title and the number of the Congress ^{not details}) It began with the presumption ~~of the~~ ~~confession~~ that the accused were guilty and never really investigated or intended to investigate the JFK and King assassinations, although it pretended to. In fact it began each of its public hearings with a narration of what ^{Robert Blakey, its} ~~its~~ chief counsel, said ^{were} ~~was~~ ^{seven seven} allegations by the critics. (He never once mentioned my name or cited any of my books.)

Blakey and his committee set out to and largely did debunk ~~the~~ some of the many assassination theories, hardly the way ^{to} ~~of~~ investigating those crimes if truth ^{were} ~~is~~ the client and the interests of the nation ^{were} ~~are~~ to be served.

One of its prosecutor-types, a ^{white} ~~black~~ lawyer, ^{OZER} who affected a red Afro hairdo, ^{blurted out to} ~~told~~ Jim "esar", ^{when} seeking a release so Foreman would be free to testify about his representation, if I may use the word, of Ray, ~~actually blurted out~~ that they wanted to use Foreman to show that Ray was guilty!

Ray again ^{had} changed counsel and with ~~Mark Lane's help~~ the help of his new counsel, Mark Lane, came close to doing the committee's dirty-work for it. In the public and Congressional mind, with those ^{seeing the} ~~hearing~~ ^{and hearing the radio} ~~telecast~~ from coast to coast, he did persuade most viewers and readers of the published accounts that he was guilty.

extra space ~~it~~

The press, often referred to as "the fourth estate," the unofficial part of our self-government, also failed in the time of these assassinations and since then.

I do not recall a single written, spoken or telecast question asking why ~~he~~ ^{let} Lane had Ray testify when under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution he did not have to. Or whether Lane's obviously wrongful compliance with Ray's irrational desire to testify had any connection with publicizing Lane by having him on every TV tube in the country and in all the papers and magazines.

~~Before~~ Before long Lane was representing a wealthy ultra-reactionary, Willis

light-fingered

Of all the many devices used by those who wrote ~~books~~ ^{and CIA's} about the ~~assassinations~~ ^{fey and CIA} in which they used the work of others as their own, ~~none~~ ^{none} is more imaginative or effective than Melanson's. He credited the FBI's ~~reading~~ ^{and CIA's} public reading rooms for the FBI ~~documents~~ ^{and CIA} he used and he did the same with the CIA's ~~reading room~~ ^{and CIA's} for JFK assassinations records he supposedly got there, ~~also~~ ^{from}. He credited ~~profusely~~ ^{them}, too.

Over the years Melanson was in touch with my lawyer, Jim Lesar, and with me about the assassinations. During this correspondence he abandoned his ~~earlier~~ ^{first} theories about how King was killed by any intelligence-agency conspiracy, albeit with some reluctance. He ~~was~~ ^{was} visited me and like all others, had unsupervised access to all my files. He copied those he wanted on my copier. I also mailed him some when he requested them or to respond to questions he asked.

~~It is for this that he is so generous in his thanks to the FBI's public reading room - for what he knew very well was there only because I compelled the FBI to disclose all the disclosed MURKIN records, of FBIHQ and seven field office by more than a decade of ~~difficult, costly and time-consuming litigation, of which he was well aware,~~~~ ^{and that a number of critics faced the CIA's disavowals.}

25A His knowledge of intelligence agencies and how they function, despite his earlier publication on that subject, from "The Murkin Conspiracy" alone and from "Spy Saga" alone is like that of a literate child who had read too much of the modern equivalent of Penny-dreadfuls about these agencies. It is pathetic that a professor of political science, with a doctor of philosophy degree in it yet, is so stupidly ignorant. Common sense alone should have told him that what he wrote was ^{is} impossible for any such agency, that no agency could hope ~~to survive, let alone exist, by being so unscrupulous~~

to avoid being an international laughing stock, leave alone survive, some of the methods he says they used in the King case. *But they don't give PhDs in common sense to it honestly.*

To say that I could write a book about how frightful, bad and thoroughly dishonest he and these books are would not ~~be~~ ^{by} enough - I did!

When the "The Murkin Conspiracy" appeared ^{an authentic} a real historian albeit also with a ~~PhD~~ ^{PhD}, David Wrono, of the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, sent me a copy and asked me to annotate it. He is coauthor of the only scholarly bibliography on the JFK assassination, published by Greenwood Press, (Insert title. Can't find my copy) He and his family are close friends of my wife and me. About 15 years ago we shared the belief that the errors and failings of those of us who criticize the official assassination accounts ought also be preserved for history and for genuine scholars of the future. ^{My file on} ~~he has my the~~ *this book not including my own loose printings is a 1/2 inch thick stack of pages* copy I annotated. For this writing I had asked him to please lend it back to me, but on ~~checking a fat file - more than an inch thick - prior to publication of "Spy Saga" -~~ ^{26 files} ~~single-spaced~~ that fills a stationary box - and this includes tissue carbon copies and pages that with the typewriter I used get 500 and more words to a page - the notes I typed in addition to and in amplification of the notes on the book ie itself are more than enough. I also skinned

our correspondence and found that a few of the letters also hold more than is necessary for fair comment.

Melanson sent me a copy of "The Murkin Conspiracy" that I received, appropriately enough, on April "ools Day, 1989. By return mail I thanked him, wished him good luck with it and asked him "Why didn't you tell me you were working on a book?" (He never did. He told me only that he was engaged in rsearch that he gave me to understand was for his academic life.) I told him that if I'd known he was working on a book I could have been of help. On reading it later, I learned that without knowing it I had helped him!

Before laying it aside until I finished reading the book I'd stated it did read the dust jacket. I then wrote Wrono that I'm surprised that he could be comfortable with so skimpy a book when there was such an abundance of pristine materials freely available to him. I think it is more than conspicous that he makes no mention of them or how they became available in his acknowledgements. The dust jacket suggests that it was by means of only his FOIA labors:(t)through extensive interviews, research and Freedom of Information Act requests, Melanson analyze the official investigations, the evidence, the performance of law enforcement officials ... "If his book doesn't represent that he did it all, this blurb sure does."

This part of the blurb is accurate. The book does represent that it is all his original work when only, as with Lifton, the crazy theories converted it into alleged fact are his and his alone.

When I was almost at the end of the 13,500 words on comment and analysis for history I wrote Wrono that "the last words" I'd read to that point as "fairly regarded as Melanson's epitaph on himself and his book, but he uses them to address HSCA [the House Select Committee on Assassinations]: "lured in its wo own presumptions and incompetence."

Reading it shows he
he never overcame the subject-matter ignorance with which, from our correspondence, he began his kind of scholarship with which he would add to his claim to owning the subject-matter of the assassinations.

On September 18, 1984, a dozen years after my book on the King assassination, "Frame-Up" appeared, he wrote and asked me questions he said "I cannot find to this question in HSCA or any of my books?" (How many were there on this assassination that can be regarded as serious? Only one, Frame-Up. The first question related to Tray's obtaining of a duplicate drivers license ^{when he was in California} and the second to where he had lived in Briningham.

By return mail I answered those questions and added relevant information, including by reference to the FBI's records I won in the lawsuit of which he knew.

When he wrote me on February 26, 1985, he asked, "was the shell casing ever found in the MKK case?" ... I am not aware that one was ever found." He also asked some questions about how the alleged murder rifle worked. (He also was conjecturing in the involvement of after thanking me for an assortment of records I had sent him,

the CIA/ Watergater E. Howard Hunt's involvement in the JFK assassination.)

Can anyone, from Melanson's own citations, check him out - make an independent judgement of the validity of his writing, or what he invokes his credentials to tell the country, including other scholars, about two of the most significant events in recent world history, two of the most serious and subversive crimes that turned this country around?

Only an expert will take the time and who has access to the records.

When "The Murkin Conspiracy" appeared ^{at} and David Wrono, also a doctor of philosophy in history, ~~asked~~ was aghast. He asked me to annotate and comment on it for a historical record. When I finished he had about _____ words.

^{He} Wrono and I have always shared the belief that the errors and failings of those of us who criticize the official accounts of the political assassinations ought also be preserved for history and for genuine scholars of the future.

Melanson sent me a copy of "The Murkin Conspiracy" that, appropriately enough, I received on April Fool's day. ~~without having read it,~~ By return mail, I thanked him, wished him ~~with~~ good luck and asked him, "Why didn't you tell me you were working on a book." ~~Max did not reply~~ ~~without having read it, I was a fool~~ because if he had I could have been of more help. He never responded.

When I had time I read it. Then David Wrono, also a doctor of Philosophy, in history, aghast ~~at the time~~ when he read it, asked me to annotate and comment on it for history's record. ^{at} There is the phrase, "I could write a book about it." About this and his later-appearing "Spy Saga" I made the record for history that is longer than ^e these books.

These are two very small books considering their subject matter and the simply enormous amount of once-withheld government information available long before he began his writing. Add to this his own reveals, interviews and the reading of the many other books listed in his bibliographies and it is to wonder what he was doing when he was in the FBI and CIA reading rooms, how books just under 160 pages justify the claim that he read all those hundreds of thousands of pages and found so little in them he could say it all in such small volumes.

(University of Tennessee Press, 1982)

His "Crime of the Century: The Kennedy Assassination from a Historian's Perspective" was reviewed for the prestigious "Journal of American History" (September, 1985) by Jim Lesar, an authentic subject expert and a historian before he opted for the law. Excerpts from his one-page review say more than enough about Kurtz, the professional historian.

He began by saying that Kurtz "disparages the works of Warren Commission critics for their 'obvious bias' and 'lack of 'the careful analysis of objective evidence that characterizes the scholar.' Kurtz announces 'an original interpretation based on carefully calculated scrutiny of the most reliable and convincing sources' and promises 'much new evidence'. He vows to avoid speculation because it 'is not within the realm of the historian. ... there is virtually nothing of any consequence in this book that is new. With minor ~~points~~ exceptions, its valid points derive from the very critics Kurtz deprecates. For example, Kurtz relies heavily on the work of Harold Weisberg and offers little information that Weisberg has not previously revealed. ... This book lacks scholarship. The author makes blatant mistakes and important errors of commission. ... There are falsehoods [followed by a partial itemization of the more flagrant untruths]"

Of Kurtz's vow against "speculation" that Lesar notes ^{Kurtz} ~~he~~ had already broken often, Lesar cites as an example Kurtz's speculation about the wound in the President's back: "Kurtz asserts at an upward angle (Lesar's emphasis). ... Here he whooshes across the line separating speculation from fantasy. His assertion that 'the first two floors of the Depository were lower than the limousine at the time of the shots' requires a feat of levitation...." To which I add is also requires marvellous magic to raise the downhill-going Lincoln limousine to where it was simultaneously on the street and above the second storey of the building from which the government alleges all shots were fired at JFK.

Scholarship is hardly the word for Kurtz's efforts at self-promotion by denigrating others from whom Lesar originally said he had stolen. He agreed to the more modest language at the suggestion of the editor. (I have the correspondence on file.)

However, what Kurtz did to the reputation of professional historians in the field

of our political assassinations is grossy kid stuff compared to ~~the accomplishments~~ Melanson's accomplishments in both the JFK and King assassinations. In two fell swoops Melanson puts both Ananias and the Grimm Brothers to shame. He also provides an insight into "scholarly" publishing. publishers. His is Praeger.

When he phoned, wrote and visited me he represented that his sole interest was scholarly, for his teaching. Had he been truthful we would not have been regarded as a competitor and like all others he would have had unsupervised and unrestricted access to everything I have had to the use of our copier. For those not able to come here it has been my practice to offer and to obtain for them the services of school College students needing part-time work. I have had no complaints about the work any of them did and one actually spent all of her free time for a year searching for and copying records for a prominent writer with whose beliefs and writings I strongly disagreed.

I believe that the Freedom of Information act makes me and all others who obtain government records under it surrogates for the people and thus anyone has access to those I have. If I wanted to supervise them, and I do not, I it would be physically impossible for me to do so because I ~~am~~ limited in the use of stairs and cannot stand still using file cabinets since September, 1980. Most of my approximately 5 60 file cabinets and all the boxes of records are in the basement, where I cannot watch those using these records.

Had he been forthright, told me he was writing books and asked for help with and discussed them he might have avoided the imperishable self-characterization in two of the simply most awful books on both assassinations. They disgrace any writer, more so a learned professor who uses his academic standing as credentials about which to boast to promote sales. and by publication to acquire an unjustified reputation for knowledge and expertise on the subject matter.

These may appear to the uninformed to be severe and harsh criticisms. The disagreeable truth is that these books are so atrocious, so unfactual and irrational, so absolutely impossible, they are even more misleading and misinforming precisely because Melanson does have the education required for his advanced degree and is a college professor.

His morality and his ethics are the equal of his scholarship.

He and Kurtz shared a problem: they were not able to bring a significant fact that had not already been published to light. So, each, among other manifestations of true scholarship, merely made a sensation up. Melanson did not have the tons of limousine flying higher than a second-storey window with its wheels still on the roadways. His levitations were with ~~massive~~ epistle and executive agencies. Given their records it is no small accomplishment to be unfair to the FBI and the CIA but Melanson succeeds as few. He has them involved in conspiracies to assassinate both the President and the "black messiah."

The boasting are on the dust jackets, as in the texts. To establish his claim to the work of others, on "The Murkin Conspiracy: An Investigation into the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," one reads, "Through extensive interviews, research and Freedom of Information Act ^{explained below} requests (emphasis added), Melanson analyzes the official investigations, the evidence, the performance of law enforcement officials...." On "Spy Saga: Lee Harvey Oswald and U.S. Intelligence," one learned learns that "Philip H. Melanson, renowned expert on political assassinations, examines every available record of ~~the~~ FBI, Secret Service and CIA files on the Kennedy assassination...."

In the Murkin Conspiracy he expresses his gratitude to "Ms. Helen Neer and her staff at the FBI reading room." There is no other reference to any other source of FBI documents. (pp. xiii-xiv) In Spy A "Spy Saga," Ms. Helen Neer and her staff at the FBI reading room in Washington, DC were efficient and accommodating during my numerous visits. The CIA employees who babysat me (sic) in the tiny reading room in the Rosslyn, Virginia, were always courteous and their curiosity about my work was a welcome break in the routine."

Nice people these, to dig up and give access to all those records to this diligent investigator/professor for his original work, huh? In "The Murkin Conspiracy" he gives of MURKIN records the volume under "Public Documents": "Federal Bureau of Investigation MURKIN File (Martin Luther King, Jr. Assassination Investigation), FBI Reading Room, Washington, D.C. (approximately 50,000 pages." (1 p.197) In "Spy Saga," However, there is no

citation of "'Public' Documents, Despite the appreciate expressed to the "effecient and ac
 accomodating" FBI people and that "CIA employees who babysat"(a misused espionage term)
 him. Nor is there any thanks to the Secret Service. ^{Does this} ~~this may come~~ appear to be strange
 in the light of the previously quoted statement that the book "examines every available
 record of FBI, Secret Service, and FBI files on the Kennedy assassination"?

