

Dear Roger,

2/11/81

Maybe you can find some use for the enclosed hasty memo for Lear on the non-destruction of records by the FBI. He has copies of all the attachments and can make copies of any for you easier than I now can because Lil stays busy on tax work.

There is more of a limit on what I can do now so I'm not taking time to try to get a sound tape of Lifton and others who did not agree on cable TV. Connie Hudkins told me about that and that with him were some he quoted in the book. Lonnie said that one or more cut him a new asshole.

I now suspect that what Lifton had that was supposed to be new is the "surgery" which everyone noticed in the report and Newcomb and I both wrote about, as SM notes. However, be aware that he abandoned much because it was inconsistent with his fabrication.

If you want to pursue a line of thought about him being other than merely crazy, note how little he has to say about the CIA. Two mentions, I think.

As of now neither Lardner nor Lindsay is willing to do more. Lindsay has no interest and Lardner hasn't made up his mind about a review. I've more or less in touch with him.

I can't take time for that line with Macmillan. Why don't you or Sylvia? Have you spoken to Cyril about this? Or has Sylvia?

My recollection is no longer clear on the chronology of the transfers but I have never had any reason to believe that Bobby ever had possession. I think the stuff was in the DJ building when it was transferred, other than what Secret Service transferred. I know the clothing was because I learned that from Johnson when I got after them about the destruction of the knot of the tie. As to who prompted Bobby, remember what I have in PM, that the letter agreement was drafted by DJ and didn't even include the family representative. Marshall's name was written in.

If I were to make a guess about why Novella took the stuff off of Lincoln's hands it would be to frustrate any expected litigation because Lincoln was Archives, not JFK or RFK. The Library was and is Archives. That is what Lincoln was doing and why she was officed in Archives. The above re your 1/30. Below your 2/4.

Lifton was on Baltimore Channel 13 this morning, WJZ-TV, Westinghouse. I didn't know until after it was over.

If you have time for the analysis of Lifton's book, fine. I'd like a copy if only to be able to provide info to others. Wrons also would like a copy because his archive will include all he can get of the irresponsibles. He has denounced them often enough, including at historians' meetings.

The Secret Service (DJ/Criminal) documents do not sound like anything I've gotten and I don't recall Secret Service acting on deferrals so I'd like to see them, thanks. I knew about that business about the literature in general but only in terms of how the FBI got the Secret Service off of it so fast. The two different pieces were printed at two different places. Jones is the one who told me it wasn't Oswald and the FBI reports indicate as much. (Oswald in New Orleans)

The chronology is interesting. Good to get the full thing if you can. I'd like to see it also, thanks.

I've gone back to Shea on the task force because all he asked about was a formal report. He sees the distinction I made. I've heard from him. I think he'll check further. I'll keep you posted. The equating of task force and panel was by Sol Lindenbaum.

There may be a question about how much Clark remembers it but why not try to talk to him informally first? Depositions are costly, but not affidavits.

Best,

1/30/81

Dear Harold,

I must be experiencing premature senility, because this would have occurred to me sooner: Early news accounts on the afternoon of the assassination reported that the funeral would probably be held in Boston. So, you're probably right: it would have been natural for (MWD or someone else in Washington) to send a shipping contract to Bethune.

I'm not aware of D.L.'s appearance on cable-TV. If you find out more about it, please let me know.

One further note on the last A of your letter of 1/23/81 to Sylvia, which you carbon copied to me. From my reading of the book, DL had absolutely nothing prior to the publication of the HSCA report and supplements. I know that he led everyone to believe that he had discovered something spectacular in Tavel's files. It now seems that this was part of his peculiar strategy of picking everyone's brains (mine included). As you know, I've long been suspicious of DL as being something other than crazy, and something other than what he's represented himself as being. His book is not simply "disinformation"; it is a mockery of this crucial problem area of the case.

I'd like to suggest one way of handling this, other than (or in addition to) pointing up Sylvia's

rest fait pas. Since you know Landave and  
Tenzey, why not suggest that they put a little  
pressure on MacMillan to identify the neurologist  
and the forensic pathologist who checked the book  
for them. Let MacMillan or Dr. Give us the name  
of a single qualified medical expert who says it is  
possible to take wounds on a body in such a  
manner as to deceive autopsy pathologists into  
thinking they are gunshot wounds! And let's see  
their report to MacMillan!

On light of the DOJ documents which I received  
last week, I've tucked away the following questions  
for future investigation and thought:

(1) Other than the unsigned copy of the letter from  
RFK to Buckley which you published in P.M., is  
there any other proof that RFK asked Buckley to  
transfer the autopsy materials to the Archives? And,  
where is the signed original of that letter?

(2) What or who prompted RFK to do this at  
that particular time?

(3) Why the one-month delay between the time the materials  
were transferred to Tenzey and the arrival of Angie Novello  
to take them off Tenzey's hands?

Best,

Rosen

2/4/81

Dear Harold,

I held off on sending the enclosed because of Tipton's appearance on the Larry King show. I taped it, in case you want a copy.

I received your letter, including your memo about the phone call from Tipton. I strongly urge you to do what I did in September 1979: break off all contact with him and refuse to speak with him if he calls again.

For my own reference, I have started to make an outline of his book, primarily in the form of a prosecutor's outline of evidence in a hypothetical criminal trial. If it turns out to be decent, I'll eventually make copies available.

The National Law Journal says this week that William French Smith may appoint Tuller to head the Antitrust Division.

The Secret Service has sent me a few documents which the DOJ referred to it for release to me. (Part of the 124-page Criminal Division inventory.) Of interest is a report by SAIC John Rice of the New Orleans Field Office dated 12-9-63 (file number CO-2-34,030). The Secret Service document number is 517. Rice reports on a conversation with FBI Agent Paul Baker of the NO field office. Baker told Rice that the FCC pamphlets were printed at two different shops in New Orleans, that Oswald had

been identified at one shop, but not the other. The FBI subsequently refused to provide the SS with the names of the two shops, and Cowley put a lid on any further inquiry into the matter by Rice! Let me know if you want a copy.

The Secret Service also sent me two pages of a document which obviously has several more pages. It is their document #641 from file #CO-2-34,030, and it seems to consist of Oswald's chronological whereabouts during 1963. I'm going to ask for the complete document.

This is the only progress on the DOJ financial disclosure immunity list since my last correspondence on it. They still have not responded past p. 79 of the list.

I have not formally requested the Cardley back force material, even though I put them on notice in my court papers. They are obviously stonewalling if they say that the back force = the panel. I suppose that this is the next major front on the FOIA battlefield. If my present lawsuit has to continue for any reason, I'm going to pursue the back force matter through subpoenas, and maybe even take Clark's deposition. Also, there's document discovery. So, before you sue them on this, let's wait and see what my judge has to say. In the meantime, if you haven't already done so, why not ask DOJ for documents relating to their determination that the back force = the panel, e.g. memo or any telephone contacts of late with Cardley, Tildenbaum, or Clark; records of classification searches, etc.

Best,

Roger

P.S., while I don't intend to write a review of Lofon's book, I plan to respond to any review, favorable or unfavorable, with a letter to the editor of the publication with permission to publish. RZ