

Jim,

This is not in the letter to Bud on my trip to see Wolfson. There would be no point in discussing it with Bud.

One of the giveaways is Wolfson's reference to Turner as having made major, significant contributions to what is known about the JFK assassination.

The reality is that Turner is responsible for the largest single disaster in it and has not only done no original work of his own but hasn't even been a good thief. I am not aware of the nature of his recent Bremer work. I do believe he should have the technical competence. But I'm not prepared to believe that he has come up with anything.

What I do believe from this is that Bud, refusing to recognize the reality with which he more than once has been confronted about Turner, may well have made a successful pitch to Wolfson to finance Turner.

I'm sorry I was not with Bud when he spoke to Wolfson because I would be sorry if any of this reacts against Bud. However, I know I never told him that I have this smoking-gun type of thing on Ford and don't believe that you represented anything at all like what Wolfson seemed to expect.

I never had a chance to make any kind of pitch.

It was real carelessness not to be on guard when he asked me about the Redskins. There is no excuse for this blunder. I regret it much. He has a high opinion of Williams. We should know how Williams crewed the Democrats and threw away the best shot anyone had on the Watergate! That he couldn't even take a competent deposition.

If anything comes of this, and I expect nothing, it will be only if the present economic situation is not pinching Wolfson hard and from the impression he formed of me. I overheard him speak to the young Marorra boy of my dedication, as he had earlier to me.

On the Foreman deposition, I completed Hailo's direct and just got started on your questioning when the plane landed yesterday. I have marked it up and made a few notes that may interest you. There is a real basis for preparing something for the record if there is any chance that Hailo can introduce this. I am assuming that he will not be able to and that his purpose was to do it instead of producing the live Foreman to the court.

I see more in the Cowles stuff than you mentioned. Of course you had little time and may well be aware of these possibilities.

Best,

9/14/74

Dear Bud,

There are several reasons for my writing you about my visit with Wolfson as soon as I got home.

Nothing came of it, but it was by no means without other rewards. I'm indebted to both of you for it.

I'm also sorry I was not with you when you and he spoke. It was a very busy day for you and I was being devil's advocate with Ken's recent work. I knew only that Wolfson was disturbed by Ford's pardoning Nixon and the earlier representation of the range of his interests, slightly from you, more extensively from Arvin.

While I am sure you said nothing you intended to be taken that way, I have the belief that Wolfson got the impression you were assuring him I had Ford with the smoking gun still in his hand.

Once he was satisfied this was not the situation, he had little interest and the conversation was about other matters.

He is an impressive man. Very sharp in many ways. I am glad to have met ~~met~~ him for a number of reasons none of which indicates any benefit to me or the work I do. I have the impression that much of his life has been spent in making spot decisions because they were necessary to what he was doing. This means making spot analyses, on the basis of past experience and immediate impressions.

It is one thing to do this with business matters, where experience can be a dependable guide and where a man learns in time to have confidence in his judgement. It is quite a different matter to do this in political affairs of extreme complexity and essentially Byzantine character where there are few people who have an adequate command of what is required for basic understanding.

He is deeply concerned about the economy and inflation and the continuation of the energy crisis as he should be, whether or not from immediate pain. But what I did not see is any recognition that this does not exist by itself, that its cause is not economic but political and not that in the usual sense.

(What was particularly gratifying is that when he spoke of economic problems there was no single comment that I could even extend into a personal or a selfish concern. It was social concern and where it was specific it was in terms of the needs of those life has blessed with less of the comforts to be enjoyed. For example, the need for housing and how it may be met even today.)

With a Ford as President and with a Congress the more forward looking members of which are either isolated or without real support the prospects for any economic improvement of any substantial character are, in my non-economist's opinion, so close to non-existent I consider the reality to be impossibility. This is a simplification, but in terms of the simplification the question is not is there this smoking gun. There is, at least for the immediate, no possibility of getting rid of Ford. But there is what can be a reality, doing something that can give weight to the decent-minded in Congress, reduce the political hazards to them, and putting Ford on a position where his indebtedness to Nixon ~~becomes~~ ~~becomes~~ the slightest of his problems.

