

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
12/22/75

Dear Ms. Goddard,

For two months I have known I have a heavy case of phlebitis. Response is slow but the doctor and I think I'm improving. It limits what I can do. I'd like to make longer and more definitive response to your 12/18 but can't. I'm having to acknowledge most letters with a form. But I recall your rare kindness of some years ago and I know your sincerity.

This still leaves me with a problem. I can't respond honestly without saying what I feel you will find unwelcome.

McDonald is a complete fraud. I've gone over the three contradictory versions of "his" book. That glib crook hasn't even read the Report. He is not on the right side, despite what you may have heard from others in whom you may have confidence and who may have been involved with him. His book, for all practical purposes, is indistinguishable from an intelligence agency "black book." I think he and his backers should be in jail. And there never was any "Saul" or any interview with him, in either of the three places, each of the three versions having different places.

Kimsey is not a fake name. It is real. He included it in the third version. With Kimsey safely dead and having no progeny he could. Kimsey had no such function in CIA or out. He and McDonald knew each other from Army (intelligence school) days. I know Kimsey's last employer and last friend. McDonald even had the wrong cause of his death until the third version.

What I think of the recent developments is other than you do. We'll have to await the test of time. In short: they are bad. They have accomplished nothing except an occasional and not meaningful headline. They have turned off the influential in Congress. They and those responsible for them (who range from the sincere but under-informed who think the boiling of the pot is sufficient to the self-seeking and self-promoting) have obscured what is new, what is probative and what could have motivated the Congress. Now that it is commercially promising there will be more of these that, whether or not so inspired and regardless of the names connected with them are, for all practical purposes, Department of Disinformation operations.

Well-known names do not mean well-informed people. Even accurately or minimally. Merely vocally and to those who care, persuasively. Of all that has received attention this year, I know of no single case in which what appeared even indicates that the critic or origin really knew what he was talking about, really had conducted the most rudimentary investigation or was competent to, and in all cases some decently-intended Member of Congress was hurt. There is a limit to how much of this we can survive. There is danger to boiling the pot: who gets burned?

While all of this may have made a few feel important and while some may have milked it for the personal attention that is like air to them, it has had counter-productive results and has blanked out what could have had impact on the Congress and, if properly and effectively used by it, the major (fink) media.

I owe you honesty and forthrightness. This and the best of wishes and a warm recollection of your kindness are why I write.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

214 Durkee Lane
East Patchogue
New York 11772

Dec. 18, 1975

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Frederick
Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Greetings. I hope you feel, as I do, that the encouraging things these days on the assassination issues out-balance the negative.

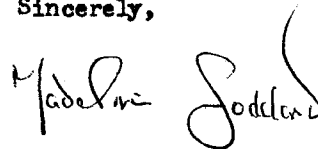
I do not have your books Pest-Mortem or Whitewash IV, and write to ask if you have copies you could mail me - and if so, what amount I should send you.

Wonder what you think about recent developments. I'm happy Hugh McDonald is on the right side of things, but I am inclined to doubt "Saul's" story. "Saul" is obviously involved somewhere along the line but he may have been approached to assassinate JFK on another occasion (Florida?) or he may have turned the assignment down and therefore must keep "on the run". Death of his probable mentor (CIA) "Kimsey" underscores a probable major situation here. Of course, this is speculation and I wouldn't think of trying to get such thoughts into print.

I've read that the Knight newspapers were following the Kent State trial etc. closely, and this may have been the reason for the murder of the young heir.

With best wishes to you,

Sincerely,



Madeline Goddard