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5/14/95

Dear Tony,

I'm so please^d that Gordon Harbord may still be alive! A wonderful man, fine one who tried hard for me and got very little for it. If you can phone him and wish him well for me I'll appreciate it. I doubt he can remember the interruption of my mail or I'd ask him for a statement on it. I've been trying without success to get the Assassination Records Review Board to include what it has excluded^d, records of what the agencies did to critics and to criticism. Thus I'm glad to see that Sparrow records.

Thanks for your interesting essay. I'll return to what I suspect may be the case with those Sparrow records you use in it.

But first what I do not want to forget: I think you'll be^well advised not to eliminate FBI or any other file numbers^s and substitute your^yown. Yours have no meaning to other^s and especially not in any effort to obtain more records. The FBI numbers are unique, a permanent identifier and in and of themselves can have meaning.

The 62 first number in this case does not byt the second number is the file number within that file classification or the^assassination. The third number is the serial number within that file. And you cannot always make a good guess^f of the date by the^s serial number. They are assigned by the file clerks on filing and it may be months before any given record may reach them.

One liability is that no writer can use your^ynumber as a citation byt the FBI's are forever. The headquarters and filed offices use the same filing system and codes byt not the same file or serial numbers.

That you have Alex Rosen working for you is a blessing. First of all if you have her do any Sparrow searches she should have an obit. I would appreciate one, too. She can run his name through the new computer system and come up with every record that has been disclosed, by any agency. I suspect the CIA will hang tough claiming confidential source but with the obit they cannot claim the right to withhold personal info. As they do oft^{en}.

If Tony^{summer} does come up with a CIA record identifying him as an asset I'd like to have it and dump it on the ARRB. And, of course, for file. *Sparrow*

In going over such records you should bear in mind that ^However had the FBI dump all the crap he could on the Commission to keep keep it busy, tied up, and for statistics, the name of an old FBI game and it worked when the Commission used them for what was very largely worthless. The^{FBI} made it a point to run down as much^{as} they^{ad} felt necessary every wild and worthless allegation of con^cspiracy, especially those they could from experience identify identify as nut^t on sight.

Most FBI cases go to trial where the office of origin is so it is natural that all records go to it. It then sends to FBIHQ what it thinks they want to know and have.

That ~~Sap~~ Sparrow was an ^{active} homosexual is not new. I was told in the 1960s by Steve Barber, then Washington correspondent for your London Standard. Steve was a good friend. He also told me Sparrow was an intelligence recruiter.

Liaison Section copies on those records do interest me. They can refer to British cooperating units or CIA people in the embassy. On 62-358-27 I am inclined to believe that is why the redactions.

I'm glad to see I was wrong, that you did not eliminate the FBI's numbers.

I do not think for a minute that Sparrow did his own research. I think it was given to him by the CIA. ~~In~~ that event there could be records they could not legitimately claim the source exemption on what they gave him. ~~And~~ the research would not have been done in London. ^{it would} It ~~was~~ have a covering letter or more than one ~~xs~~ from Washington. I think if you first exhaust what the computer will show up on him you can then ask the CIA for other records. With him dead they cannot claim privacy, one reason I suggested sending obits to Alex.

and if she can get me all the Sparrow records that show up on the computer check, FBI and CIA and perhaps others, I'll appreciate it and pay her back.

I hope I've not forgotten anything since I read your essay.

NEVER AGAIN! is out. I do not know of any distribution outside the US but I do know that Andy has had orders from all over, including abroad, and has probably got them in the mail by now. If you do not have it or another source he is perhaps the best. He and Linda are fine people. I do think you will want it. It does advance things a bit and it has what is new in it, too.

I wish I thought some British publisher would be interested. I have the foreign rights, I believe. Have to check contract to be certain.

I'm doing a job on Mailer, as fine a target as one could hope for. I've about 60,000 words on paper. I think it will be a powerful and rather unusual book. He got two Pulitzers. In my writing I refer to it as Mailer's Tales. Once or twice as Oswald Tale. What I did to him over his unconscionable libelling of Marina is particularly powerful, I think.

Thanks and best,

Harold

May-6-1995

Mr Harold Weisberg
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Dear Harold

Good to hear from you. And what's this about being 82? You've got years ahead of you being a thorn in the side of the Establishment. We're all counting on you!

I didn't find direct proof of John Sparrow being a CIA agent but I did find some circumstantial evidence that he might be and it is detailed in a little essay of mine that's just been published - THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION'S LONDON FILE ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F KENNEDY CALENDARED AND GLOSSED, a copy of which is enclosed. See, principally, p19, and the actual reproduction of the document in the section at the end, but there are other references too, including an appendix. In fact, after this was published, Tony Summers told me that he has a CIA document that clearly identifies Sparrow as an Agency asset. I haven't seen this yet but Tony said he would dig it out.

I can quite believe all you say about Sparrow killing publication of WHITEWASH. I don't think Gordon Harbord is dead, but he has retired. I read about him recently in a history of British post-war paperback publishing (he was a founder of Four Square Books). The London publisher Frewin is not related to me by the way.

I had hoped to do for the CIA London documents what I've here done for the FBI, but my FOI request to Langley has merely resulted in them sending me a vast list of documents already released and telling me to pick-and-mix from that. Any suggestions on how to proceed?

Keep in touch.

With very best regards


Anthony Frewin

PS: You wrote to my mother's address and she passed the letter on to me. My home address is:

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