Wolfson says he and everyone else wants to forget Watergate and get on with other and more pressing matters. To me this is like saying one wants to forget a cancer, for there are no matters that are not dominated by Watergate and there will be none in the near future. He is, incidentally, wrong in thinking that people no longer care about it. This is the Nixon defense line that took hold because so many Nixonians and so many afraid the face the real issues created by a Nixon as President and what they required kept repeating it. This attitude is also a consequence of the refusal rather than the failure of the more decent political figures and all the media without exception to really investigate The Watergate and Nixon in the fullest sense. It has not happened yet.

We had a few moments alone after supper. At supper he asked me to explain to a very attractive young boy, Larry Barerra, a little of the real story of the JFK assassination because after supper he and I would be talking about another matter. This made me wonder about whether because of the other matters that keep him busy Wolfson had really ever taken the time to get his own perspective on the JFK assassination. And those that followed. In any event, it meant a chopping up on any presentation I might have made.

Larry is the son of Blas Barerra, a Cuban who left Cuba long before Castro to make a better life for himself and who, I can believe Wolfson did not exaggerate at all in saying, has, without education but by his own native talents and sheer determination, has risen to the top in his line. I think he is a trainer <sup>but</sup> whatever the specialty, it is in horses, the purpose of his visit with the Wolfsons.

Rain prevented what all the others were to have done, so Wolfson and I had only a short while alone before all the others joined us. It is in this brief period that I concluded he expected from what you had said that I would be bringing him the smoking gun. I was caught by surprise. There is no such thing ~~but~~ because it doesn't exist but because there is no way that anyone who has it can safely produce it. (The only real alternative I see is to take a lawyer's approach, put a case together and then do what is possible to make that case available. I think that from what he knows, as a lawyer Jim has told you that I have this kind of case already out together and that with opportunities could add to it considerably. One of the benefits to me of this trip, is the awareness that spending any more time on that aspect will be a futility and I won't do it now.)

When the others joined us conversation turned immediately to horses and to Barerra's recollections of his childhood in Cuba and to his view of Castro. We broke up about 10:30 because they had work to do with the horses the next day. They put me up in the guest house, where I was alone, and while I worked on other matters I had carried with me I also thought about what had happened and, not knowing that they had horse work planned for the <sup>entire</sup> next day, hoped to be able to put matters to Wolfson in a way he might be prepared to consider. However, he had Barerra there for purposes quite important to him so, naturally, it all ended with breakfast, when he said goodbye to me.

I was just a bit surprised when he had no curiosity about the bulging portfolio I had from which I had withdrawn merely a few documents in response to his initial questions. Not knowing his interest was limited to this single smoking gun I had stayed up quite late and gotten little sleep to have a selection of unpublished and I think rather sensational evidence to show him. This preparation had to be hasty because of an unforeseen development with the new book to which I had to devote some time (I never got a chance to show Wolfson any of it or any of the Ford part) and because an extraordinarily heavy thunderstorm that seemed to be centered directly over us caused interruptions in the current, hence the copying I did.

At one point I was incautious. During supper he had asked me of my interest in the Redskins and I said it was less since Williams had taken it over. It was a mistake not to depart from my normal manner of feathrightness because the first thing he asked me when we were alone is the reason for this. When I told him he could not credit it. It is, however, exactly as I said and Jim, who is handling it for me, can confirm that there can be no reasonable doubt. Soon after this that he could not accept, I presume now from personal friendship with Williams, we were into what had been suppressed by the Senate CIA "oversight" committee. It is by normal standards quite a shocker and I mean only that part I have in documents. He said that Synington is one of his best friends and he supposes Synington is getting a little senile now.

Had  
Mr Wolfson not been preoccupied with his immediate need with his horses and his need to make maximum use of the real talents of Barerra while Barerra was there, perhaps it might have been different. Aside from this need, very real and very important to him, I think that what he had to do with Barerra and the horses was much in his mind the few moments we had alone. Regardless, I believe that in these few moments we had alone he made his mind up negatively and, in fact, we never got to anything he might do about anything. His negative attitude was apparent from the moment it was apparent he expected this smoking gun.

