

Dear Paul,

12/4/91

Probably as a consequence of the open-heart surgery I lead an unusual life, at least schedule, these days. Having read a bit of Mark Lane's newest dreck and the Washington Post and having had breakfast, before I leave for my early-morning walking therapy in less than a half hour I begin to respond to your 11/29 at 4:15 a.m.! I sleep well but not long enough. However, I won't use the copier this early not to disturb ^{him}.

I appreciate your search for a copy of the long analysis I did of Lifton's indecency. I thought I'd sent you a copy because I was concerned that you were jeopardizing your own reputation by what I still regard as your atypical support and endorsement of one of the most dishonest of critics' books.

Since writing you I've gotten more confirmation of his having blackmailed the Baltimore policeman who'd been helping Livingstone and that man is the only one I can recall who ever even asked to look at the missing MDW file. The significance of that file is that it, too, destroys the fiction Lifton invented and commercialized so successfully. (I hear he blew the fortune ~~he~~ he made from the hardback in the stock market.)

After this man borrowed that file, still in the MDW envelope in which it was mailed to me, he wrote me a letter ostensibly about something else in which he said he was very sorry that he had abused my trust in him and that he'd not come here again or be in a position to do it again. I then wondered why he wrote me that way and when ~~xxxx~~ I later went to the files to get that envelope and found it missing I knew why. There is no other possible explanation. I hope this does not mean that Lifton has the only copy of the lengthy and detailed analysis and commentary I then did, that perhaps I gave Wrone, who has no recollection of it, a copy.

While I cannot validate some of the stories that come to me unsolicited about Lifton and do not try to, if there is any truth in some of the more recent ones he may be close to flipping out again. While I do not want this to happen to anyone, few people deserve punishment more than he for the evil he has done and the harm he has done to all legit. criticism of the official mythology.

From a good and a dependable source who has first-person knowledge I learned years ago that when he was living with his parents, while rewriting the book or thereafter, they found his behavior so bad that they changed the locks to keep him out.

Perhaps whatever his mental problem is make him innocent of evil intent but the result is and has been evil, hurtful, misleading, misinformative, disinformational and confusing.

From what I hear he has given Stone a basis for criticizing all criticism of his commercialization and exploitation that Stone has used effectively with the media.

Fortunately Livingstone has not been here in a long time and his calls are infrequent. He appears to be completing High Reason II for which he has a publisher. I've asked him no questions about it.

Hope all is well with all of you and that you have a good holiday season. We are about as we were. and thanks for when you can complete your response. Best, Harry

Later. The MMW file and my analysis were in the same file folder.

Now that Stone's movie's opening is close I'll appreciate anything you get on it as rapidly as you can send it.

I hear the script is to be printed like a book, for sale.

Even for Lane, who has made both an art and a science of lyings, his Plausible Denial is a very bad book.

We do not have cable but I was given a cassette of the A & E Turner show and I've not looked at it. Before agreeing to be interviewed I got his assurance that he would not do what he then did do, solve the mystery.

I've had very little reaction to that airing, much less than for the last time Selby's was rerun byfar.

Back to Lifton: I suspect he's been talking to Ray Marcus. I suggested to Ray that he deposit his records at Hood and he liked the idea. Last I heard he said he'd have gone over them by april, that he'd then send them. It makes no difference to me where Ray outs his things. My reason for making the suggestion is that I believe that over the years they are more likely to be seen and perhaps used there.

Greg Stone decided to leave Meagher's records there. When he was deparate for a place to store them without charge I arranged for that for six months during which they'd not be touched. Then suddenly Roger Weinman got a wild hair apparently egged on by Colicoff, he said some despicable and false things about me, filed an action in Baltimore, and when he saw Greg's will abandoned that. What he accomplished is that the records that would have been processed and ready for use are not and he put the colligge to some legal costs that could better have been spent on those records. I understand that Greg's sister and Sylvia's niece(s) have been there and are quite pleased. They should be there now and be able to see where and how they will be kept in a special area of the new library that will be moved into during the semester break.

I'm sorry these kinds of things happen. They make trouble and do nothing else. And usually, whether or not perceived, something selfish underlies it.

Again, it made no personal difference to me where Sylvia's records would be. I did and do believe they are more available at Hood and there those who know nothing about them will be directed to them. I can't picture anyone not a New Yorker making the expensive trip to see them when so many more are available elsewhere.