Well, it isn't. Nor is it a moment of aberrational honesty, as we shall see.
 as he says,

There is no single MURKIN file, of approximately 50,000 pages. ~~and some of the many xxx~~
~~MURKIN files is titled xxxxxx~~ The FBI's acroym is for its investigation of that murder.
 Moreover, those 50,000 pages include many other files of which the two most voluminous
 are on the strike of the Memphis, Tennessee sanitation workers in support of whom King
 was in Memphis to be assassinated there and on a group of young "emphis blacks who had
 no formal organization yet called themselves after a then-puplar TV show, "The Invaders,"
 to make themselves sound more militant than they were. Each of these files has two
 origins and there thus are four files of those record, two each from FBIHQ and M its
 Memphis field office. The MURKIN files themselves have eight origins and are eight
 separate files, like those cited above each with a different file didentification.

Nor is any one of those 50,000 or so pages of MURKIN and more or any one of those
 FBI, Secret Service or CIA records in the normal sense a "public" document", that is one
 disclosed voluntarily or under a prescribed disclosure program by the government.

That there is no reference to this in the books that tell the reader that all is
 Melanson diligent, scholarly investigation. This is not because he did not know.

Over the years Melanson was often in touch with my lawyer, Jim Lesar and with me, in
 person, by phone and by mail. He knows very well, although one would not suspect this
 from his self-glorification, that 100 percent of the records he misidentifies as
 "MURKIN" c/o from all those files is "public" over the most vigorous and persistent
 FBI resistance that first compelled me to sue it under the Freedom of Information Act
 and then required that Lesar and I persist for more than a decade of the most difficult
 and costly litigation to complet the stonewalling FBI to disclose as much as it did,
 in C?C.A.75-1996, in federal district court in Washington. There were also a few trips

to the court of appeals and the setting of unmentioned precedent in it.

When it became apparent to the FBI that I and probably others would sue over its failure to respond to our requests, it decided to build a backfire and make minimal disclosure, of some of its FBIHQ records only. I filed suit over that and compelled it to give me about 90,000 of those pages and then when it refused to make other disclosures, I filed additional lawsuit and compelled the disclosure of other records making the total disclosure of about 250,000 pages. ³²⁴ ~~Of these suits the most important were C.A. 78-0322, for the relevant and withheld Dallas field office records, Dallas FBI being what the FBI prefers to as "office of origin," or "OO" in abbreviation, and those of the New Orleans field office, C.A. 78-0420. New Orleans was virtually a second "OO." That litigation was also stonewalled for a decade.~~

328 Once I compel disclosure of FBI records, or those of any other agency, or those disclosure of which is compelled by any other of any agency, they thereby become "public." Indeed, in an effort to control their use or to frustrate frustrate a request not on the FBI's fancy fan-club list, the FBI has, with me, as it did in my C.A. 718-70, ~~suit~~ offer copies of those records to others so they can be used or misused before I could make use of them. (cite record by file number here.)

There was a similar situation with regard to these 50,000 pages, perhaps a few more - I've not counted them and the FBI's accountings are not consistent - Only about 20,000 of those pages are from what Melanson seems to be referring to - and that there is any question is an indication of the character and quality of his scholarship - in citing a single MURKIN file, the FBIHQ file, the one to which it tries to restrict access when it can get away with it.

The point here is not restricted to morals, ethics or honesty although ~~this~~ is obviously relevant and a means by which scholarship ^{ly} or any other kind of writing can be evaluated. The point also is, is this scholarship at all? How can others, especially scholars, know where to look, what to try to obtain, who to ask for help or information or copies of records, when it is all so obscured for self-promotion and no other purpose?

~~Insert here: This is why I understand his case~~

If Melanson were the inventor of speed-reading he could hardly prepare for and teach his classes, go Sherlocking all ove the United States and Canada, interview all the people he says he interviewed and, whether or not he spent any time with his family or doing anything else still have read, as represented, "every available record" of the FBI alone, ;eave alone the claim to have done the same with all CIA and Secret Service records. Moreover, they are not all in the FBI reading room, his only given ~~XXXXXX~~ means of reading them. And for those that are there he'd have had to make so many, many trips from South Dartmouth, Massachusetts to Washington to read them.

Whichever is the greater offense against truth, honesty and any decent concept of scholarship, the grim fact is that his fl books flaunt his ignorance of them.

A single one of the CIA pages, all of which, remember, he ~~allegedly~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ read, destroys the entire basis of his MURKIN CONSPIRACY fantasy, as will be seen below.

~~@zthazFBIzxtxP@Lzclawsuitszozfzredztoxabz~~

Of the FOIA lawsuits against the FBI for JFK assassination records referred to above the most important are C.A. 78-

This is why I underscored his use of "requests" to imply that those records were made available in response to his request. when he smas so well aware of the truth and when, in fact, Lesar and I had done all we could to help him.

Melanson's representation can also mislead and frustrate serious scholars on controversial subjects by leading them to believe that all they have to do to get records from agencies like the FBI is "requeat" them and then go to the reading room and find that those agencies are so anxious to be helpful they fall over themselves in transferring yhem to its readi public reading room. Nothing is farthur from the truth.

(extra space)

How Lane got to be Ray's counsel gets to how Ray got the defense team Lane eased out of representing Ray.

I had finished writing "Traem-Up" but was following the developments as they were reported. James' younger brother, Jerry, lived in Chicago area. He worked at a country club, where he had been sought out by the media. It appeared that he just loved to have his name in the papers and himself on TV. It also seemed that he favored a woman TV reporter, Shari Lewis (check name and station) I wrote her asking if she would please put me in touch with Jerry. Soon he phoned me.

And that is how, in addition to the FBI's filing records on me under subversive and foreign intelligence and an assortment of other file classifications, I got to be in its bank-robbery files, too!

Although the FBI sought the required permission to wiretap the Ray family from Attorney General Ramsey Clark, about which we'll see more later, and Clark refused permission to wiretap the Rays, they did tap that phone conversation, the only possible source of that information of which I have copies from six different files (cite)

It was apparent that James was getting nowhere with his lawyers of the right extreme in his efforts to get a trial after Percy Foreman coerced him to enter a plea of guilty. I gave Jerry the understanding that I believed I could arrange for James to be represented by a Washington lawyer I knew who was not of the right but was a liberal, who was wealthy and would not expect any fee or repayment of expenses, and thus James asked Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., known as "Bud," to represent him.

Before trying to make contact with Jerry but believing I would and could interest James in having lawyers other than of the right extreme, I'd spoken to Fensterwald. I'd met him when he was counsel for the Administrative Practices Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee. This is the subcommittee ~~xxxxxx~~ whose responsibilities include the Freedom of Information Act. (He died of his first heart attack at the age of 69 on April 2, 1991.) When that committee's chairman was defeated for re-election, after exposing FBI electronic surveillances, with Fensterwald directing the investigation, Bud entered private practice in 1969.

He was a well-educated and well-qualified lawyer. After graduating from Harvard and then from its law school he earned a master's degree in international law from the School for Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University. In 1950 he was appointed assistant to the legal adviser of the State Department. He resigned in 1956 to work for Senator Estes Kefauver, of his native state of Tennessee. In his years at the Senate he held high staff posts that also included considering constitutional amendment, allegations of price-fixing and of the drug industry. Later, in 1973, he received international attention for representing James McCord, who'd been a COA investigator and was one of the Watergate-scandal burglars for the Nixon re-election campaign, the one who pulled the plug with his letter of confession to Judge John Sirica.

In 1970, when I believed that Ray needed counsel who had had no conflicting interests, he had or established his "Committee to Investigate Assassinations."

"Bud," I asked him, would you like to be James Earl Ray's lawyer?"

"Sure" he exclaimed, and if you "and if you can get me on the next Hoo moon flight, I'd like to be on it, too."

"That I can't promise you," I responded, "but I think there is a chance that I can get Ray to ask you to represent him. If you agree, I have three conditions."

"You are serious?" he asked.

"Yes, I am," I told him. "But first I want you to agree to three conditions."

"What are they?"

"First, that I am the investigator, and the only investigator."

"OK."

Second, that the literary rights are mine."

"Agreed."

And "and last that wherever you see Ray I am with you."

"That's all?"

"Yes."

"OK. You've got a deal."

These conditions were intended to assure that there would be no conflicts of interest,

that Ray's interests would not be subordinated to those of the CIA, and that there would be no commercialization, William Bradford Huie's earlier exploitation having corrupted the workings of our system of justice and put Ray away for the rest of his expectable life.

But unfortunately, this wise, learned, exceptionally intelligent and very decent man never heard of a conspiracy theory he didn't love at first sight and save for the fact that I was Ray's investor, he did not keep his word.

He saw Ray without me and it was not long before Ray perceived that Bud had an interest in solving the crime. His questions telegraphed that. As Jimmy made clear to me, he would do nothing in his own interest that might put another in jail.

After the 1974 evidentiary hearing we did get Ray ~~in~~ as a necessary step in getting him the trial he never had, Lane's good friend, Donald Freed, a Hollywood writer, tried to make a deal with me for the movie rights to my work. He and Lane had already published "Executive Action," a novel for all practical purposes cribbed from a book arranged by the French CIA, SDECE, and it had been made into a movie. The deal Freed offered me was guaranteed to yield nothing for me. It was a percentage of the profits. And as in recent years, with the case still in court as of this writing, the famed Art Buchwald learned in suing Paramount Pictures that a movie can gross almost a quarter of a billion dollars and the movie-maker's books show that it made no profit at all. When I turned Freed's offer down he asked Lane to be his lawyer, according to what Jerry Ray told me, and in that ostensible capacity he had his first contact with Jimmy. Before long he was Ray's lawyer and Ray dismissed the only ~~in~~ defense that had ever done a thing for him.

Freed had no movie but Lane had an apology for a book, "Side-Name Zorro," co-authored with Dick Gregory. It is a book about the King assassination that has almost no mention of that assassination in it. But with the publicity that it did and with Gregory's fame the book sold well and got much attention, none of it helping Ray or serving to inform anybody about anything worthwhile. Unless it is worthwhile to praise as a would-be hero ^{and as} a man who had a plan ~~(that did not exist)~~ that would have saved

King life the black policeman who was really of the "red" squad and was spying on King and all those who visited him at the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, _____ Redditt.

and as is so often true of Lane's writings and appearances, even this is not original. Les Payne published it earlier in Newsday, which then syndicated Payne's story. Redditt had no protective function and no plan for King's protection. He was there as a black Judas and because the black community knew what he had been up to and threatened him openly when he ~~was~~ was at the airport on King's arrival at Memphis and because a Senate committee ~~got~~ received an informant's report that an attempt was ~~to~~ to be made to kill Redditt, he was yanked from his spying assignment just before King was killed. Removing him from his ~~spie~~ spy's nest in the nearby firehouse also served to ~~keep~~ reduce the chances of the police espionage being reported. It assuredly was anything but part of the conspiracy to kill King.

As is also typical of Lane, who knows a good thing when he sees and adopts it, he did not bother to check Redditt's fabricated story out. Lane was so certain that Redditt would appear in person at the National Press Club ^{Washington} introduction of "Code-Name Zorro" he advertised it to attract more of the press.

I was there. Redditt wasn't.

Oscar Collier also was there, acting as Lane's literary agent. This rather surprised me because when I'd met Collier in early 1966 and he then headed Twentieth Century Publishing in New York, he gave me a long account of the difficulties of being Lane's ~~an~~ agent. I guess that as politics make strange bedfellows, bedfellows makes strange politics. Thus the Collier who had condemned and castigated Lane for his conduct while Collier represented him in 1964 and 1965 was doing it in person when there was a buck in it years later.

One of the things he had told me about Lane in condemning him is that he had gotten Lane an advance from Barney Rossett, then owner of Grove Press, of \$1,500 for the book Lane promised on the JFK assassination. Only Lane, according to Collier, never turned any manuscript in and refused to return the advance.

This also explained to me why Barney Rossett and Grove Press would not even talk to

me about Whitewash when I wanted them to read the manuscript. Burned once....

Lane is a man of exceptional ability and intelligence but over the years, in person and as I've heard, seen and watched him and read what he said and what he wrote I learned that what he does is without taint of ethics or morals. He is, to me, a great tragedy. In any of his many lives.

He began as Marcus Levin, then became Mark Lane, then a New York State Assemblyman and as a crusader against crookedness. By the good record he made in the Assembly he made many enemies but what really caused him not to run for re-election is the opposite of what one would expect of the man Jerry Ray has for 15 years referred to as "the holy man." Lane had some pictures taken that are not by traditional concept "holy." And copies got out. The FBI showed them to reporters, one of whom described them to me. The House Select Committee on Assassinations had them and his staff showed them to friends of mine. Lawyers defending New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw, charged by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison as conspiring to kill JFK, had them and I was offered access to them that I declined.

Lane was in Europe promoting his "E Rush to Judgement," a best-seller on the Warren Commission, when word got out of Garrison's "probe", as the New Orleans press styled that charade. He was rushing back to tell Garrison all he knew, Lane was quoted in the papers as saying. "He did rush back but on meeting Garrison and correctly sizing "the Jolly Green Giant's" ego as befit his six foot-six-inch height he emerged to present himself as a neophyte sitting in awe and wonder at the feet of the master.

He then launched on a nationwide lecture tour, taking in thousands and thousands of dollars exploiting his relationship with Garrison. From what students in his collegiate audiences told me he presented himself as Garrison's spokesman while saying he wasn't. In these appar appearances he was described as almost having sex with the microphones.

As the world turned the soap-opera life of Mark Lane turned with it and the leftist politician of his youth became "general counsel of the Liberty Lobby." (Spotlight 7/5/87)

"Liberty" in this creation of A. Willis Caeto has the menial meaning of "love" in the mouth of a whore.

Carto is on the so-far right extreme, as is his lobby and its publication, the weekly "Spotlight," he was exposed in a series of columns by Drew Pearson who then owned "The Washington Merry-Go-Round" column that appeared in the Washington Post, the New Orleans Times-Picayune and hundreds of other papers on April 17, 20 and 21, ~~19~~ and May 2, 1969 as a "neo-Nazi" and as publisher of the intended American "Hein Kampf" by Francis Parker Yockey (right) and as founder of the "subterranean society, the Francis Parker Yockey Movement, which had taken over the George Wallace youth movement when that racist governor of Alabama was running for ~~the~~ president on the far-right movement he had started.

Carto, his "Liberty Lobby" and his "Spotlight" are notoriously anti-Semitic along with the exponents of other politics of the right extreme.

As the strange world in which he lived turned and the former Marcus Levin turned with it and as Carto's lawyer he also wrote for Carto's "Spotlight," its _____ 5, 1967 issue proclaimed his becoming associate editor of Carto's anti-Israeli publication, newly-established "Zionist Watch."

Marcus Levin had found his homeland - with the "neo-Nazi" Carto.

There, as everywhere else, he also found his gravy boat. He did with Ray, too, and it got him renewed national and international attention.

If there is any one thing that any competent lawyer had to know it was that for Ray to appear before the House Select Committee on Assassination was the equivalent of playing poker with a deck stacked against him, his hands blindfolded behind his back and his eyes blindfolded. But Ray had the strange notions, a malady that afflicts him whenever he has an important decision to make, that by appearing before that stacked-deck committee and appearing on nationwide TV he would convince the country that he was innocent.

