

Burton Lamarre
1/14/69

Dear Paul,

Re your letter to Burton on Lamarre (copy of this to Steve):

If it is "quite obvious Lamarre is not an assassination buff" it is more obvious that he is a faker because he is supposed to be the chief part of Hepburn. If he said "you will have to ask Mr. Hepburn that", who aside from him is there to ask? This is openly inconsistent with the dust-jacket blurbing.

If his role is that of some kind of "big operator", for what, for whom? Especially if he is not most of "Hepburn", including selection of the nom de plume.

"The bulk of the book does not concern the assassination." In fact, almost none of it does, which is even more remarkable when you consider they are supposed to have had access to one of the assassins. In the ms, there was a single page on the assassination, and it was erroneous where it did not conjecture on the consensus. What, then, does the book do, what, then, is its purpose?

Where he got the X film may still be a mystery, but I doubt Abby's office had a copy without somebody having looked at it. It is unavailable from the other cited sources. With the appearance of Bishop's book, as the attention it would likely get, if I had to guess who sent him a copy, I'd guess Lamarre. Who has and would give that kind of thing away? Who could make a copy?

He was very evasive with me on the missing frames. He never did give me a direct answer, and he made no effort to disguise his evasiveness.

At the rate they are spending money, a big success will give them no profits. They cannot break even. But why worry about profits if you are what they represent. And the Kennedy children need - or would accept - his money?

By all means, send a copy of anything on this to Ivon. My own opinion is he will not now take the time to pay any attention. Unless his attitude has changed, as I hope it has. I know the lawyers will not concern themselves with it. I have tried to get Louis actively interested. He is swayed of the potential, for we had a long talk, and he wants me to get all I can and be ready. He has the same worry I've expressed.

If you can send me a dub to N.O. c/o Louis, I hope Hal can make it on his cassette machine, for I'll take mine if it is back from the factory, otherwise I'll borrow one of Louis' or, if necessary, get another cheap one. Mine has never gotten over the special treatment it received.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

2537 Regent St., Apt. 202
Berkeley, Calif. 94704
January 9, 1969

Steve Burton
4829 Morella Ave.
No. Hollywood, Ca. 91607

Dear Steve,

The rumor-vine (a.k.a. Confidential Informant LA T-1 ?) was correct; I did hear M. Lamarre's appearance on KPFA. I did not take notes or listen too hard, since Hal Verb had told me that Jim White would tape the show. Here are the high points, as I remember them.

The program was an interview of Hervé Lamarre by Colin Edwards. It was quite obvious that Lamarre was not an assassination buff. More than once, when asked about some details, he said, in effect, you will have to ask Mr. Hepburn about that; I just made the movie. He emphasized that the bulk of both the book and the movie do not concern the assassination directly. It ~~star~~ struck me that Lamarre need not be some kind of intelligence operative; he may just be a big operator. They talked of the Zapruder film; Lamarre was coy and evasive when asked where he got it. He pointed out that the Archives, Time-Life, Bobby Kennedy's office (sic), and maybe some other people, I forget, all had copies; he said we may have gotten it from one of those. He definitely did not mention that Garrison's office had a copy. (Footnote: someone anonymously sent Jim Bishop a copy: p. xvi of his book.) He indicated that he had ~~the~~ missing frames; I gathered that this was a reference to 208-212.

The interviewer, to whom the film had just been shown, was at first quite enthusiastic. (Lamarre ~~gave~~ gave the impression he was going around showing the film to media people.) Toward the end, I got the impression that Edwards was a bit suspicious of Lamarre; this happened when they started talking about the financial backing for the ~~book~~ book, etc. Lamarre was mumbling about putting the eventual profits ~~into~~ into a foundation for ~~children~~ children. Hal Verb had not talked to Edwards, nor had I, so I don't know how much he knew about the whole thing.

I know nothing more on what Lamarre did in this area. I will ask Hal if he has anything, and perhaps we can get a copy of the tape ~~or a~~ or a transcript. I am sending a copy of this to Weisberg but, ~~because~~ because of the fragmentary and ~~unreliable~~ unreliable nature of my comments, not to Ivon, as you had asked. I gather that Weisberg ~~has~~ has considerable interest in and information on this matter.

The only document on Hemming I recall having is CD 59, p. 4, which you have.* I will make a more thorough check as soon as I can. (X Harold: if you can easily check your files on this, please send me a set of everything on Hemming, and I will forward a copy to Steve.) //

Sincerely yours,

Paul
Paul L. ~~Hoch~~ Hoch

cc: HW

* and CD 1179, pp. 295-8, the
Watley report.