If those guys had stopped to think they'd have realized that what I did is the opposite of selfishness because all the time spent on other ~~my~~ records is time that will not be spent on mine.

1525 Acton St.
Berkeley, CA 94702
(510) 525-1980
November 29, 1991

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Harold,

I'm still getting further behind in my correspondence, so I'll just respond to your letter of October 5, and get back to your interesting letters of September 6 and May 31 (including some additional copies you asked for) later. Things should finally be settling down at the office, but for now, under two months qualifies as a quick reply!

Anyhow, here's what I could find of what you originally sent me about Lifton - your 2/26/81 and 3/30/81, and the Defense Department's 2/27/81 to you. (Also, the LA Times article on Stone, #1991.15.)

I don't recall ever seeing the MDW file which you described - the one now missing from your files.

I have been staying out of Harry Livingstone's way, and he hasn't called me for a long time - which is okay with me.

I caught a few minutes near the end of the Nigel Turner/ITV show, which finally made it onto U.S. cable. I don't suppose it's much better than it was in 1988, but it was nice to see you on the air, perhaps the most sensible part of the show.

With best regards,



PLH

Dear Paul,

2/26/81

In your 2/12 you solicit publishable comment on Lifton's lifts and fabrications.

If you want to ~~quote~~ quote me on anything I'll say is is a dishonest book by a dishonest man who reaches dishonest conclusions and then dishonestly. I'd prefer not to waste any time on him. It's not worth it, whatever the commercial success of his sickness.

You young fogies have never really understood my references to Occam's Razor, as Lifton did not comprehend Liebel's.

Occam's philosophy (the Razor is the title of a novel) was seek the simplest solutions. With the Lifton sickness ask was this possible? Step by step it wasn't, so why quote people who may be liars or just of incorrect recollection to try to prove what is not possible?

It was not possible for what he conjectures on AFI to have happened. Here he omits what he knows to make it appear to have been possible.

It is not possible for what he conjectures happened at Andrews to have happened, and again he omits the available information, including pictures.

What he conjectures happened at Bethesda could not have happened and didn't.

Could the back gate have been used? No, it was locked, with no guard there to open it?

You should have spotted all he omitted about the autopsy and Humes. You should have spotted his failure to account for the time required for the taking of the pre-autopsy X-rays and pix. Put that time in and there was no time for any funnybusiness with the corpse. So he omits it all, in all those redundant Dick Daring distortions and exaggerations.

I've never handled a human brain but from my farming I'm not unfamiliar with animal brains and what he conjectures there is totally impossible.

You ask why the S-O report reached the WC only buried in a Dallas report. You should know that whatever we think of that procedure, it was the normal procedure, with the WC and of the FBI in its own cases, what it sends to DM.

Assuming, as you say, that most of us believe there was a conspiracy to kill, how does Lifton tie that to his conjectures, except that he wants it to be believed?

Start thinking of all you know that is pertinent to what he has in those very many pages and ask yourself why he had no space for so much of it that contradicts him.

I'd like to read the CNN stuff, your #8. Reur 26, Eddowes and his cronies have been trying to seal the idea that through Ivanov and the British whores the KGB was behind the JFK offing. British scholars were in touch with me long ago. Absolute nonsense but better than Lifton because disproof is not at hand. 59 on King interests. Sounds familiar.

There is a big difference between letting all the flowers bloom and fertilizing noxious weeds. You who yearn have not learned to distinguish between flowers and weeds.

Sincerely,



3/21
Mark has gone over my Oswald/Mexico file, I've sent him the few new records I got and invited him to go over it again with the index, and we have filed a joint FOIA suit. I don't know whether any pertinent records are included in those on which I've prevailed on appeal but on about a third of those classified I did prevail. Not received yet.

ENCL (FILED)-
WP 3/30/78 (sic) - CIA INFILTRATION OF
BLACK GROUPS IN DC

S 2/28 PM (282)
R 3/4/81



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

27 FEB 1981

Ref: 81-DFOI-127

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in further response to your January 23, 1981 Freedom of Information request for information on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

All relevant records located within the Office of the Secretary of Defense have been reviewed. Those records which can be released in their entirety are enclosed. Also enclosed are three documents, an undated listing of Navy officers present at the Kennedy autopsy, an undated roster of Navy enlisted persons present at the autopsy, and a March 13, 1978 letter from the Surgeon General of the Navy to those persons involved in the autopsy. Social Security Account Numbers and/or home addresses for these individuals have been deleted from these three documents in order to prevent an unwarranted invasion of privacy. Accordingly, the excised information is denied under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(6).