Congressional committees are not bound by the rules of evidence and they could not function as they are intended to function as part of the legislative process if they were. (See Whitewash, Introduction.) They can ask any questions they want to ask, no matter how prejudicial or irrelevant or incriminating or defaming - even as speeches, not as questions. As the more than merely competent lawyer he is Lane knew this. But he also knew that Ray wanted it very much and that his existing defense opposed it very

note on mention if Lee Payne on p.____

(~~Was~~ Les and I were working together in Memphis while he developed his stories. Les made the reservations at the Downtown Holiday Inn. He requested adjoining rooms. When we went to them they were separated by a room that had this sign on the door all the time we were there "Out of Order." A motel room "out of order?" We laughed and our suspicions of eavesdropping were confirmed when at whatever time of the day we were in our room we heard men's voices through the walls of the room between us and never heard any sound of any repair work of any kind.)

much is one of the reasons he asked Lane to replace them.

Fensterwald was then inactive but his younger associate counsel Jim Cesar, and I were still working, and as readers of this book will see, not without considerable success, on his behalf. But no explanation we could give Jimmy, and we spent much time trying to open the closed mind with which he languished in jail, made ^{any} ~~no~~ difference.

As Lane is to me the embodiment of what in my military-police training in World War II was presented as a lawyer's maxim, "Penis exēctus sciam non habet," so also is it with Jimmy's mind when it gets hard.

Hard and as blind. and as unthinking and uncaring

Lane was as successful in his exploitations of the political assassination as he was without scruple. He also distinguished himself by never being embarrassed when mere mortals would have been embarrassed. Wherever the action was, there he moved. To New Orleans when Garrison was in the international headlines, to Memphis when he was commercializing his relationship with Ray, to back to Washington when the House of Representatives established the committee I soon recognized as and referred to as "TH # "The House Assassins."

The work of others was always available to him for his use as his own and he so used it beginning with his first book, "Rush to Judgment." The extensive pre-publication publicity for it emphasized an appendix but when it appeared what was in the appendix was what should be been in the text, but including it there ~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~costly~~ ~~remaking~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~pages~~ ~~of~~ ~~type~~ ~~already~~ ~~set~~ ~~in~~ ~~page~~ ~~forms~~ ~~for~~ ~~printing~~, changing page numbers and doing the index over again. So, he salvaged his injured ego but including text that he took from my "Whitewash" and from Edward Jay Epstein's "Inquest." *in the appendix on page 403-4, 407-8, and 416-7.*

With the spectacular success of that book a sequel was a natural, so, presenting himself as one man against the entire world, he wrote "A Citizen's Dissent." It is remarkable how unfair he could be to the media that had been so generous to him when it gave any time to anyone other than him, claiming they discriminated against him. It is not remarkable that he sprung a trap the pixie in the net when he cribbed from me and

on the purchase of the rifle that in the official account was used ~~in~~ to kill the President. (from Whitewash II, p. 39). What Lane uses appeared there only and not in any other book. Having already experienced literary thievery I used a meaningless but yet not inaccurate footnote to identify my source, a Secret Service record. I cited only the file number of the entire Secret Service investigation of which this was a minuscule portion. So, pretending that he had not stolen it from the only available source, Lane provided his own pretended source, and impossible one: "See Index to Basic Source Materials in Possession of Commission, National Archives." (page 268)

If Lane had done any of the work and research he pretends to have done he'd have known that perhaps the greatest single impediment to scholarly examination of the Commission's records is that there is no index to them! What he was really referring to is what there is in the National Archives and several of us, of whom Lane was not one, had been able to purchase xeroxes of it. It is merely a list of records provided to the Commission by the executive agencies, mostly the FBI. (My copy is on deposit at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.)

The Commission's records take up an estimated 200 cubic feet of space in the National Archives, it has stated. The list is about an inch thick. So, any reference to it that makes it a source for quoted language of an official report is a literary fraud. It also is Lane's self-own characterization of his "scholarship," if not also of his personal and professional integrity.

Readers wanting to check "A Citizen's Dissent" won't find the cited thievery under "Oswald" in the primitive index to the book because there is no entry relating to his purchase, ownership or possession of any weapon, rifle or pistol. There is no ~~entry~~ ~~under~~ ~~"rifle,"~~ but then why should there be when it was only the alleged means of killing the President - and this is a Lane book? Only Lane is important in it, and portraying him as the persecuted hero and owner of the subject matter. This and giving others hell. Including me and others he either did not like or envied. Of the several references to me, I note that on page 40, consistent with his claim to own the subject matter, he gives a distorted

account of my publishing history, not surprising because my first book preceded his by two years, and uses that as an excuse for repeating ^{from} and unidentified book ~~xx~~ cindemnation of me as a "scavenger."

He also quotes former Commission Counsel Joseph Ball as dismissing me as no more than "a chicken farmer. (page 125) To this Lane added his own irrelevant concoction intended to convey the notion that I could not be believed in anything I said because, in his version, I allegedly claimed that helicopters fly fast enough to v reate sonic boom. I did not, ever, and it is, of course, an impossibility. But then why should fa ct deter Lane when he can slur others? It never has.

In citing criticisms of my first book by a stuffed-shirt law professor, ~~Jandix~~ John Kaplan in an article in "The American Scholar" in pretended defnse of me Lane, ~~again pretending that this was the first work and that mine appeared later, says that after Kaplan's article criticizes~~ adds a note justifying this criticism, saying that I also ^{the} "indulged" in that kind of criticism Kaplan made of me, that I "charged that a document was written in a 'n sty' style and therefore, 'if for no other reason, from its language alone is not worthy of credence."

These are some of the words I used and they are without context. In "Photographic Whitewash," on page 91, referring to a government campaign to destroy the credibility of an Associated Press reporter, Ray Jefferies, who had written about the alleged existence of assassination pictures avoided by the FBI - the subject matter of Photographic White-wash - I wrote that both the CIA and the FBI had "a vested interest" in making a record that there were no such pictures. I then wrote, "This is the hr thrust of the FBI's version of the CIA's version of what Jefferies told its agent. This document is an argument, not a report. It is ~~x~~ nasty, openly prejudiced, didputations/ ~~apparently prejudiced~~ and if for no other re son, from its language alone not w rthy of credence. It certainly is not the kind of document one would prefer to represent the effort of the government to learn what happened when its former head was assassinatd."

My point here is not defending myself from long-forgotten and trivial criticisms of my writing of more than two decades ago. It is rather to record what is not atypical of

of Lane and of those who wrote sycophantic books: you can't trust them to be honest or fair even in pretended direct quotation, for they are not. Lane ~~writes~~ says that my criticism of the language of an FBI report was limited to its being "nasty." This is not true. Besides which, he has to be entirely ignorant of the FBI and its reports if he thinks that they are not often really nasty when it want's to defame people, as it did with me often enough, or to undermine the credibility of what it cannot avoid mentioning, whether or not faithfully - as often it does not. (Of this there will be many illustrations throughout later portions of this book.)

When it does come to nastiness, Lane is an authentic master.

fol 33XB

~~used the identical meaningless citation I had used for the likes of him to make me laugh.~~
~~Among those he excoriated was the British Broadcasting Company. He alleged it mis-~~
 treated him when he appeared on a panel show BBC panel show.

~~"And for this," he protested, "I received not a farthing."~~

-n those days a farthing was a tenth of a cent.

It was, literally, true, that BBC did not give him a farthing.

It gave him according to the New York Times and other public sources, \$40,000, the highest price it had ever paid for the right to telecast anything when it aired the movie version of "Rush to Judgement," produced by Mile de Antonio.

That self-promotion, one of his pretenses to owning the JFK assassination, was so obviously dishonest I was able to write a book-length manuscript for the historical record over a weekend. I titled it "A Citizen's Diss Descent."

For a while he hustled with the then hustler of naked women, Larry Flynt, publisher of the appropriately titled magazine "Histler." When Flynt bought out the Los Angeles "Free Press," one of the earliest of the offbeat publications, and decided to do a special JFK assassination edition on it he made Lane the editor and in the course of the wholesale and uncredited use of the work of others as his own all over again he resorted even to the use of long-outdated photostating, ~~for~~ which begins with a white on black negative, and used that to make it appear that sh what what he lifted from my book "Post Mortem" was h the result of his own investigative enterprise.

In 1968

It was a lark to write a book about the devices he e used until then in his self-promotions and the means by which he did it and with his subsequent career documentaingt documentinf then all would take additional volumes. But that is not my purpose here. My

purpose is to record his among other corruptions of fact and truth about the political assassinations, his leading role among those whose excesses tended to destroy the credibility of all criticisms of the official "solutions" and how they were taken, especially by the major media, as ~~justification~~ confirming ~~the~~ what the failed institutions of society had done and not done, particularly the records of the failed agencies of government.

-n none od of these self--romotional exploits was he more successful than when he

34A here
34B

Of the innumerable available illustrations, particularly in his second book, "A Citizen's Dissent" (Hold Rinehart and Winston, N.Y.) I select one because it typifies Lane and is a fair illustration of the dependence that can be placed in anything he says.

It's chapter, "A World Premiere (pp. 58-71) is his assault on the British Broadcasting Corporation. It is, despite Lane's contrary pretenses, completely independent of British government. Yet he portrayed it as the voice of the government, then Labor, and said that it supported the Warren Commission because its economy was "entirely dependent upon the United States. Referring to the Labor government, he then wrote, "The Socialist government, indeed. Lenin must be twirling in his tomb." (pp 7-71) BBC News has always enjoyed the world-wide reputation for fairness and impartiality, and for its independence and its exercise of this independence.

Most of the major media, especially in the United States, has supported the official accounts of the assassination and the panel with which Lane appeared was loaded against him, but this is hardly news. It was the common practice. Only as he wrote this book to have it believed that he alone did all the work when in fact his first book was dated before it appeared, ~~was~~ and that he also bore the burden and the blame.

The chapter's title comes from BBC's purchase of the right to air the film Emile de Antonion made making a hero of Lane. As Lane himself wrote (pp. 59-60), "The film's director, Emile de Antonio, bore the burden of the original negotiations with BBC officials. He told me that the BBC had agreed to show the film January 29 (1 [1967] and that it would be followed by ^a general discussion in which it was hoped that I would participate. I agreed at once."

What is missing from Lane's account is what BBC paid. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Instead he tells the reader that his appearance was at the "sacrifice" of both "time" and "money." (page 61) Heaping further and ass Heaping more ashes on himself and more fire on BBC he claims it was not "financially rewarding" because "I was not paid a farthing."

In those days a farthing was worth a tenth of a penny, so little it was later abandoned.

This is vintage Lane, to tell a big lie with a literal truth.

What he was really paid by BBC was the largest fee it had ever paid for any such

production or rights, for those days a large sum. According to the New York Times (

) he was paid \$400,000.

So, it is true that Lane did not get "a farthing." He got 40,000,000 farthings.

Incredible as it may seem for so experienced and able a lawyer, Lane actually - and I mean this literally - used a story from the National Enquirer as a Ray defense!

The story was made up by Renfro Hays, a part-time insurance investigator, to make a few bucks and because, as he told me in an interview he was anxious for me to tape and I did tape, he particularly enjoyed making up stories ~~taxes and the money~~ Hays told me time. ~~Max said~~ this was his way of getting even with it for it its alleged harassment ment.

The committee had great fun producing live witnesses to prove, again on coast-to-coast TV, that this Ray defense, that he was at a particular gas station when Dr. King was killed, was false and was fabricated by the undependable Hays. ~~End.~~ it made a great point of the National Enquirer as the provider of Ray's defense and by this additional force-feeding from Lane made Ray appear to be entirely untruthful and guilty of the crime.

produced James Earl Ray for nationally-televised exploitation by the House Assassins, whose concept of investigating the King assassination was, in the words of one of its staff counsel, _____ Ozer, blurted out to Jim Lesar before Lane eased Lesar out, "to prove Ray was guilty."

Aside from the fact that there was no way in which Ray could support anything he wanted to say to the committee and no way in which ~~it~~ he or Lane could limit the loaded questions the committee would ask there is the fact that Lane has a successful career or substituting words, which he uses skillfully and effectively, for work in developing fact. ^{its} When that committee pulled perhaps its dirtiest trick on the already-gulled victim producing for live testimony Alexander Eist (right), who claimed to have been one of Ray's guards after he was captured in England and that Ray had confessed to him, Lane was not with his client. He was out of the hearing room, on the phone.

If Lane had not found that developing fact to defend his client cost time and effort he could have had access to what I had already forced the FBI to disclose to me about Ray's imprisonment in England, the FBI's own records that proved Eist made the whole thing up.

Later I gave Jimmy copies of those records but there was no way of undoing the damage Lane arranged to be done to him by producing him before the House assassins so they could both be on coast-to-coast TV for the entire time Ray was a witness, quite a long time on the tube. (Check the hearings and provide the days, by date)

On his part, Jimmy likes, trusts and respects anyone who damns the FBI. We've had intermittent communication in the ensuing decade almost decade and a half and he has not yet reflected a glimmer of understanding of the ruinous consequences to him of Lane's producing him for the cinn committee to make a public spectacle of him before the entire nation and the world.

and I never hear from Jerry, as it happens I heard when he phoned me while I was writing these very words, to tell me that Jimmy had been shifted from one jail to another again, without Jerry still respectfully and admiringly referring to Lane as "the holy man."

(Note to editor- all the foregoing can be documented from my files except for the phone call from Jerry Ray to which I refer above. It was on Sunday, April 7, 1991)

~~extra space~~

Professor David Wrono, History Department, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, has the only copy of the manuscript "A Citizen's Descent." ~~See separate listing of documentation to be retrieved.~~ ~~extra space~~
extra space

Lane is not alone of those who sought Ray out and led him to believe they were his defenders. Phillips Melanson, Ed PhD, professor of political science at Southeastern Massachusetts University, and "chair" of its Robert F. Kennedy Assassination Archives, without ever address or assessing the evidence said to prove Ray guilty, wrote "The Murkin Conspiracy" on the assumption that he was, in fact, the King assassin. (Praeger, New York, 1989)

The subtitle of this book is "An Investigation into the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." It is no such thing. Rather is it the ego-tripping of another of those seeking to stake out a claim to own the subject-matter of political assassinations that entirely ignores the crime itself and pretends to have established the existence of a CIA conspiracy to kill King by a cockamamie theory that would be hard to credit in a cheap and hasty spook novel.

Melanson, the like Dr. Michael Kurtz, the professional historian of Southeastern Louisiana ^{state} university, has authentic credentials as a scholar. The both have doctor of philosophy degrees. Each in his own way proves that as war is too important to trust to the generals, so also is history too important to trust to the historians and political scientists/

To describe these two authentic scholars as no more than stupid and ignorant is to As will become apparent, it is ~~xxxp~~ a kindness. praise them./They are both, however, stupid and ignorant.

They illustrate a truism; there is no education for common sense and no degrees are given in it.

It cannot be over-emphasized: the political assassinations are turning-points in our history and political life. It is the obligation of the scholars to record this history. Not to polish it and shine it up. Not to invent it, or to imagine it, or to misrepresent it in any way. But the ~~publishers~~ ^{who wrote books} scholars also have failed us.

