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1/31/89

Dear Gerry,

Glad your audience appreciated your presentation of the records you got here.

It is fine that some want copies and have manifested further interest.

I've found that even those who want to believe the official line on the JFK assassination do care about how their institutions work. Or don't.

Glad you were prepared for the Fletcher Thompson claque. What you told them should have made them stop to think and wonder but I suppose that if they were lawyers and businessmen such boasting and exaggerating is not foreign to their experiences.

Having used those materials once you'll do better with them next time and those to whom you speak will get more out of it.

If you speak about the Nova show again, let me direct your attention back to it and report what I did.

I got a series of disquieting reports about what Richter was up to. It was apparent that he had gone for the Lifton fabrication. Dave Wrono, also concerned, had tried to speak to the executive producer but without success. So, I wrote her. I told her what I'd heard and how it disquieted me because of my respect for what Nova has done and that they should know certain things about his theory. I forgot. I first said that although Richter and I had met without controversy when he was with CBS, he had told my FOIA lawyer that although he was focusing on the scientific evidence and I alone had filed suit for it he would not talk to me. I still have no idea why. I then took each vital point in the Lifton concoction and showed how it was impossible. I got no response. After I wrote again, again without response. So, they omitted what I cannot conceive they did not see is essential, each and every point where the body could have been toyed with. I suppose that by that time they had the show in the can and had little alternative and could only omit that crap and substitute something else. Whatever the case may be, the fact is that Nova presented the case for fooling with the body without even suggesting when or how that was done or could have been. I'm surprised nobody picked this up.

Dave, by the way, has done a fine draft of an article on Lifton's stuff, Anatomy of An Assassination, read. Spoke to him yesterday. Or day before.

A word on your neighbor Paul M. Stombauch. I was correct in my suspicion about that name figuring in the Daniloff case. I'm sorry I forgot where I read it and that I also think I forgot to make a copy but that is his son. Also an FBI agent but he quit when they were going to give him an assignment he didn't want, I think to the lab. I suppose he is now CIA. In any event, aside from being involved in what the USSR regards as spying, with Daniloff as the courier, he was expelled because he was caught in other espionage, I think servicing a drop.

I've been driving for a couple of weeks. Free again! Free again! The stitches are to be removed in two weeks.

I don't know why everyone doesn't get flu shots. Lil and I have since we were about your age, never with any complication and never get the flu although always exposed to it. The government always announces when the new vaccine is available and aside from doctors county health services give the shots most places. New vaccine every year based on anticipations of strains of flu they expect to be most common. Not foolproof, although it has been with use, but I think a good and safe precaution. If you get the flu within two weeks, you had already been subjected to it. Our best,

*Handwritten signature*

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Dear Harold,

Jan. 27, 1989

Enclosed along with this letter is the copy of Oswald in New Orleans you let me borrow and xerox. I finished xeroxing it yesterday and plan to begin reading it next week. Thank you again for letting me do this. As I told you back in December, my knowledge of Oswald's background is very weak. But I expect it to improve considerably once I read your book.

My Rotary club talk was very well received by some 70-80 local business and community leaders. This was by far the most influential group I have had a chance to address. Unfortunately, I ended up having only 20 minutes because of a long-winded eulogy for a past president of this Rotary Club who also happened to be a former chairman of the sociology department at Wofford which is the position I now hold. What I concentrated on was putting the assassination in the context of the failure of institutions and then using the documents I copied back in December to establish that the FBI and Warren Commission began with the presumption of Oswald's guilt. I had only a few minutes to try to outline how inadequate the Warren Commission's case was. Several came up afterwards and said they would like to have me back to hear more about the evidence. Some of Fletcher Thompson's lawyer friends were in the audience. One of them reminded me that a local FBI agent had spearheaded the investigation, to which I calmly replied (thanks to your help) that he did no such thing. I also got a couple of calls during the next few days and I sent some people information on how to order your books and I also said I would be willing to provide them with copies of some of the documents I used in my talk. I am fairly certain I will be invited back in the near future.

I also gave a public lecture on the NOVA program to a much smaller audience. I believe that went well. After watching it carefully a couple of times, I must say it did not hold together very well, especially the Lifton part. Nonetheless, it did lend some credibility to Lifton's preposterous theory. I thought the skull test with noted ballistics and forensic expert, urologist Lattimer, was almost beyond belief.

Next week we will be wrapping up our month-long course with students critiquing some of the conspiracy theories. Several are working on the Mafia plot theories.

It is good to hear your sight is improving and you should be able to drive again soon. My wife and I are just getting over a bout with the flu. I will be in touch.

Yours,