Eight documents identified in an enclosed listing are being denied in their entirety. These documents are handwritten notes, memoranda, and drafts which contain internal staff opinion, suggestions, advice, and other predecisional material. Accordingly, these documents are denied under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(5).

The Initial Denial Authority for the above information is Mr. David O. Cooke, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration).

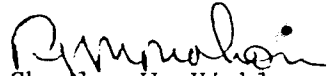
You have the right to appeal the decision to deny this information. Any such appeal should offer justification for reversal of the initial denial and should be forwarded to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), Directorate for Freedom of Information and Security Review, Room 2C757, Pentagon, Washington, D. C. 20301.

In the course of our search, we identified a number of documents originated by the House Select Committee on Assassinations. These documents remain under Congressional control and are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

A list of these documents is enclosed should you wish to seek their release from the Clerk of the U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. 20515.

Due to the minimum costs incurred in processing your request, all charges are waived in this instance.

Sincerely,



Charles W. Hinkle

Director, Freedom of Information
and Security Review

Enclosures

Dear Paul,

3/30/81

You are hooked on Lifton's dope and don't want to break that kind of habit, so I'm not intending this for that purpose.

I've obtained a few pertinent records, some logs and memos, etc.

It seems that rather than there being the one helicopter that took off from Andrews, Lifton referring to one only and conjecturing that it snuck the corpse off to Walter Reed, there were at least two. ¹ knew of LBJ's, as who, including Lifton, should not have.

There were at least two ceremonial detachments, plus a few odd men. They provided an escort/guard for LBJ to his. Then all the escorts flew to Bethesda in an H-21.

There was a cordon around AF1, so the spiriting off of the body on the off side had to be made invisible or all the enlisted men at Fort Myer were part of the ever-enlarging Lifton conspiracy.

The ceremonial detachment remained at Bethesda, according to the logs, through the autopsy and what Lifton never refers to, "the preparation period." As I believe I told you before, it is only by leaving out this preparation period, which is well established in the old existing records, could Lifton imagine his sick stuff. The body was guarded while there was this preparation, before the autopsy began.

In fact, General Wehle left Bethesda ~~briefly~~ shortly after the autopsy began. We know of some of the thing he was there for from that Sibert-O'Neill report and that he was there for the beginning of it. The record of his departure is of about 7:35-7:40, I think 7:37 or 7:39.

Gawler's was known to be involved before the body got to Bethesda and the Army reported that the crowd there was getting out of hand by about 7.

Also, it seems that HSCA had the Clerk of the House tell the Army that all the Army records HSCA got are really investigative records of the Congress and immune under FOIA. This is what the Army has told me and I've challenged. I've also asked for copies made not from those ~~returned~~ returned by HSCA but from those from which the HSCA's copies were made. And I've notified DoD, which may also question the newest Blakey con to come to light.

Best wishes,

S 5/12
R 5/15/81

PH- if you get a more complete CMI transcript I'd like to have a copy. Regardless of the sale of the book, merit or lack of merit, I've had fewer inquiries about it than any other book. I do not regard this as any conspiracy by the press or the general public. To a degree it may represent a growing public awareness of the intellectual ripoffs involved in many of them, something I think will wash off an all and all future books. ...Eddowes also tried to palm off his nonsense about the Novotny involvement in the JFK assassination in England. I got some inquiries from English scholars looking into it year ago. That version had these same people manipulating her. Aside from all the other defects in his concoction that ought to be obvious, it should be apparent that nobody would ever try to pull this kind of thing with any woman who had surfaced in any such scandal or who could be expected to. ...Eddowes is of the legion for who the actual Soviet evils do not suffice, so they invent more. ...Have you come across anything lately that could be pertinent in the spectro case, which is now in the discovery stage? Have you heard anything more from CIA on when it will disclose anything else? ... The only records I've received recently are on the FBI's surveillances of Marina. Nothing in them of any worth. I'm to get more, in regular instalments, by 5/15, Dallas records previously withheld. I said I do not want copies or tapes of Marina transcripts, only summaries. None has come yet. What I got is a few simple and pertinent records. HW 3/25/81