

Mr. Howard Bray
Fund for Investigative Journalism
1346 Connecticut Ave, NW
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11/6/78

Dear Howard,

There are a number of clippings for which I owe you thanks. Thanks. My lack of social grace comes not alone from keeping busy as you know I keep busy but from the exceptional weather, which provides me with a needed opportunity for the kinds of exercise that are the best medicine for me. Not having been able to care for some of our property since the winter of a 1974-5, when I was first taken ill, repressive forces have taken over vast areas. The rescue operation is proceeding well, despite my diminished capacity and the care I must exercise with tools. I'm doing in wild roses and grapes that choke and kill trees. It is great to be able to do these things once the chigger season is past. When they get under my venous supports, oh boy!

I'm using a break while I sweat out and cool off and rest up after a real bout this morning along the edges of the pond, which I have now almost entirely cleared of these parasites fifty and more feet long, to write you about Dan Moldea, based on a couple of his appearances I caught on TV and/or radio and a partial reading of his Playboy piece. I don't know the date of issue. Someone tore it out and sent it to me. I got up to page 258 on a break yesterday.

I know more than most people about Hoffa, although I'm not a real Hoffa expert. Ditto for Whitey Partin. I also know what most people do not about the NBC project, Moldea's partial apprenticeship. And the partisan who ran it. I do not have to tell you what I know about the JFK assassination stuff that is totally irrelevant to Hoffa, as it is.

On the basis of this and more I tell you unequivocally that although I'm sure you had no way of knowing it you backed one of the least responsible and most dishonest of writers, a totally undependable man who gives all the appearance of not intending anything more reputable than a fast buck.

I don't have the book and don't intend to get it.

This is probably the harshest comment you have heard me make. It is not intended personally. You back what appears to be worthy of merit and properly so. An honest inquiry into Holka/Hoffa killing certainly would appear to be worthy of support. But in this instance you supported a disinformation artist.

Without a single exception every reference to the JFK assassination I've seen is worse than factually incorrect. In every case the truth was readily available. In some cases the fact and the selected fiction have to have been available simultaneously. In at least some cases there appears to be fabrication because I cannot recall a source, as in the complete fabrication that Ferrie and Oswald each had an office in the same building at the same time, with Oswald running a New Orleans office of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. In each and every detail this is falsehood.

Where the CIA did disclose records of a report that Ruby had visited Trafficante in a Cuban jail simultaneously it disclosed that the source was crazy and otherwise totally undependable. In fact there is not even a reasonable basis for suspecting that such a thing happened - or even could have happened.

Omission of Partin's record or of the publicly available nature of the deal made with him - by Moldea's superior on the NBC project - is intended dishonesty and again worse, the intended protection of Walter Sheridan and his then associates. (There were as I recall 26 charges on Partin, two capital offenses, when he was excused from all of these to set Hoffa up if not in fact to frame him. Hoffa may have been the country's biggest crook but he was railroaded after clear persecution and extensive official unconstitutional behavior.)

Best wishes,