

7/17/74

Handwritten signature

Dear Don,

I take your silence to mean no news or bad news.

Whichever it is I'm too preoccupied to have immediate concern. I can wait until I hear from you.

I write for a different purpose.

Sherman Skolnick is spreading the word that he is collaborating with you on a book on the King assassination or the Ray case, I don't recall which.

My source is dependable, as Skolnick is not.

You are new to this field. I assume everyone's bona fides until I have substantial reason not to so I assume you are genuine. Therefore I write. I do not think you know enough about either the subject or the people who have involved themselves in it to be aware of what you may be getting yourself into.

If I were certain Skolnick is insane I'd have a higher opinion of him. He is one of the shabbiest and most articulate and persuasive of despicable characters. He is a man utterly without scruple. He is a crook. And if he is not in the employ of those he claims to oppose and fight with his innermost fibre, he is an effective for them because his every utterance and act serves their interest only.

I speak not from theory but from personal knowledge.

You don't know me. Nor do you know from personal experience that ^{when} I state something to be a fact the kind of backstopping I have for it.

My source told me that Skolnick was his source. I know enough about Skolnick to know that what he says and what is so need not coincide.

However, I write because I do not want you to ruin yourself. Any association with Skolnick can do nothing else for the reputation of a self-respecting man. Among other things.

If you doubt this, be my guest. Files and tapes.

If you have such an association, I have no objection at all to your giving him a copy of this. There are few things I'd find more welcome than tangling with that scoundrel in court. He knows this because I tried to years ago. Only my poverty prevented it then.

If you have no such association, I think your interest requires something in writing to him.

Believe me, my source is dependable.

Sincerely,