

Bear Roger,

6/23/93

I'm on page 88 and my opinion is unchanged: it is excellent!

My opinion is unchanged about the title: literary as hell but self-defeating for a book the potential market for which is largely impulse buying from the title and most of which has no literary interests and is turned off by suggestions ~~in~~ of it. I thought about this quite a bit during my resting while on my walking therapy, waiting for and having the blood tests and waiting for the physical therapy. One suggestion I have is Riches from JFK Assassination Fakery: the Making and Unmaking of David Lifton. Whatever you decide, do not have the present title on what you want to get published!

43 Last line- do you want "south" in it?

44 Middle graf-Middle, do you want to add before "Unless" the word "all" relating to the Arkland witnesses?

6 lines from bottom, "possibility" for "fact?"

4 lines up, last word, "carefully," is that the kind of questioned they got from the SS?

51 In reading this somewhere, the early morning I made a note that reads "flaw in assumptions." I do not recall why.

54-5 and elsewhere, the indentations are somewhat confusing when what is quoted is distinguished only ~~in~~ by the added indentation of the first line. I think you will be better off and that it will be better in a book is you indent the bodies some on both sides.

61 Russell Madison: I think this can mean a bit more if you say that he is my friend and neighbor who came to see me after finding Lifton ludicrous on TV.

back to 51: I made a note suggesting that you add that Lifton's reading of his assassins' minds, individually and collectively, does not disclose why they regarded all this hanky-panky as necessary. He holds forth on its imagined details at some length without considering why they did not plot more safely, for "lead" time, to escape undetected. In truth, what other time did they need?

Lifton is carried away by the novel he tries to live that he writes unnecessary ~~back to 46~~ details into it. All his conspirators needed was time to get away.

back to 46, where I made a note without posting the page number. I am not clear in recollection now but I think I gave that Hoover press release story to Les Whitten. In any event, I got it under FOIA. This bobtailed account you can use to cite a delicious footnote. Johnson was uneasy and unhappy about the attention the early books were then getting. He did send Abe Fortas to the FBI, but to get Hoover to write a book refuting us! That nobody

~~Neither did Fortas.~~
 in the FBI wanted. But they also wanted to satisfy Johnson, So, the FBI's in-house propa-
 gandists cooked up a ^{scheme} ~~scheme~~ that the then city editor of the since-defunct Washington
 Star agreed to. It would prepare a letter for his signature in which he seemed to be
 asking the self-serving questions that the FBI wanted to respond to. R.E. Wick, the
 "Number 1 ~~Man~~ Man" in the ~~Crime~~ "Crime Records Division" cooked up the scheme, drafted
 the letter for Sid Epstein to sign, checked in with FBIHQ at every stop, beginning
 at the Star and ending at the White House, and all official interests were served. LBJ
 got the reaction he wanted. The FBI and Fortas were able to bypass LBJ's demand that Hoover
 write a book, the contrived press release, attributed to a "newsman's" questions, got a
 very big play. It was printed verbatim in the New York Times. For its part the Star
 had a scoop, and exclusive from the fabled J. Edgar Hoover. But the FBI was later so

embarrassed by it that when I sought a clear copy for facsimile reproduction in Post
 Mortem it first promised me a copy and then would not send it. When Jim Lesar asked for it
 they told him to have me ~~files~~ a FOIA request for it- a press release already published
 verbatim. I have a separate set of those records filed under the Star.

66 line 6, Epstein misspelled. ~~Do you~~ ^{you} really want to refer to his book as scholarly? Are
 you repeating Sylvia's uncritical opinion? Was it as scholarly as journalistic? And how
 about his ghastly mistake of saying that the autopsy was rewritten and refiled 1/22/64?
 What is wrong with no evaluation, "Epstein's book, Inquest..."

69 About middle- reference to "the Perry transcript." Has it been long enough since
 you mentioned it to say instead "the official transcript of what Perry said at the
 afternoon press conference at ^{Clarkland} hospital," something like that?