A few scholars who have not yet published books on these assassinations are the exception. They represent and they serve true scholarship. They teach courses in the assassinations not as whodunits but as politics, as history, as they influenced the nation's life, as what they represent. These are responsible scholars and they represent what scholarship should be.

Dr. David Wrone, professor of history at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, co-author of the only scholarly bibliography on the subject ("

Greenwood Connecticut), when he first started teaching this course, found it so popular a limit had to be placed on those who could sign up for it. (The first time he offered it there were about 2150 students plus several faculty members including those Army officers who taught ROTC.)

Dr. Gerald McKnight, professor of history at Hood College, in Frederick, Maryland, where I live, has taught his courses with such undeviatingly faithful adherence to the standards of real scholarship that I can't remember a single time at any of the seminars I have conducted for each class that a single nutty question was asked. This is really saying quite a bit about him, his students and what they have learned from the course because no seminar has lasted less than two hours and ~~was~~ the longest ran almost six hours! This is also a reflection of what is supported by letters to me from many thousands of strangers: the nation cares, the people were and remain troubled, and they yearn for truth, to know what really happened and why, and to better understand the society in which they live.

Dr. Gerald Ginocchio (right), professor of sociology at Wofford College, Spartanburg, South Carolina, is also ~~itx~~ teaches ~~itx~~ criminology there. The reaction of his students is like that of Wrone's and McKnight's. His also is not a "snap" course. That it is a serious approach, without the glitzy conspiracy theorizing, reflects his and his institution's genuine concern for teaching history as it really was, not as someone ^{our} dreams it is or sees a pot of gold at the end of his making it up.

Thus far Kurtz has limited himself, at least his published self, to the JFK assassination, so we that much much for which to be grateful.

The subtitle of "The MURKIN Conspiracy" is "An Investigation into the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." How does a real scholar investigate this assassination? By assuming the guilt of the lone accused. Does not anything that can reasonably be called an investigation have to begin with who the assassin was? Or, if the official account is accepted by the scholar, is he not required, by simple honesty if not real scholarship, to validate the official account that he merely assumes is correct?

Melanson does not

Was there any reason for a scholar to have any doubt at all about Ray's guilt that Melanson found it safer and easier to assume, and if there were, should he have informed his readers of it and assessed it? Should he have provided this information to other scholars and the reading public in general? Under traditional concepts and standards of scholarship, he should have. He knew Jim Lesar and me well and was regularly in touch with us. He knew there had been those two weeks of evidentiary hearing centering around the question of guilt or innocence. He could have read or obtained copies of ~~this~~ those two weeks of hearings.

He didn't.

He had my "Frame-Up," which from the public domain raised the most substantial questions of Ray's guilt. But it was both easier and safer not to antagonize the FBI and if he had not assumed Ray's guilt there would have been no basis at all for his fantasy solidified in type and dubbed "scholarship" and "an investigation."

He knew that Lesar and I had developed and presented the evidence and that it was the only time such evidence had been ~~xxx~~ presented to an American court and subjected to cross-examination under the rules of evidence. He knew the had and he could have had the transcripts of those hearings and the documents introduced into evidence. As the reader will see, that evidence exculpated Ray. Perhaps this is the reason Melanson avoided them or even mention of them in his supposed work of scholarship; he would have found it more difficult to base his book on the mere presumption of Ray's guilt rather than a smidgeon of proof of it.

to evolve a statue but books can just be made up.

extraspaces

One critic who managed to combine the two, making his book his ~~statue~~ statue to himself, is David Lifton.

Rushmy will write

Modesty, he titled his ¹⁹⁸⁰ book "Best Evidence" and it is ^{is} its 750 pages of the best evidence published by others over the previous 25 years. The book consists almost entirely of this, with his painstaking and detailed explanation of how he and he alone "discovered," a word he favors, what had been published earlier, to which he added a daring theory he presents as fact and is and to his knowledge was known to be impossible; that the President's corpse was stolen and altered before it reached the autopsy table at the Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Conspiracies and theories being merchantable by then, his publisher having arranged for extensive promotions and advertising ^{with} and his expertise in self-promotion and ⁱⁿ making the untrue appear to be true, the book was a big success.

The bigger the success of such works, ^{in government} the more the people are misinformed and misled and the beneficiaries are those who have something to hide, particularly the FBI. It has no trouble defending itself by its usual practise in its records I've seen, ^{it need only} selecting the steps in his corpse-kidnaping theory and ^{one} one by one showing that it was all a fiction, all impossible. *It was easy for me to do this. It should have been easier for the FBI or the CIA.*

His representation of fact that is not fact and is untenable theory, involves a ^{hundred of not thousands in} monster conspiracy involving many government agencies. ^{and JFK's own people} What he really believed from the first and told me is that the real chief conspirator was the obvious ^{initial} beneficiary of the assassination, ^{VICE PRESIDENT} Lyndon B. Johnson.

In the late spring or early summer of 1966, after he read "Whitewash," he phoned me ^{from} in great excitement. He was then a graduate student at UCLA. He soon abandoned his hopes ^{for} for the ^{master's} degree he was working on and ^{to} devoted himself to his theory that remains, basically, what he tried to convince me to believe, ^{in personal conversation} only he put it differently and more bluntly than in his book.

As he expounded what he did not refer to as a theory but as unquestionable fact I wondered if he ^{was} was sane. It was so far out that while he was talking, and he talked for quite some time, I decided to tape it. It today is filed in a jumble of tapes I made for history, of ^{public} the uninspired reaction to the first book on the Warren Commission.

Later, after I'd heard often that he taped all his conversations, I taped some of his later calls as soon as ^{I could hear I} knew he was the caller.

that immediately became fact to him
 His instant vision, ~~for which in that long call he had and needed no proof,~~ is *Brown and Root,* that the large construction corporation that had always supported Johnson politically and financially, had made the assassination possible.

How? By secretly digging a system of tunnels *underneath in busy downtown Dallas,* throughout Dealey Plaza. He talked about other things when I asked him how they could have dug all those tunnels unseen in the heart of a large city. It just happened. Unseen.

Even more mystifying was his statement that despite ~~preparing~~ *and* Brown & Root's preparing for a Jean Valjean kind of assassination, *as I had thereafter referred to this* and its variants, *them seeing the existing drainage system,* one of which is not impossible, although he never espoused it, was his firm *insistence* that the President was not killed from *tunnels* these, *only to him,* unknown to anyone but ~~him~~ *his tunnels* - he was killed from a tree. Not just an ordinary tree. A papier mache tree!

"Why does it not show in the many pictures?" I asked him.

"They removed it at night," he explained.

He never did explain how the assassin was supported by papier mache mache or how he avoided being seen. *As that papier-mache tree did.*

If there ~~had been~~ *was* only one place in the entire world that was not without people the night President Kennedy was assassinated it was Dealey Plaza. Mourning people came and went and many deposited bouquets of flowers. *They, too, were conspirators - silent but since.*

This is ~~the~~ the beginning of what it takes to make a best-seller on the JFK assassination.

He embellished ~~it~~ *with* ~~his~~ *his* great personal discovery, a discovery for which he was still, although by then with slight hesitation, ~~still taking credit~~ *calling it his "discovery"* on one of the proliferated pseudo-news TV shows in early 1991, ~~which I happened to see because~~ *advance puffery* for that show did not mention him. It told viewers that only Marina Oswald, the alleged assassins widow, would be on it. She was, ~~but~~ *but only* long enough to justify the puffery. *and still* The rest was ~~all~~ *for* Lifton.

He trusted only some of the critics with his great discovery, swearing all to strict confidence I never knew any not to keep. *until his books were out. This alone made the book possible* *This is the core of his book, his "discovery" of a report by two FBI agents, James R. Sibert and Francis X. O'Neill, Jr.* *They met* air Force One when it landed at Andrews army airbase in suburban Washington and remained with the corpse at the Navy hospital until after it was delivered to the ~~funeral home~~ *Gawler* *which* prepared it for burial.

There are several ways in which he could have made this sensational discovery but none is ~~personal~~.

His discovery was of such transcendental importance that with 750 pages he did not include it in his book, as I had, in facsimile, years earlier, in Post Mortem (pp 531-6) before, ~~as he later said, his agent told him to rewrite the book in the first person.~~

The actuality is that countless xeroxes of this Sibert-O'Neill FBI report were distributed beginning in June, 1966, by Viking, to publicize Edward Epstein's book, "Inquest," in which it also does not appear.

Sylvia Meagher had praised Epstein's book, so when Viking's publicist, ⁱⁿ Ger-vasi, asked me to help hi, Epstein having declined to do any such work on his own book, I told him how to get a copy of this and other such reports, where they were available at the National Archives.

Lifton, then living on Dorothy Street, in Los Angeles, could have made his great personal ~~discovery~~ Washington discovery earlier, by getting a copy from his friend Paul Hoch, then a doctoral candidate at the University of California in Berkeley. In May, 1966, I met Hoch at the National Archives and ~~he~~ told him about this report and where it was filed, so ^{Hoch} he got a copy then.

Whether ^{Lifton} he "discovered" this national-publicized report in the ^{by} press kit (or through getting a copy from Hoch, he built a theory on it that soon became fact in his mind and later in his book, ^{What he coughed up} that would be difficult to believe if it appeared in a novel - that the President's body, which was never unattended by those close to him, was stolen. Lifton is unclear on whether this happened on Air Force one, which he suggests, or when the casket was removed at Andrews field. ^{He has suggested both}

^{at Andrews} There, he says, it was ~~removed~~ snuck off the side of the plane away from the lighting for the TV cameras. One of his sources is William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President," but Lifton does not quote Manchester's ^{report me that} account of ~~the~~ 3,000 people close to that side, none of ^{same or} whom ever reported Lifton's theft of the corpse.

Then, according to Lifton, it was secretly, entirely unseen by all the many people, ^{TV cameras and reporters, carried in a body bag} around that plane, ~~was~~ taken to a second helicopter, the first ^{was} being there to take the new President away. ^{Lifton} He cites as a source, ^{records of} the Military District of Washington. ^(MDW) So, I made a FOIA request of the MDW asking only for what it had provided to Lifton. There the ^{It did not take the parcel of corpse to Walter Reed Army Hospital &} second helicopter is explained. It picked ^{up} the Fort Myer Presidential honor guard and flew it to Andrews before AF1 landed. Robert Kennedy was ^{to rush in} first on the plane, again according to Lifton's source, Manchester. ^{Sped into} He rushed on it as soon as the pilot's door was opened and then rushed to the casket. Obviously, it was not possible to have removed the corpse ^{lashed down} from the casket and gotten it off the plane unseen before Robert was there. ^{and that} ^{The casket.} ~~and~~ without any of this being seen by President Kennedy's own friends and associates who were with it.

There was, according to the MDW's ^{official} contemporaneous accounts, some difficulty getting the casket to where it could be removed mechanically. The removal was recorded by and ~~in~~ telecast by the TV networks. The honor guard ^{second on the plane,} helped get the casket off ^{at} the plane. ^{The empty casket} according to Lifton. ^{It} He then says that this second helicopter flew the stolen corpse to Walter Reed Army hospital in Northwest Washington. There it apparently landed ^{still} entirely unseen. There the conspiring army removed the corpse, again entirely unseen, took

According to Lifton:

it into the hospital, still ~~unseen~~, and there the body was altered, he says. There is no way of knowing how many army and Walter Reed personnel of all levels had to have had knowledge of this, but like those 3,000 people looking at ^{one} the side of the plane from which the corpse was secretly removed, ^{And the hundreds of others} all have been silent since, ^{Not one of many thousands} saying not a word throughout ^{uttered a word throughout} two and a half decades of controversy.

In writing this, Lifton had the HDW's records. They state that as soon as the casket was placed in the ambulance sent ~~it~~ to receive it, that chopper, an H21, flew the ^{of} honor guard to the Bethesda Navy Hospital to be ~~there~~ there before ^{honored} the corpse arrived. ^{It was,}

What the HDW reports as fact ~~is~~ by itself disproves Lifton's ~~fact~~ conversion ~~from~~ of untenable theory into fact. ^{So} he did not tell his readers what he learned from the HDW records. *in his possession.*

^{He} did tell them that a mysterious second ambulance was also at the air field. But he did not tell them what he read in his ^{own} source, Manchester. Manchester reported that along with a cardiologist ^{and equipment} it was sent from fear ^{by} that President Johnson's ^{own} cardiologist, ^{he} ^{John} ^{son} ^{feared} he might have another heart attack.

Lifton says that the corpse, already ^{royal with} altered at Walter Reed hospital, was then taken by this mysterious ambulance to the Navy hospital. There, he says, ^{once again} ~~it was~~ entered through ^{the} back gate in the high chain-link fence.

This is where ^{Lifton} he really needed a helicopter! according to my friend and neighbor, Dr. Russell Madison, then ~~assigned to that hospital~~ a colonel assigned to a research project at that hospital, that gate was locked and the guard removed as ~~part~~ part of the Navy's crowd-control, as soon as the Navy knew the corpse would be coming there. Dr. ^{Madison} Madison has personal knowledge because that is the gate he used nightly in going home and that is the one night he could not use it. There was not even a guard at the locked gate so that no admiral could pull rank on a sailor and demand that he open it.

The few words of the Sibert-O'Neill ~~report~~ report on which Lifton's entire theory is based are on its fourth page. ^(put Martin 5-35) It reports "surgery of the head area." Whatever those FBI agents may have meant, and later ^{at} they give details of the fatal head wound, there was no surgery of the head area. ^{The} agents have since said that this was an error, and, that is not only understandable from the intense emotional stress and from layman reporting what doctors said, there are other errors in ^{the} report. Beginning ^{then} in its first sentence, where it gives ~~the~~ wrong date for the assassination. It also does not list all those present ^{at the autopsy} although it says it ~~did~~. ^{does} ~~it does not report~~ the fact that all nonmilitary personnel were denied access to the guarded ~~topsy~~ ^{topsy} room. The agents are human and they made mistakes, ^{only} only one of which Lifton seized upon.

Lifton's account quotes a sailor, Paul K. O'Connor as saying that the corpse was in a body bag, and he builds much on what O'Connor told ^{years later. This includes} him, including that the corpse was not in the commercial casket in which it had been placed in Dallas. and that it was not wrapped in sheets but was in a ^{plastic} body bag.

Kilrton's agent was Peter Sheppard of the Harold Ober agency. Possible it is only coincidence that the man in charge of the CIA's illegal domestic intelligence activities - its spying on American, including me - was named Harold Ober, ^{until United States Senate's exposure} ~~in~~ the midst of the CIA's ^{forced} pretended reforms after exposure of its unpunished illegal activities in targeting on ¹ Americans Harold Ober and his staff were let go by the CIA. But not very far. Quietly they were reassigned to another spookery that also targets on Americans, the National Security Agency, along with his CIA staff.