Of course I was disappointed. But I was there, thanks to him, and as I thought that night of this and the impressions I had formed. I decided that after breakfast I would undertake to show him some of what I had brought in a more organized fashion, when I'd anticipated there would not be these other intrusions. I also thought it would be possible for him to see that his concern with inflation and other economic matters were not and could not be separate from these matters. I worked on some of the discovery materials after the others retired until I had completed them and could discuss them with him and started long before there was any sign of life anywhere else to put the stuff I had taken together. In briefest form. And I went through the proofs of the new book making a few page citations to what I thought might be of most interest to him so that I'd economize on his time. All I took over to the main house when I went there for breakfast a few moments before the time he had said they'd return from the horses is the set of books I had taken him. I didn't even get a chance to give them to him. All talk was of the horses and as soon as we ate he was so anxious to leave he was a bit impatient that Barerra had to make a phone call. I left the books on a table for him and a message that they were for him with his house boy. As soon as we finished breakfast he thanked me for coming. And as soon as they returned to the horses I phoned and made my reservation for the first flight back.

Tycoons of various ranks are not new to me. I met the cream of industry and management of the period when I worked for the Senate. (Including the head of the law firm that Caddy joined for a while.) Compared to Wolfson the late Pierre duPont is a dudum. It is precisely because he is self-made and has his own kind of excellent mind and wide political acquaintances and friendships that this experience is valuable to me. If I draw many conclusions from it I mention only a couple that I think may be of interest to you in any further common efforts we may make to interest others in what we believe is important to the country and what they will not likely be willing to believe at the outset is in their personal interest.

If they demonstrate in advance a narrow interest it will probably be a waste of their time and ours to speak to them because the demands of these narrow interests will be unreal and we will not be able to satisfy them. (Even though I had been led to believe that Wolfson thinks Bitman sold him out he had no interest in Bitman's criminal activities in The Watergate only some of which have been indicated publicly.)

If the time for discussion is limited, and with busy people of many interests this is not improbable, making an effort is a futility. Ditto is any others are present.

If they have been subjected to some of the exaggerated opinions so common, all the prevalent theorizing generally presented as established fact, reality can't compete and will seem insignificant. (What Wolfson seems to think of Garrison is enough in this area.) If they have seen anything like Computers or the underground press, waste no time.

This one experience alone tells me that more than a sincere social consciousness and a genuine interest in justice and in the state of society is not enough for a beginning. I think that in these Wolfson must rank very high among his peers. It was not enough for him to have any interest except in this smoking-gun unreality. He had no interest in an overall perspective. Because of the impression I formed of him this is more of a disappointment.

A summary conclusion is that I think prospects of any outside assistance of any

kind is exactly what my early experience told me it is and would be, improbable, and that its chances are in the present dimmer than they were then because of all the excesses of all the well-intended nuts. (A few remarks by Wolfson makes it clear that sharp as he is he can't discriminate between those who have done real work and the fakery and poseurs.)

In another sense this has been a bad experience for me because it confirms the need for what I do that is unwelcome. There simply is no willingness to credit fact and reality and there is no willingness to take the time to learn either. This tends to fortify the conclusions I have drawn from my experiences with book publishers and the media and tells me that the prospects are so dim that I must continue to write with the making of a record the primary consideration. Nothing substantial in these areas had commercial prospect. The one thing I can do that I can hope is other than still another futility is to make a record. This means that any draft of any book has to be what is generally regarded as prolix and tendentious. If it does not include all the little things others may pick up later it is inadequate. And if it should by any chance receive serious publisher consideration, overwhelming evidence and detail will be a minimum requirement for acceptability.

These beliefs are what has dominated all my work since the first. They have made what is not generally acceptable to others instinctive with me. If they should turn out to be wrong, this experience tends to persuade me even more that for me there is no real alternative.

Perhaps some time in the future we will have an opportunity to discuss this if it should interest you.

Back to the smoking gun. He clearly expected this and I do not think you really promised it. What I think you promised I do have. As I thought this over later that night and early the next morning I had planned to put it to him in a comprehensible way. There was no chance.

He did tell me that he had sent you a copy of Bittman's letter or memo or more than one when Becker long ago approached Bittman. He said to ask you to give me a copy. I wrote this part months ago but I would like to see if Bittman's version is other than Ford's, which I have and have written about.

Sincerely,