71 You cite again ^{Lifton's} the hardback. Would it not be better at first citation early in the
 manuscript to have a footnote saying that unless otherwise indicated all references to
 BE are to the hardback edition?

Beginning about here you get Liftonian and are unfair. Aside from dimmed and shocked
 recollections, the hospital sent gurneys as soon as it got word. That is nobody's fault and
 not legitimately criticized. Perhaps at first mention you should say that removing JFK was
 impossible until JBC was out of the way. I think you should go over this and satisfy your-
 self that any delays were unavoidable, which you do not make clear. There was no negligence.

I think you should satisfy yourself that you need this treatment of this subject.

75 It is not fair to say that "Carrico somewhat ambiguously ^laccepted the credit for the hormone. There is no reason to doubt that he knew of the need for it. Not only had it just been in the papers and thus ^lcertainly discussed ^{then} by medical people there, it ^{was} otherwise ^{well} known. The Texas LBJ people made a big thing out of it prior to the nominations. Moreover, ask yourself ^{if} what you say is justified by the ^{dialogue in which} ~~disagreement~~ which C was answering C. was responsive and did not take credit.

80 last full line, "reffered" for referred.

82 Were there not two honor guards, one from the various services already at Andrews when the ^{usual} official Ft. Myer one got ~~there~~?

13 up, "conforably" Don't you mean "honestly"?

3 up replace "&" with "and"

82-3 The end of this chapter. Would you like to say what I say fairly often, you about Lifton: He has trouble telling the truth even by accident. ^{you} (You'd do not have to credit me) But he has no such problem with blackmail. That seems to come naturally to him.

85 ^{graph} ~~graf~~ 2, end, "an already" for "a" public document?

penult graf, line one, "detests?" Not "regards?" Last sentence this graf, do you think you may want to insert something like "and I think obligation" re First Amendment?

last line, do you want to insert after "his way," "too frequently" regardless of the facts?

87 line 5 after views, "if any?"

penult graf, line 3 do you want to insert "like so many others" who want nothing to do with Lifton?

88 line 1, at long last writing ...

Ch 11, end first graf. Which was not deterrent?

89 line 2, delete "the" and "records" for "files."

94 In you get a kickback on his camouflage ~~press~~, etc., beside the Richter men ^{he} gave me even more of that drek in 1966!

96 line 2, wanna make a crack about his lack of faith in existing pictures? He ^{could} say they were faked in anticipation of the crime! Years earlier, too!

penult graf. The motorcade stopped unseen for that switch? Unnoticed in any way?

97 more on the Z doctoring: did it not have to involve a specially-equipped airplane because LIFE flew the film to Chicago, and does not that mean a rather long addition to the list he never made of all his legion of since-silent conspirators?

And maybe Greer's ulcer was bothering him so much that the motorcade stopped to get him some antacid, not to switch drivers?

98 line 8, his own activities? of personal? End graf, Z also told the Secret Service he heard the shot come from over his shoulder, I think maybe the right one, WWII,

109 21 up, do you mean "inconclusiveness?"

102 That Liebeler memo-didn't he publish it with a couple of ExSess transcripts?

Do you think that he would want what you have used of Sylvia's files read in open court and available to all?

I think it may be time to suggest to Ray Marcus that his friend may soon need the same kind of help.

6/24- My recollection may not be clear. More-damaged leg swelling much and distracting besides being worrying. But I think you missed what could be a real killer as your last words. You might even slug it "Famous Last Words". Treated it that way anyway. Go back to his Compuserve diatribe, where he says that for Macmillan to submit his manuscript to Sylvia or me would be laughable. With or without reference to what I've done, with all you have from Sylvia's records, "Laughable, Dave? Who is laughing now? Are you?"

Speaking of mine, it strikes me as remarkable how differently and independently we took him so completely apart! Mine is a point-by-point proof that he not only pulled a monstrous fraud-he knew it! Except for the Russell Madison bit, and that he would have known with minimal checking.

*Congratulations!
Heard*