Now we get to the reason Lifton did not reproduce this Sibert-O'Neill report that is his great discovery in so large a book. In the very paragraph from which he quotes their error about the non-existing surgery of the head area, ^(there was a very large hole) they begin by stating ~~that~~ what they saw when they helped remove the body from the casket, that it was "the casket in which it had been transported," ^{from Dallas} ~~not~~ the casket of the Lifton-O'Connor invention of a GI casket. It was not in a GI body bag, but "the complete body was wrapped in a sheet." ~~xxxxxxx~~ There is ^{much} more to this series of inventions concocted into a best-seller but ^{only} I include ^{one} here.

Lifton phoned me after his book was out. Wanting to avoid the inevitable argument with specifics he would not be able to accept, I content myself with telling him that his ~~reconstruction~~ ^{pre-} reconstruction did not include the time ~~taken~~ required for the taking of the autopsy photographs and X-rays, time that include moving the body into various positions a number of times. He assured me it ~~was~~ his account does provide for that time.

"How?" I asked him.

"The autopsy did not begin until 11 p.m." he replied.

^{according to all records} Because ^{this is about the time} it ended and was turned over to the Gawler's funeral-home personnel, I asked him how he knew that.

"Ebersole told me," he said. John H. Ebersole was the radiologist.

Magic, mystery and myth, an imaginative agent, an ~~unquestioning~~ ^{for fame and fortune} unquestioning publisher, an ~~author~~ ^{author} willing to do what is necessary, and thus a best-seller that in its original ^{hard} paperback ~~publication~~ ^{publication}, and in its paperback reprintings and in a later best-selling videocassette ~~were~~ ^{the people} deceived and misled into believe that there was an enormous conspiracy inside the government, of hundreds of ^{plus} not thousands ^{not counting the thousands of} who ~~kept~~ ^{Others who continue to} the truth and preserved perpetual silence, ^{according to Lifton at least these include} but including the Army, the Navy, and the Secret Service, ^{all conspirators} to assassinate the President, ^{with some help on the side.}

Lifton was careful to avoid any criticism of the FBI. He knew it reacts. Long before ~~he~~ ^{of his agents insistence} he rewrote it first-person there was extensive public disclosure of what the FBI does to and about those who criticize it. 234

ext ra space

Our society tends to accept advanced degrees as certification of actual scholarship. But as war, it too important to trust to the generals, so is our ^{professional} history too important to trust to scholars. Their careers and reputation are ^{en} enhanced by publication, whether or not there finances are with it. Two with PhD's disgraced their professions along with themselves with some of the most abominal and in plain language, just plain stupid books of the many that rewrite history and mislead and misinform the people about the political assassinations.

Dr. Michael Kurtz is professor of history at Southeastern Louisiana State University. ~~His~~ His "Crime of the Century" (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1982) was

Crime of the Century: The Kennedy Assassination from a Historian's Perspective. By Michael L. Kurtz. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1982. xi + 291 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, and index. \$17.50.)

In *Crime of the Century* Michael L. Kurtz laments that "professional scholars" have neglected the assassination of President John F. Kennedy; he also disparages the works of Warren Commission critics for their "obvious bias" and lack of "the careful analysis of objective evidence that characterizes the scholar." Having set the stage for his own entry, Kurtz announces "an original interpretation based on carefully calculated scrutiny of the most reliable and convincing sources" and promises "much new evidence." He vows to avoid speculation because it "is not within the realm of the historian."

Kurtz concludes from his examination of the evidence that there clearly was a conspiracy to kill Kennedy and that the probes of the Warren Commission and the House Select Committee on Assassinations were seriously flawed. Although these conclusions cannot be faulted, there is virtually nothing of any consequence in this book that is new. With minor exceptions, its valid points derive from the very critics Kurtz deprecates. For example, Kurtz relies heavily on the work of Harold Weisberg and offers little information that Weisberg has not previously revealed.

This book lacks scholarship. The author makes blatant factual mistakes and important errors of omission: Mark Lane's *Rush to Judgment* (1966) is not the first book on the subject; the wounding of James Tague is totally ignored. There are falsehoods: the Warren Commission was not "[u]naware of the FBI's real attitude toward it"; to the contrary, its members stated in their secret sessions that the FBI "would like to have us fold up and quit," and they also asserted that the FBI had concluded that Oswald was the lone assassin without having "run out all kinds of leads." Kurtz relies on commission testimony by an FBI agent contradicted by FBI records and on the results of tests performed for the House committee on evidentiary items inexplicably different in size, shape, and weight from the original FBI specimens without evincing any awareness of the discrepancies. The book's footnotes retard rather than advance scholarship: they generally do not support the assertions made in the text, nor do they identify with requisite specificity the materials cited.

In his last chapter Kurtz forgoes his vow against speculation—already broken—and reconstructs the assassination. He hypothesizes that a shot that hit Kennedy in the back—he asserts at an upward angle—was fired from the second floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building. Here he whooshes across the line separating speculation from fantasy. His assertion that "the first two floors of the Depository were lower than the limousine at the time of the shots" requires a feat of levitation that is neither recorded on any film of the assassination nor testified to by any eyewitness.

Kurtz rightly calls attention to the need for professional historians to appraise the assassination of President Kennedy and the official investigations into the crime. Unfortunately, this book does not measure up to the demands of that gargantuan task.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

JAMES H. LESAR

Lobby *Reactionary*

Carto, of the so-called American Liberty League and the ultra- and racist weekly The Spotlight. Lane began his adult life as a man of the left. With Carto he was associated with a man so far to the right he had years earlier published what was expected to be the American Mein Kampf, "~~Imperium~~" by Francis (check file) Yockey. ^{"Imperium"} The publicity Lane got as Ray's lawyer was not a financial ~~lei~~ liability to him.)

The failures of the media in the King assassination began with the intrusion of a wealthy, well-known and egomaniacal writer, William Bradford Huie and as these failures continued without ever ending they were magnified by the FBI's successful use of elements of the major media and well-known writers in its sub roas rosa propaganda campaign to that it was on the ball and lead the country to believe before he was in court, that Ray was guilty. Without Huie's intrusion into the processes of justice all would have been different at the outset. There was, as the reader will soon see, no case against Ray at all. Huie paid Hanes \$50,000 for the rights to Ray and his story and then gave an additional \$10,000 to Foreman for them. As we will see, Huie actually believe that in not giving Ray a penny and in buying his lawyers he actually had bought Ray's confession of guilt. Huie went to Memphis, as is set forth in greater detail in this book, when he did not have to and, with Foreman's assent, actually gave this testimony to the grand jury sitting on the Ray case.

When a write can buy the rights to "justice" and pay a "defense" lawyer for those rights in any major crime, the system of justice is itself corrupted.

If Ray had not begun with a lawyer so afr to the right he quit the FBI because he bleieved it was too liberal, and followed him with the unscrupulous Foreman - if Ray had wound up with a la young lawyer just out of college but abel and willing to work, he would not have gobe to jail and the government, particularly the Department of Justice and its FBI, would have been in a terrible mess, immersed in a major scandal and with this great crime unsolved.

Instead he had lawyers who gave the FBI all that Ray gave them to give Huie. In return, the FBI was contemptuous of Huie and would have nothing to do with him. All Huie wanted in return for helping the Ray prosecution was a picture of Ray in jail for

for his book and magazine writing and the FBI ignored that and Huie didn't get it.

Huie is not alone among well-known writers who with and without reward from it, but not in any instance without any reward at all, did the FBI's dirty work for it. and thereby corrupted or helped corrupt the already corrupted system of justice.

The FBI has a stable of these literary whores, as we shall see, and it uses them effectively.

In the King case the most effective of them was the respected Jeremiah O'Leary, then a staff reporter for The Washington Star and a contributor to The Readers Digest. The since-defunct Star was then a conservative afternoon paper, ~~which liked by Hoover~~ It and the Digest, which had an enormous circulation within the United States and a number of foreign editions, were much liked by Hoover O'Leary wrote an FBI* inspired article for the Digest. ^{It} ~~that~~ got exceptionally wide attention, was reported as news in the papers. It almost ~~also~~ accomplished an FBI purpose, of avoidinf a trial. It was so prejudicial and the attention to it was so great it did convince Ray that he could not and would not get a fair trial. That, as we shall also see in greater detail, prompted him to write Judge Preston W. Battle that he might g just as well walk over and enter a plea of guilty. ^{intercepted and} Ray's letter was/xeroxed ~~and xeroxed~~ before it was placed in the mail and it was xeroxed all over again after it was in the mail and thw judge received it. I have copies of both sets of xeroxes.

This, of course, is what Foreman ultimately ~~is~~ intimidated Ray into doing, and was the FBI's face ever saved by it!

Even Ray's notes to Foreman and his correspondence with and about other lawyers were intercepted and xroxed, in direct violation of Judge Battle's orders but in accord with the "security" instructions by the Department of Justice. Foreman was so little concerned

other writers

7

3 requests

March 24, 1969

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

In his just published book, "The Strange Case of James Earl Ray",
Clay Blair, Jr., expresses his gratitude for the information and assistance
given him by your bureau.

I have written a book including the Ray case, and I would like to
be able to include any information that might be missing.

Therefore, I write to ask for what has been given Mr. Blair and perhaps
other writers and any other data you might properly give me.

Now that there has been a court proceeding, I hope some of what might
earlier have been considered secret is no longer. I am particularly interested
in that evidence that establishes or tends to establish that Ray was the
assassin, such things as the ballistics proof. Because there are so many
contrary indications, I would also appreciate proof that he harbored racial
animosities. And with the existing indications of the involvement of more than
one person, for example, evidences that while Ray was in California someone
acting for him was in Alabama, I would particularly like to know what persuaded
your bureau that he was entirely alone. Ray and members of his family say he
was not alone, as I interpret their statements.

Your bureau has also released some pictures. I would appreciate copies.
Possibly you have pictures you may not properly give me, those taken by photo-
graphers at the scene of the crimes. I would like references to those taken as
close as possible to the moment of the crime and at its scene.

My purpose in seeking this information is to make my work as complete
and accurate as possible. Because what was earlier available persuades that Ray
was not alone and probably was not the assassin, I am quite anxious to have all
the available proofs that there was no conspiracy and that he was the assassin.

Thank you for any help you may provide.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Feisberg

Mr. Callagher

11/27/76

J. S. Feolman

- 1 - Mr. Callagher
- 1 - Mr. Ingram
- 1 - Mr. Feolman
- 1 - Mr. Linn
- 1 - Mr. Beckley
- 1 - Mr. William L. Kelley

PROPERTY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
 KENNEDY - KING FILES IN
 ROOM 4436, JEM
 CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT

PURPOSE: To request authority to maintain those files relating to the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr., and John F. Kennedy in Room 4436, JEM, in order to respond to access requests from the House Select Committee on Assassinations as approved by the Office of Legislative Affairs, U. S. Department of Justice.

RECOMMENDATION: That authority be granted to maintain pertinent Kennedy - King files as set out below in Room 4436.

DETAILS: The Congressional Inquiry Unit was forced to respond to the anticipated requests from the House Select Committee on Assassinations. In order to respond expeditiously to these requests and to prepare expired material for access to this committee, it is necessary that files pertinent to the inquiries of the House Select Committee be maintained in Room 4436, JEM. These files are identified as follows:

- 44-38861 "Berlin" 62-109090-
- 62-109060 "Assassinations of J.F.K." NOT RECORDED
- 62-109090 "Liaison with Warren Commission" DEC 1 1976
- 105-82555 "Lee Harvey Oswald"

The retention of these files would be temporary until such time as the requirements of the House Select Committee are met, at which time the files would be returned to the Records Management Division.

- JCF:mas (11)
- 1 - 44-38861
- 1 - 62-109060

- P. 62-109090
- 1 - 105-82555

SEE ADDENDUM PAGE 2

67 DEC 1 1976

DUPLICATE

Section 32

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-109090-1171

8 0

APPENDIX RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION PPS:GW 11/30/76

The four files mentioned in this memorandum relating to the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and John F. Kennedy consist of a total of 8 file cabinets (5 drawers) and occupy 60 cubic feet. It has been determined that there presently is adequate space in Room 4436 for temporary maintenance of these files as requested.

*is this
in what
accurate?*

about defending Ray or paying any attention to ~~anything~~ Ray told him he put that particular note inside a newspaper he discarded as soon as he left Ray's cell. ^{It was} to be grabbed immediately by the Shelby County Sheriff's office. I have a xerox. Ray had come pretty close to ~~a~~ figuring out what had actually ~~at~~ happened but Foreman at that moment was more interested in taking ^{her} possession of a fur coat ^{off} (of Geneva Ann Singleton) ^{back, she typified} one of the kinds of clients from whom Foreman earned his wealth, women who divorced wealthy men.

His criminal cases, famous as they were, and spectacularly successful as he was in so ~~many~~ ^{many} of the, was his means of advertising to those women in the era when ^{lawyer} advertising was prohibited.

Foreman's record is that of a man who got his kicks from injuring others.

But the Florida appeals ^{of} court denied him the Singleton fur coat.

When Foreman succeeded Hanes, the Hanes who was acting as Birmingham, Alabama's mayor when it turned its police dogs and fire hoses on demonstrating blacks, like Hanes Foreman took Huie's money - a bribe. Foreman permitted Huie to testify against Ray before that grand jury as the immediate precedent for effectuating what Huie required, Ray's guilt.

if all of this was referred to as defending Ray.

There are so many way in which writers can corrupt our system and so few established Writers who will invest the time and money required to try to make it work when injustice is transparently obvious.

Extra space.

Those ~~of~~ ^{of} us known as critics were not immune and some did corrupt the ~~sys~~ system.

~~None~~ ^{Not} one was an established writer, ^{not} none was wealthy and not one had the resources and connections of established writers. I was broke and in debt. Sylvia Meagher, whose magnificent "Accessories After the Fact" was in the second wave of critical books, had a full-time jobs as an editor at the United Nations. Edward J. Epstein (who now prefers "Jay" for the initial) was a candid candidate for a master's degree in college. He began, in as the FBI and Department of Justice were slow to realize, as their defender ~~from~~ his view from the right. ~~and~~ Mark Lane was a lawyer without a remunerative practise after pulling a stunt that led to his not running again for the New York State Assembly. He alone had

assistance, from the radical weekly "The National Guardian" and a number of its subscribers ~~some of whom~~ did good work for him. But, according to what Oscar Collier, then Lane's literary agent, told me, Lane never delivered the contracted manuscript to Barney Rosset's Grove Press. I have only Collier's word for it, but he told me that Lane also refused to return the "advance." ^{Yet} ~~The~~ ^{the} last next time I saw Collier he was promoting Lane's and Dick Gregory's commercialization of ~~the~~ the King tragedy in a book that has only the barest and then inaccurate mention of the King assassination, "Code-Name ~~Horro~~ ^{Horro}."

By the time Lane's best-selling "Rush to Judgement" appeared it was dated. But it had a publisher willing and able to promote and advertise and an author who soon made himself almost a cult figure on campuses, particularly when he could and did exploit New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison and his ~~mad~~ Mardi Gras "solutions" to the JFK assassination. *Solutions in the plural. He had no end of them, as Lane also did.*

These two share any Randian qualities including selfishness and egomania that ~~each~~ ^{lives and} expresses in his own way.

Speaking ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{of Lane to} ~~of~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Les Payne, then ^{minority} ~~national~~ affairs correspondent for "Newsday" ~~of Lane's XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~, I said what is no less true of Garrison, ^{hair} that as an investigator Lane could not find public ~~hairs~~ in an overworked and undercleaned whorehouse. Les laughed and added, "at rush hour."

Lane's ego is such that after "Rush to Judgement" and its content had been advertised, when he read "Inquest" and "Whitewash" and found a few minor matters he had overlooked relating to ~~the~~ evidence he believed he owned ^{he} altered the advertised appendix of his book and replaced parts of it with text he could no longer insert in his book, already in page proof. Petty and ridiculous but ^{vintage} vintage Lane. The Lane who edited the transcripts of Warren Commission hearings ^{he} ~~to~~ ^{he} pretended ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{to} quoted verbatim ^{he replaced the names of staff} to eliminate and thus hide from ^{He's right vengeance agent} the reader the names of the questioners other than the one he ~~is~~ ^{is} against whom he sought vengeance, ~~mostly~~ ^{He left them names in} Chief Justice Earl Warren, the Commission's chairman, and J. Lee Rankin, ^{none of the} its general counsel. Thus the reader could focus on ~~no~~ ^{no} other Commission counsel ~~who~~ each of whom had his own responsibility ~~for~~ ^{for} that Commission's failures and transgressions.

His insatiable desire to persuade the world that he and he alone owned the subject and had done all the ~~meaningful~~ ^{NG-FUL} work on it and the financial success of his first book, which, naturally, called for a sequel, led to his second, "A Citizen's Dissent." In it he was again light-fingered, this time springing a trap I'd set for him, his past indicating that he'd steal again. Among the other (to me entertaining) displays of his all-consuming ego was his adopting the FBI method of telling very big lies with the misuses of words ^{to} that tells the lie while literally speaking the truth.

Lane flubbed his investigation of Oswald's alleged purchase of a rifle. I had the Secret Service report that he had overlooked and published ~~it~~ ^{excerpts} in facsimile on page 39 of "Whitewash II." Instead of identifying it with the proper Secret Service or Warren Commission ^{document} identification I eliminated the identifications in the facsimile and added ~~the~~ instead the file number the Secret Service used for its JFK assassination. ^{records!} Sure enough, the same excerpts and the same and only the same incomplete and inadequate identification appear as Lane's work in his second book.

The British Broadcasting Corporation bought the rights to use a documentary film-maker D'Antonio had based on "Rush to Judgement." In the debate accompanying its telecasting Lane did not fare well. He complained in "A Citizen's Dissent" about BBC's treatment he described as unfair and abusing. ^{ve.} ~~of this~~ ^H he said that he had not received ^a farthing." That since-abandoned ^{c/in} was a tenth of a cent. ^H ~~and~~ it was literally true -

^{Lane} he did not get a tenth of a cent. He actually got about \$40,000 in U.S. money, ^{the highest fee} paid to him by the BBC.

The misrepresentations, untruths and assorted other dishonesties in this book were so glaringly obvious I wrote a book about it over a weekend while preparing to return to New Orleans for some of my investigation of Oswald there. I intended that book, ~~mis-~~ titled "A Citizen's Descent," not for publication but for what it remains, a record for history.

When Larry Flynt ^{"Hustler"}, publisher of the then third-largest magazine commercializing photographs of ~~and~~ ^{of} naked women, bought the Los Angeles "underground" newspaper ~~the~~ "The Los Angeles Free Press," having already commercialized the JFK assassination by offering a million dollars for a solution to it (Lane a judge and the reward unpaid), he had Lane turn out a special ^{assassination} edition of that ^{paper}. Sure enough, he again adopted the

work of others, chiefly ^{mine} ~~as~~, as his own. But he ~~had~~ did, from time to time, make efforts to hide his literary theivery. As with the Navy's threat of court-martial action against its personnel present at the JFK autopsy if they said anything about it. I had ~~published~~ gotten it through FOIA action and published a xerox, which is black printing on a white background, in _____, (p.)

Lane's childish effort to pretend that this, too, was his work, hence his property led him to ~~xerox~~ make a negative photostat of what I'd published. That ^{appears} ~~appears~~ as white printing on a black background. Thus at least to Dick ~~Parsons~~ ^{Parsons} ~~as~~ Lane, his theft was hidden. As was the emperor's nakedness ⁱⁿ that fable.

Garrison, too, ^{of} knows a good line when he sees it. Only he tends to forget the source of what he cribbed. Not always. Sometimes he is ~~a~~ smooth but barefaced liar.

Once when he'd asked me to visit him in his den at home and listen to parts of a speech he was writing, for delivery to a Los Angeles press-association convention at which he was to be the main speaker, he stumbled, very unusual for him, as he read lines he also laughed about. He got to "a yot" and just crumbled up

"Do you have a copy of Photographs "hitewas?" I asked him.

"Wouldn't be without it," he replied, turning to take it from ^{bookselves} ~~the~~ behind him. (Clay Shaw, whom ~~he~~ had charged with conspiring to assassinate the President

was a well-known New Orleans homosexual.)

Garrison had the notion that there was a large sadomasochist and homosexual ring behind the JFK assassination. I should say this was one of his many notions. He also believed that Lyndon Johnson was a homosexual. This is why he always ^{this line} muffled ~~what~~ he liked so much.

I opened the book to page 9 ~~of the book~~ and read what follows reference to popular suspicion that Johnson was behind the assassination: "No matter how ^y pure his motive, no ~~an~~ matter how humble his gathering of faggots (if it is humble he is), they stoke a witch's cauldron and he is thought Macbeth."

Unembarrassed he said merely, "Thought I'd read it someplace."

A ^{few days} little later I was in Berkeley, California, delivering an afternoon speech at the University when several of the student/critics of whom I remember Paul Hoch told me

to cut it short, that I had a plane to catch at Oakland and it was close to time. This was news to me, I asked them why, and they told me that Garrison wanted me there. I complained that I had no interest in hearing him speak and less interest in about 800 miles of unnecessary travel.

"Garrison says it is important," they told me so, believing that ^{there} there was something important there, I went.

What was important was hearing him still unable to deliver those simple words without breaking up when he got to "fagots."

There is so much I could write, of personal knowledge, about this man and about how in retrospect, he did more than anyone outside the federal government to destroy the credibility of criticisms of the official account of the JFK assassination.

Garrison is a gited writer. I've seen him labor for an hour over his lawyer's yellow ruled pad on part of a ^{press} ~~press~~ release he wanted to be just right. His natural expressiveness, often eloquent, is enhanced ^{and} made more interesting and attractive by the total absence of any scruple. His book that as of this writing is ^{under consideration as} reported to be the basis for an Oliver Stone documentary, "On the Trail of the Assassins," if accepted for what it really is, is an ^{entertaining} interesting novel.

"I was there," as the expression goes, for much of it and I was involved in some that is at once ludicrous and false. And what I did, after his staff tried and failed to save him from himself, is, with gratitude, attributed to another he happened to like. One ^{evening} ~~night~~ he asked me to accompany him to the airport. He was leaving to make a ^{speech} ~~speech~~ in Albuquerque. Both of the detectives who usually took turns driving him in his official Buick on which they always played for him tapes of The Canadian Brass, Lynn Loisel and Steve Borden, were in the front seat, Jim and I were chatting in the back. He ^{both} needed security and their concept of security was for both of his protectors to ^{abandon him while they parked} park the ^{The} ~~the~~ car. This ^{then} ~~best-known~~ man in New Orleans, the man whose picture ^{was} ~~is~~ most often on the front pages and the television tube there, six-foot-six ^{inch} (Jim Carver Garrison (born Eprling Carothers), walked up to the ticket counter and said, "You have a ticket for me. My name is

Robert Levy. "

Unfazed except ^{for her} ~~that she had~~ a double-take, the clerk handed him the ticket and, joined by the detectives we walked to the gate for that plane.

"Hold on a second, boss," Loisel said. Garrison waited with me while the two detectives entered the plane. I assumed they felt the need to check it to be sure no assassin lurked ^{in it} ~~behind a seat~~.

They exited, all smiles, and said, "OK, Boss," ^{and he waved goodbye as he} ~~and he bid us adieu~~ and entered.

No sooner was he inside, ~~the~~ this incognito Robert Levy," than both turned to me to announce, happily, "We have the boss f'ixed up good. We told the hostess who he is ~~and~~ and he's gonna get two steaks.

I'd been quietly amused by the "security," incredulous about the "Robert Levy," and at this demonstration of love and devotion I just laughed out loud.

Back in New Orleans, I worked in the French Quarter before returning to my room at the Fountainbleau motel. I showed ^{red} and had barely fallen asleep when the phone awakened me about 3 a.m. When the operator announced that the call was from Harv Morgan, I was awake enough to ask her to hold the call. I got out of bed to get my tape recorder and the primitive suction-cup microphone ⁷ used for telephone interviews ⁴.

Harv was a former reporter ^B who ^N had one of the best and best-rated radio talk shows on the west coast, on KCMS, the CBS radio network's anchor station. He and his wife/producer Judy were friends. I knew he'd not be phoning me that hour of the morning for any trivial reason and that he'd had to track me down to learn where I was. So the ~~the~~ tape was running when he started to speak.

He recounted a partly-confirmed plot to kill ~~the~~ Garrison.

When we finished talking I did ~~what~~ ^I hated to believe I had to do. I phoned Garrison's chief investigator, Louis Ivon, and got him out of bed.

In addition to the difficulty of staying sane on the job that always required unpredictable overtime, Louis was getting his degree in criminology ^{at} ~~night~~. He then was in the middle of finals and had had little sleep.

after I conveyed the information from Harv he told me to be ready for him to

pick me up in a half hour. We talked about it as we drove to their office, ^There we were met by some of Garrison's assistants. Of them I remember Jim ^cAllock, later a judge.

I'd been thinking about what might be done, ^{made} a couple of suggestions, and after they listened to the tape and ^{did} discussed it in private they agreed to one, for me to notify the FBI. I did, and I have the FBI's reports on it. (Pick up citations and copies)

The staff collective wisdom was to send William Wood, who used the name Bill Boxley, a man who'd been fired by the CIA and was Garrison's private investigator. The others, one, Steve Jaffe, save for/a nincompoop as an investigator (he did have other skills and became a successful Hollywood flack) who'd been wished on Garrison by Lane, were city police assigned, as was the practice, to the District attorney's office. Boxley and his ^{matie} automatic pistol were on the first ~~pas~~ plane to Albuquerque.

As this comes out in "On the Trail of the Assassins," Garrison was ~~and~~ ^{Boxley} said he was indignant over this waste of his scanty fund, so he ordered Boxley to return to New Orleans forthwith.

This makes better reading that the truth and it gave Garrison the opportunity to represent how frugal he was when ^{extravagant and} wasteful with money, wasting just about all of it in his fiasco. Most of all in swallowing hook, line sinker and every rod, a fake book planted on him by the French counterpart ^{of} to the CIA, SNECE.

After Garrison's ^{speech} he and Boxley flew to Los Angeles, where they roughed it in a suite in the Century Plaza for a week.

While they were living it up a package was delivered to Garrison's room.

"Hold it, boss!" Boxley exclaimed. He grabbed the package, rushed ^{into} the bathroom, filled the tub with water and plunged the package into it, keeping it there long enough to ^{be sure} see to it that the bomb expected to have been ~~it~~ would not explode.

The package safe, they opened it. The ^{gift} ~~part~~ of books was ruined.

The middle of November, 1968, I was in Dallas and about to return home when Garrison phoned me to ask me to return to New Orleans immediately. ^{It} was, he insisted, important.

It turned out to be a waste of time save for those who intercepted and made a mess of my ⁱⁿ ~~baggage~~ baggage.

well-known TV

what was so important to Garrison was a print of ^{footage} of Oswald distributing literature at the main entrance to the old International Trade Mart of which the indicted ^{did} Clay Shaw had been managing director. WDSU, having no ^{use} used for Garrison, had not let him have a print. I'd told his assistant, Andrew "Noo" ^{Scy} Sciambra how to get one. It turned out to be a poor copy. I had a print made from the originals, with the stipulation that I not let Garrison have it.

What made this so ~~in~~ important as evidence is, as Garrison pointed to it exultantly. ~~is~~ that it showed Clay Shaw about to ~~enter~~ ^{secretly} enter the building by his secret door. ^{so secret or}

I never did understand how a doorway on the main street was important but no matter, that door opened only from the inside. Besides which, the man in the film was not Shaw anyway.

As I was getting ready to go to the airport that late afternoon I learned from Ivon and Sciambra that Garrison and Boxley had cooked up the wildest of ^{their many} ~~the~~ conspiracies. *They* ~~and~~ ^{intended} to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the JFK assassination by making new charges public on the ~~22d~~ ^{22d} twenty-second. They had been unable to convince Garrison that he had no proof. They should have known that lack of proof never discouraged him.

He was, among other things, ⁱⁿ going to charge men ~~in~~ the mis-named "tramp" pictures taken in Dealey Plaza the day of the assassination and a man who died and had been buried, in New Orleans, a year before that assassination, with being part of the successful conspiracy.

What could I do to help ^p prevent that certain disaster?

I asked Ivon for two sets of those pictures and two manila envelopes. As I awaited for the plane to be called, I put a set in each envelope, along with a hasty note asking for an investigation of the pictures. I sent one to Henry Wade, then Dallas District Attorney, and the other to Paul Rothermel II, chief of H.L.Hunt's ~~own~~ security. Both are former FBI agents.

Wade sent one of his detectives to investigate, Rothermel did his own investigating,

as it happened with one missing from the set of pictures I'd sent him. The reports back were ~~the~~ identical. Those men were not "tramps," they ⁹¹ were winos. (Richard Sprague, a critic who did an excellent job of locating photographs ignored in the official investigations, got those pictures and just decided that the men were tramps. He gave one the name of "FrenchY" from the cut of his clothing and he later decided that "FrenchY" was the manager of Lyndon Johnson's farm.)

The men had not been picked up at the time of the assassination. It was an hour and a half or more later.

They had not been picked up at the scene of the crime. They were ^{found drunk} in a parked railroad boxcar behind the Central Annex Post Office, on South Houston Street, or about a block ^{K/} west and two block south of the assassination scene.

(This did not later discourage those critics addicted to the tramp theory of the assassination. They no longer insisted they were the assassins, there being no rifle that shot around corners anyway. ^{as "tramps"} They were cast in a variety of roles, including as paymasters of the assassins, in a variant ^{as} supervisors. By means of an ear identification, ^r Watergating CIA agent E. Howard Hunt was positively identified. So also was his Watergate associate Frank ^r Sturgis. and many others.)

Because the men were not charged, drunkenness being the least of the police concerns with the Presidential ^{id} assassination on their hands, their names were not recorded ^{cd} and that soon became another ~~a~~ foul ~~or~~ ~~foul~~ conspiracy.

Rothermel's account gave credibility to ^{w/ his} that ~~he~~ eye-witness, post-office employee told him.

"My ol' boy at the p.o.," Rothermel told me, "says there were three and the pictures show only two." Both ^{my} statements are true.

I returned to New Orleans and did the investigating that left it without question, even in Garrison's fixed mind, that what ^{-a fed back to him-} Boxley had fed him was faked. It was day-and-night work, with excellent legwork done by Ivon and his staff. ¹ After an intense and taxing week, on a Saturday night, I complete ^d my analysis and gave it to Sciambra. He and another, Vincent Salantria, a Philadelphia lawyer of whom Garrison was fond and whose

judgement, especially on ~~political~~ ^{political} matters he trusted, finally convinced Garrison.

Knowing that Garrison did trust ~~Salandra~~ ^{Salandra} Salandria, in the simplistic belief that ~~it it~~ take a crook to get a crook, it also takes a ^{4/} not to reach a nut, I'd persuaded him to join me to save Jim from his enemies. ~~Salandra~~ ^{drick} also was long on conspiracies, any kind of conspiracies, especially those against his friend Jim, about which he was ~~ready~~ ready to credit any reported.

~~Jim~~ Sciambra picked me up and as we drove to his home for what was what he promised it would be, as good an Italian dinner as I'd ever have, he explained, "Hal, you just ~~sav~~ ^{ed} Jim Garrison from being ~~dis~~barred by the Supreme Court of the Unted States of America." (The Shaw Case was then before that court.)

There is more but this ~~has~~ ^{has} should be enough to show that there is more than one Mardi Gras in New Orleans and that they are, or at least then were not limited to "fat Tuesday."

As this is mentioned, and not much more than mentioned, in "On the Trail of the Assassins," all the insanity is purged ~~along~~ ^{along} with just about everything else other than that ~~Garrison~~ ^{ed} fied the CIA spy ~~Boyle~~ ^{Boyle} and it was all ~~do~~ ^{due} to Salandria's fine work. No mention of anyone else;.

Once in a while, not very often, Garrison did mention my name. I think his reluctance ^{at} began with a Washington Post story saying that his investigation had been scripted earlier in my first book, an idea repeated by The Times of London. One of these ~~rare~~ ^{rare} mentions is in his December 2, 19~~85~~ ⁸⁷ letter to Ted Gandolfo. Gandolfo was an early critic. He was regarded by some as crude, by others as rather imaginative, and he'd worked very very hard to tape record everything anybody said on the subject. Anybody! At the time Garrison wrote this letter Gandolfo was trying to help arrange for publication of ~~the~~ ^{the} "On the Trail". Gandolfo was then selling copies of some of the Warren Commission executive sessions ~~xxxxxx~~ transcripts I had obtained ^{d/} and published. Referring to them, Garrison wrote of me, "Somebody ought to build a statue ^{a/} to that ~~man~~ ^{man} for the hard ~~work~~ and detailed work he has done."


There is, of course, a ^{big} difference ^a between statue and books. One has to "build"

to evolve a statue but books can just be made up.

extraspac

One critic who managed to combine the two, making his book his ~~stat~~
statue to himself, is David Lifton.

Rushing will write


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DAVID R. M. WILLIAMS
JOAN B. ARMSTRONG

JUDGES

December 2, 1985

Mr. Ted Gandofo
1214 First Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Ted:

Thank you for your warm and encouraging letter. I really appreciate the help you have been giving me with regard to the marketing of "A Farewell to Justice".

And thank you also for the latest copy of your newsletter which, as usual, was extremely interesting.

I saw your ad for the Warren Commission's January 22nd and 27th Executive transcripts which Wiseberg obtained. Somebody ought to build a statue to that man for the hard and detailed work he has done.

In any case, I would like to have a copy of it and enclose my check for \$12.40.

Best regards,



Enclosure

Like J. Edgar Hoover who had instant visions by which he solved these major crimes - indeed, without before investigating them, Huie knew, instantly, that Ray ~~and Ray alone~~ was guilty. Armed with his certainty of Ray's guilt and a substantial bank account he bought the lawyers, Hanes and Foreman. Neither saw any conflict of interest between taking Huie's money to do what Huie wanted done and representing Ray when Huie had ordained his guilt so rapidly it was before Hanes had seen or spoken to ^{him.} Ray.

Originally, as the title of the book he contracted reveals, Huie believed there had been a conspiracy. The title was "They Slew the Dreamer." Before it appeared the title became "He Slew the Dreamer."

Huie'd book and a series of articles he wrote for LOOK ^{among weekly magazines} magazine, then the second in ^{circulation} ~~circulation~~ to such magazines only to the original LIFE, are long on Ray's travels after he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary, at Jefferson City, Missouri and short on the assassination. Short except for ~~conjectures and~~ conjectures about the crime. He

had, aside from his own investigation, which did not include the crime itself, only that ^{although Ray produced a considerable volume of notes he said nothing about the crime} Ray wrote out laboriously in long-hand and gave ~~him~~ Hanes, who then gave it to him.

~~At Huie and I~~
~~XX~~
~~XX~~
 We met when we both agreed to appear on a talk show on New York Station WNEW-TV. He was accompanied by Judge Robert Dwyer, who had earlier been one of Ray's prosecutors. Patronizing and condescending and making his omniscience clear ^{Huie} he prated at some length about nothing relevant to the crime. When I could slip a few words in, I said merely, "You have told us the name ^{(articles and} (in his book) of the whore with whom Ray slept in Mexico and the gifts he gave to the one with whom he slept in Portugal, but the crime was in Memphis. Why don't you tell us about your investigation in Memphis, Mr. Huie?" 27A1 jobs

~~His totally bald head got as red as his face and he ~~scowled~~ erupted like ~~Vesuvius~~ ^{a lengthy, angry diatribe} Mount ~~Vesuvius~~ Vesuvius. He began by calling me ~~as~~ a racist, gesticulated and went on at~~

~~some length, without a single word about any investigation in Memphis or a single fact relating to the crime itself. From his own writing he hadn't investigated the crime at all. He was born knowing all there was to know about anything and everything so why waste time seeking any proof of it?~~
 I just sat back and laughed at him, on camera, while he made a spectacle of himself. He expected to cash in on that tragedy but he didn't. Why he flew from L.A. to New York

He totally bald ~~head~~ ^{and} shiny bald head got as red as his face and he ~~exploded~~ ^{erupted} like Mount Vesuvius. He ~~erupted~~ ^{erupted} into a lengthy, ~~aggy~~ ^{apologetic} angry diatribe, beginning by called me a racist. As he rambled, gesticulating wildly and ~~talked~~ ^{exhorted} about everything but the crime itself, about which he said not a single word; and as it became clear to the audience ~~that~~ ^{that} that in fact he had travelled widely here, in ^{Mexico,} Canada and in Europe without making any investigation at all in ~~the~~ ^{the} Memphis, none of the crime itself, he made more and more of a public spectacle of himself in the city so important to his reputation, his writing, what he can get paid for it and how much credence could be put in it.

I sat and laughed and laughed, without saying a word, because he was making it apparent that he had contracted those articles and the book and spent a young fortune in costly travels without learning or trying to learn a single actual fact about the assassination itself.

Only those expert in plumbing and understanding sick and uninhibited egos can understand ~~that~~ with his book out, a failure and its life gone, he went to all the expense and took the time to ^{Hartselle (dale?-check)} fly from ^{Alabama} to New York City. bringing ^{along} his chum/former prosecutor Mrs. Dwyer friend and his wife ~~along~~ to have them see him expose himself and the prosecution on TV.

Of course, sublime in his self-conceived omniscience, he had expected no such outcome.

Perhaps, like Foreman, he expected free advertising of himself and his rare talents in the city where most book and movie deals are made. It is apparent that he had expected to make a financial killing from his skilled gilding of the official mythology. He didn't and the book was not profitable for ~~his~~ ^{his} publisher. In this he was not unique. It was ^{well deserved} soon the fate of another successful writer, ^{publishing} Harold (correct) Frank, whose ^{"An American Death"} ^(check) enjoyed an equally dismal history.

Each of these successful and well-off authors reaped the same reward from the literary whoredom through which they expected to exploit this great tragedy; neither published another successful book.

Percy Foreman, terror of the courtroom in some of the most gruesome, most salacious and legally the most difficult cases; also ~~expected~~ ^{was} was tempted, as Huie had been, by the offer of free New York City publicity.

27 B/fols

~~Nonetheless, he did not lack confidence and he did appear. That can't be said of the famed Percy Foreman, Terror of the court room in some of the most sensational case in the country for the many years he practised law.~~

I'd been asked to appear on the same show on the same station with him and "Anes" opposing me. I agreed with two stipulations: that each would be given a copy of "Frame-Up" long enough in ~~adv~~ advance to be able to read what I'd said about them and that the moderator divide time evenly.

When I got to the station I was intercepted at the door. I was told they were having trouble with their lights and there would be a delay. I was led to a small office, told to make myself comfortable and that they remember I liked J&B Scotch with water. Soon a fifth of it was on a table, with a pitcher of water and one of ice.

More than an hour later the producer and the station's vice president appeared and began, "Look, we've got a problem and we'll level with you." They explained that Foreman, when he learned for the first time, after flying up from Texas, unpaid, for this prime TV exposure in New York, had threatened to sue them for libel.

"That 's a new kind," I said, the "unspoken libel."

Then they said they were not afraid of losing a libel suit but the cost of defending one successfully could run well into six figures. *They did not want to risk the cost or the nuisance.*

I asked that there be any empty for Foreman and that it be announced that he had declined to appear.
They asked me not to mention Foreman's name. I countered by promising I would not, unless someone else mentioned it first. They agreed and led me to the makeup room, to

a master of that art who had made me up for some highly-controversial appearances. It was then that I learned what happened.

He'd been making Foreman up and was chatting with him, small talk, he thought.

"Have you ever debated this man Weisberg," he asked Foreman.

"What!" he said told me Foreman shouted.

"People like to put him down as a hick," the ^{*bewildered*} (makeup-man said), ^{*(impressed by Foreman's wit first)*} "but he's been here before and he held his end up." ^{*He hearing confirmation that he would confront me,*}

^{*makeup*} ~~With this, with the makeup that had been applied still on, with the bib, too, Foreman~~

wrenching ^{at the belt} tied around his neck to keep the powder off his clothing,

ran out of the room shouting threats of suing for libel. He still had the makeup on, ^{fuming} fled the building ^{of} when he left. It all happened so fast ~~xxxx~~ and the station management was so ^{worried} concerned about the cost of defending a spurious libel suit, they didn't think to change the announcement of the confrontation. So, the confrontation between Foreman and me got a highlight on the New York Times' TV page— even though he was the big man who wasn't there.

aside from learning that ^{spurious} threats of lawsuits that can entail large sums of money can be used effectively to intimidate, I also ^{got a new perspective on publishers.} learned a little about publishing and what makes books successful.

My publisher, David Outerbridge, ^{had joined me shortly before} was with me when the station told ~~me~~ the truth about Foreman's threats and his flight. As soon as we were alone ^{not having rushed to a phone,} and Outerbridge had ^{saying he could not invent as attractive and effective a promotion.} not used the phone, I urged him to let the papers know immediately.)

"This is the man-bites-dog story, David," I said. Get it to the papers fast. "Here you have the country's most famous criminal lawyer fleeing confrontation with a lowly hick author. It's a natural! and it can make the book."

"Let the station do it," he replied.

Shocked, I reminded him that the last thing the station wanted was to attract attention to Foreman's threats. But he refused to phone the papers. I could not because I was to be taken to makeup at any minute.

Foreman had flown from Texas to New York just for the free publicity he would get from a TV appearance and here we were, with a veritable gold-mine of free, ^{and natural} ^{truthful!} ^{that by my original standard is news worthy} and honest potential publicity for the book, and the publisher refused to do it. He ^{wanted} could have had a sensation. Instead he had nothing.

~~(One of those earlier confrontations the makeup man recalled was when the FBI prepared four lawyers to ruin me ^{2/} when my first book was just out. We were to have a segment of a show that with other guests on other subjects ran an hour. The cameras ran for two hours and twenty minutes, until those lawyers learned what they should have on their mothers' knees, that silence is golden if you don't know what you are talking about. The BI and the lawyers it prined made an overnight best-seller of that book once the show was aired. Without learning from this experience, it did something like it in San Francisco, when one of its symbol informers tried to do me in. And didn't.)~~

~~(Audio tape of these TV shows on author's files, with the book track from the clipping.)~~

(One of those earlier confrontations the makeup man recalled was in the summer of 1966. My first book was just out. Paul Noble, a WHEW-TV producer, had asked the New York FBI to send some SAs to oppose me. The FBI refused to do that but it did agree to prepare others to do me in with what its records (cite file numbers describe as "public domain information." The station arranged for four lawyers to do this. We were to have one segment of a multi-segment, ~~xxxx~~ hour-long show that included other guests on other topics. What happened was so exciting that the cameras ran on us, stopping only long enough for commercials to be dubbed in on airing, for two hours and twenty minutes. It took me most of that time to teach those lawyers, three men and a woman, what they should have learned at their mothers' knees, that silence is golden if you don't really know what you are talking about. Those lawyers were prepared with the official account of the PK assassination and my book left it without question that the official solution was actually official mythology. By the time those lawyers realized they were making fools of themselves the station had a show that on airing got it the best ratings it had ever had. People were waking friends and telling them, "You gotta look at this." When the program ended after two o'clock on a Sunday morning my phone in Maryland started ringing and it didn't stop. I did not get back to sleep. Overnight that show made W "Whitewash" the best-selling work on non-fiction in New York City. We had to ship books to wholesalers three times that week, as its sale was that heavy. The FBI failed to learn from this experience because, December 15 of that year, when I was on the Harv Morgan show on the CBS radio clear-channel KVBS, in San Francisco, a man I later learned from the San Francisco FBI files on me was one of its symbol informers, tried something similar with the same results, gratifying to me. All my books sold out the next day and my audience in The Hall of the Flowers in Golden Gate park was so large all the seats were taken and there were many standees.) (cite FBI records and "audio tapes and newspaper clippings in author's files.)

And, devoted to scholarship as he is, he assumed Ray's guilt, as ^(in "Jury Saga") he later assumed Oswald's ~~beo~~ ^{book} guilty, without a single word in either assessing a single item of the evidence alleged against either accused assassin. Which, of course, is the best way of not angering the FBI with its history of retaliations

These fairly illustrate the state of his factual knowledge. It did not improve while he wrote either book. In each, devoted to scholarship as he is, he began by assuming the guilt of each alleged assassin. He does not in either book assess as much as a single item of evidence alleged to establish guilt. This kind of scholarship has some advantages. It does not anger the FBI, which retaliates, and it avoids additional ~~flouting~~ flaunting of ignorance. It also would require quite a bit of time he claims to have devoted to examining every disclosed record when he displays as much association with them as the clove of garlic has when it is merely wafter over the stew.

I spare the reader the multitude of details of the real horror of this book of which he is so proud that I recorded in my criti critique that is the length of a short book. But some are so typical of him, his publisher and publishers in general on this subject, they deserve - nya, require -attention. They also

Frame-up. The shell

He didn't search "all" his books because that question also is answered in "White-Wash"; it was in the rifle. I provided him with information in four paragraphs and in the fifth I finally had to write, "I am willing, as by now you know, to take all the time I can to respond to inquiries but I ought not be asked about what is in my published work." I did not tell him what he knew, especially because ^{then} I was 70 and in impaired health that severely limited what I was able to do. *28A*

~~With what I write above it is~~ ought not be necessary to write anything about the horror of a book of which he was so proud. But because it relates to his personal and professional integrity; ^{his} deliberate lying in his ~~great~~ work to make a false point, that intelligence was behind the King assassination (read CIA), and ^{the} trust any publisher or reader can place in anything he writes I do mention what he made up over a well-known and widely-reported incident, that a man identified in the Canadian press only as ~~found~~ "the fat man," had ^{found} an ^{open} envelope there addressed to Ray under one of the aliases he used in Canada, Ramon Sneyd. This man took that envelope and whatever was in it to that address and gave it to Ray.

To Melanson this was the CIA's way of delivering money to its agent, Ray.

Pretending that this man, whose name he had to refuse to use, was as a result terrified that he'd be killed, Melanson is specific in saying no public use dare be made of it.

In this he also suggests to the reader, as is his wont, that he is Sherlock Holmes reincarnated because he found and interviewed the "the fat man."

The actuality is that the man had identified himself to the Toronto police (44-38861-4478), which is in the FBI's reading room and in my file that he examined when he was here, and his name was disclosed by the FBI (44-38861-4596) also in that reading room to which he is so eloquently grateful, he says - and he got a copy from me!

All Sherlock Melanson had to do was use the Toronto phone book to portray himself as Sherlock!

"The fat man" (as distinguished from the fat head and the fat conceit) is Robert Mcouldton in the FBI's spelling (space indicated after Mc) and because it also is in the FBI's reading room, where our demon sleuth managed not to see it, it is as available to anyone at all as it was to him there. IT WAS PUBLIC BEFORE HE STARTER WRITING HIS BOOK.

Melanson submitted his manuscript to Greenwood Press, a subsidiary of ~~Frederick~~ Praeger Publishers.

Action 75-1996 in Washington federal court) and a great number of additional reports on the FBI's scientific, including ballistics work, he, having examined all those many pages, wrote me February 26, 1985 and asked, "was the 'his emphasis) shell casing ever found in the MLK case? I'm not aware that one was ever found..."

By this time I was getting impatient and exasperated. I wrote him March 1, "I am willing, as you by now know, to take all the time I can to respond to inquiries but I ought not be asked about what is in my published work...I ask again is you've read Frame-Up or is your reading limited to junk?"

Finally this most scholarly, most definitive book on the King assassination appeared and he was kind enough to send me a copy. I wrote to thank him on receipt, on April 1, 1989. In thanking him I asked him, "why didn't you tell me you were working on a book? I might have been of some help." Later, on reading it, I learned that I had been of more help than I'd known.

That is the last communication between us, written, phone or in person. I did not offer any opinion on the book but had noticed his claim that amount to having done it all on the dust jacket so I avoided any opinion. Yet later, when he'd sold the crew of Britishers looking for a sensation for the British TV his MURKIN bill of goods and they phoned me they quoted him as having told them that I had a high opinion of his book.

The scholarship get even better.

LP

faced with the political assassinations ~~and~~ all of them - the executive and judicial systems failed along with the adversary system of justice. The third branch of government, the legislative, long was silent. Years later it compounded these failures when the ^{use} House of Representatives established a special committee to investigate them. (give official title and the number of the Congress ^{as details}) It began with the presumption ~~in the~~ ~~assault~~ that the accused were guilty and never really investigated or intended to investigate the JFK and King assassinations, although it pretended to. In fact it began each of its public hearings with a narration of what ~~its~~ ^{Robert Blakey, its} chief counsel, ^{were} said ~~was~~ ^{seven} ~~seven~~ allegations by the critics. (He never once mentioned my name or cited any of my ~~books~~.) Blakey and his committee set out to and largely did debunk ~~the~~ some of the many assassination theories, hardly the way ^{to} ~~of~~ investigating those crimes if truth ^{were} ~~is~~ the client and the interest of the nation ^{were} ~~are~~ to be served.

One of its prosecutor-types, a ^{white} lawyer ^{OZER,} who affected a red Afro hairdo, actually ^{blurted out to} told Jim ^{when} Casar, (seeking a release so Foreman would be free to testify about his representation, if I may use the word, of Ray, ~~actually blurted out~~ that they wanted to use Foreman to show that Ray was guilty!

Ray again ^{had} changed counsel ~~and~~ and with ~~Mark Lane's~~ the help of his new counsel, Mark Lane, came close to doing the committee's dirty-work for it. In the public and Congressional mind, with those ^{seeing the} ~~hearing~~ ^{and hearing the radio} telecast from coast to coast, he did persuade most viewers and readers of the published accounts that he was guilty.

extra space

The press, often referred to as "the fourth estate," the unofficial part of our self-government, also failed ~~in~~ the time of these assassinations and since then.

I do not recall a single written, spoken or telecast question asking ^{let} ~~why~~ ~~he~~ Lane ~~had~~ Ray testify when under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution he did not have to. Or whether Lane's obviously wrongful compliance with Ray's irrational desire to testify had any connection with publicizing Lane by having him on every TV tube in the country and in all the papers ~~and~~ magazines.

~~Before~~ Before long Lane was representing a wealthy ultra-reactionary, Willis

John P. Roche

Let's evaluate 'truths' from zero

Sixteen years ago, full of zestful arrogance, my generation of Democrats descended on Washington. We sure paid for an education!

During the Ford-Carter transition period it has been hard to avoid reliving the past, reminiscing over the roads not taken, and perhaps sometimes sounding like an inmate of a Democratic old-folks home.

The problem is, if you believe, as I do, that character is fate, insight into the past behavior of a number of Jimmy Carter's "new faces" is invaluable in predicting their future track record. However — as my wife gently noted the other day — the "who said what to whom" in 1966 bit can be overdone. *Mea culpa.*

What is now important is to close the books and turn off the memory tape except when past action is directly relevant to assessing the current scene.

The right-wing commentators, for example, are screaming that in 1950 Ted Sorensen was a pacifist.

Actually, he was 1A0 — he would accept military service but not bear arms, a position held by a number of heroic medics in recent wars. The serious questions about Sorensen's nomination for Director of Central Intelligence are his administrative competence (he has never run anything)

and his 1977 position on the role of force in foreign affairs.

Another example: Why continue the interminable investigation into the murders of President John Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King?

True, it keeps a number of lawyers and miscellaneous outriders employed, but what difference does it make in 1977 whether J. Edgar Hoover or the CIA concealed evidence in 1963? Or whether James Earl Ray had some European contact in 1967? Kennedy and King are in their graves — let them rest in peace.

Then there is amnesty for draft evaders and deserters. (I say draft evaders rather than draft resisters because the latter, men of principle, stood up for their convictions and accepted the consequences.) I support amnesty for the evaders, but have grave doubts about deserters, most of whom I suspect were hard cases who only discovered they were "pacifists" after they landed in Sweden. This may be mistaken, but take them on a case-by-case basis.

Moreover, as was suggested here when President Ford pardoned former President Nixon, give amnesty for the Watergaters too.

From 1963 to '74 our society underwent a baleful series of psychological earthquakes. The human debris included both rogues and innocents, and a desert saint would doubtless sacrifice anyone who refused to distinguish the categories. That's why those saints were in the desert: You can't run a society on virtue undiluted by prudential compassions. No one suggests we award the individuals involved medals — just let them quietly vanish into the population.

In terms of his character, Jimmy Carter seems ideally equipped to preside over an abandonment of national paranoia. The fact that he has not spent years in the intense Washington atmosphere does provide a freshness that is congenial. Let us hope this freshness extends to a rejection of the standard policy categories of the past decade, particularly in foreign affairs.

Without suggesting that he paraphrase Jefferson's inaugural by stating "we are all hawks, we are all doves," it is essential that these tags be dumped.

I hold strong convictions about the need for adequate defense, but strongly oppose the B-1 and those Nimitz-class carriers the Navy wants for the next Battle of Midway. Never in my wildest moments have I thought the United States

should "police the world," though there are obviously some areas in whose future we have a vital national interest. What kind of a bird am I?

Maybe I am just a nuthatch, circling a tree upside down, but I submit that we must have considered debate in this vast, crucial grey sector. Eight years of the Kissinger perpetual-motion regime, dominated by romanticism, not real-politik, has left us in a foreign-policy shambles.

President Carter, a rational man if ever there was one, should throw away the old code books and start a "zero-based" evaluation of everybody's "truths" — including mine.

Let's begin our third century with the kind of hard-minded experimental skepticism that launched our first.

2 (Mr. J. A. Mintz
- Mr. J. B. Hotis)
1 - Mr. R. E. Gebhardt
1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall
1 - Mr. W. O. Cregar

62-116398

June 27, 1975

**U. S. SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE
TO STUDY GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
WITH RESPECT TO INTELLIGENCE
ACTIVITIES (SSC)**

**RE: REQUEST OF SSC FOR ACCESS TO WARREN
COMMISSION DOCUMENTS, ORIGINATED BY
FBI, PRESENTLY WITHHELD FROM RESEARCH**

Reference is made to letter dated May 27, 1975, to the Attorney General from the Chairman of captioned Committee, which requested the FBI to make available Warren Commission documents originated by the FBI, now withheld from research, for review by representatives of SSC.

Upon completion of the review of the 145 documents identified on a "List of Numbered Commission Documents of the Warren Commission Withheld From Research," attached to the request of the SSC, the FBI agrees that appropriately cleared representatives of the SSC may be given access to review the pertinent documents located at the General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C. This access is granted with the understanding that no written notes will be made at the time of review and that the SSC may, in writing, request any specific documents of interest to the Committee.

Upon receipt of any request, the documents will be reviewed by the FBI as to any third agency or privacy consideration prior to furnishing the documents to the SSC. When necessary, excisions may be made for above reasons.

1 - Attorney General

1 - 105-82555 (Oswald)
1 - 62-103060 (Warren Commission)
1 - 44-24016 (Ruby)

JWJ/sjm
(11)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

PHYLOSOPHY

62-116398

The subtitle of "Spy Saga" is "Lee Harvey Oswald and U.S. Intelligence." Does not a scholar writing about Oswald's alleged connections with U.S. Intelligence, a scholar who alleged read every single page of disclose government information and the publish books on the subject, have the obligation first to know what has been released and is available for him and others to use and then to inform his readers of it and provide the sources for schol other scholars or for that matter, any interested reader, to study independently.

Instead of the smoke of his intangible allegations of such a connection, there is readily available in the records I published, to which he had access in my books as well as in his friendly visits to the FBI's reading room. There is no mention of their existence.

In 1975, in Post Mortem, I published the FBI's reports reporting the KGB's suspicion that Oswald ~~was~~ was a United States "shent in place" or a "sleeper" agent and had him under surveillance in Minsk. In that book also, after I compelled production of it under the threat of an embarrassing lawsuit, I published the entire transcript of one of the Warren Commissions executive sessions called in an emergency to consider reports that Oswald had connections with United States Intelligence. The year before I published an entire book based on the second and lengthy executive session transcript on the same subject, including again facsimile reproduction of the transcript along with other illumination documents and explanations.

There were two other executive sessions on a related subject- Soviet espionage. Again under threat of another embarrassing lawsuit those transcripts were disclosed to me. The very day I got them I held a press conference and gave copies away, before, obvious, I could make any use of them in my own writing. These were reported in the press and copies were available to Melanson.

This scholar informs his readers of none of this.

He blows smoke, but there was fire.

Dear Phil,

9/20/84

You ask about Ray's duplicate driver's license. I do not have a separate subject file on it and do not now have the time full checking would require. So, here is what I recall.

He had had a room on Highland in B'ham, whether 2606 I do not recall. Not long before he left California for the last time he was in some kind of brawl or was robber, lost his wallet and with it lost his drivers license. A duplicate was requested by ~~somebody~~ phone and then cost only 25¢. I do not recall if the 25¢ was taken or mailed but I think the latter.

Ray's phone bills for when he had a phone in California were obtained by the FBI and I recall no call that could have been for a duplicate license. Therefore, it has always seemed probable to me that someone in B'ham or who went there for that purpose made the request and paid the quarter and was at the flophouse to receive and mail the license without which he would not have dared start out on the trip east. Which was not very long after the request was made.

As I now recall my impression of the time it is that this is one of the indications of a conspiracy that the FBI avoided. I recall nothing that could be called an investigation to determine whether he had unknown associates in or near B'ham.

I think the name of the man with whom he stayed is Peter Cherpes, and it is not impossible that Ray had phoned or written him asking to do this little thing for him. But if there wasn't there should have been an investigation. I do not now recall if Cherpes was asked by the FBI.

I do have a B'ham file, of odds and ends, and I've checked it, finding nothing at all except that Cherpes is correct and the address given is 2008. If this was a double house used as one the 2606 could be correct still.

In haste,

Sept. 18, 1984

Dear Harold,

I cannot find the answer to this question in HSCA or any of my books. When a duplicate Alabama driver's license was ordered in the name Eric S. Galt, the duplicate was, according to a Toronto newspaper, ~~made~~ mailed to a roominghouse in Birmingham (on March 1, 1968), at "2606 South Highland St."

Was this Ray's Birmingham address at any time or is it not a Ray address at all?

Thanks.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Phil".

February 26, 1985

Dear Harold,

Thanks for your most recent batch (Hunt, Huff letter etc.) Think Hunt knows who killed JFK?

Query: was the shell casing ever found in the MLK case? Would not the alleged murder weapon have automatically ejected a shell casing? I'm not aware that one was ever found - in the bathroom or in the "evidence" bag dropped at the scene. Would not such a shell eject onto the floor and have to be scooped up by an assassin? (allegedly the same assassin who was so panicked that he dropped all the evidence). And it would add to the time needed to exit the roominghouse just ahead of the law if one had to stop to retrieve an ejected shell, wouldn't it?

The picture of Hunt makes me sick, as does DJ and FBI's FOIA fascism.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Phil', written in a cursive style.

3/1/85

Dear Phil,

In your 2/26 you ask/ conjecture about the shell casing in the King assassination and about Hunt's JFK assassination knowledge. With regard to Hunt, I have no reason to believe he did or had any involvement and all of that turmoil represents what I've been saying about the irresponsibility of the theorizers and conspiracy dreamers. As the shell casing, I ask again if you've read Frame-Up or is your reading diet limited to junk?

I am willing, as by now you know, to take all the time I can to respond to inquiries but I ought not be asked about what is in my published work. Especially on the King assassination because there is no other factual and dependable work.

From all accounts the empty casing was in the found rifle. From the public domain there was no clip, meaning no other bullet possible and thus no provision for a second shot. The FBI says the clip was in the rifle as it received it from the cops. That does not mean it was in place as the cops found it.

I'm not enclosing what the local paper published this a.m. because the Anderson column is as Anderson sent it out and the large front-page story adds nothing and is largely about me. Local-angle stuff.

There are but two errors in Frame-Up, both insignificant and both based on what was published in newspapers. The floppouse office was not on the first floor (there was no first floor rooming) and Courtney Evans was FBI, not CIA.

Hope you are over the flu.

Best,