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Dear Steve,
Many thanks for taking the time to write me on your card. (For several years, we just have not taken the time for the omenity of cards, much as we want to, es I hope you'11 understend).

While I welcome your comments, I do not accept them as completely candid. I do epprove and appreciate the spirit I thinis dictated them. And I take the time to go into it (as I did before without response or appreciation) in the hope it can have some meaning for you.

Unlike $V_{\text {ince, }}+$ have no question about your purpose. I do about your judgement and performance. I hope you will stop and think about it as dispessionately as it is given mortal to exemine himself.

Fegardless of Intention, I think you have been a disaster to the invettigation, and I will explain it. At the same time, I tell you I think the original fault is not yours. Briafly, you have bled it, led it down wrong paths and been pert of may yot and slready has come close to ruining it and tibih it all so many of us have suffered and sacrifieed so much for. As thebyesrs grow on you, this is one of the things you will have to live with.

It is notwonly understandable, it is right that young men want to make out, make names and reputations for themselves, I do not criticize you for this, not a bit. How you did scme of it is dubious. ou may recall that on your request I did defend you, try to ease things for you.

Nor it it culpable to be ineyperienced. We all begin thet way and none of us ever has enough or ever profits al much as he should (snd should want to) from his own mistakes and those of others. "None", please realize, incluies me.

I will not go into the entire Rose bit with you. I remind you only that when I hed reason to hsve doubts about him, I asked you to get me a picture and to saymnothing sbout it. You did not getisthe picture, you never did respond, snd you flrst of all told him about it. Now there was raal nesd for that picture, and there wes anis reeson to have doubts about him. He has acknowledged to me that there were dubious things about himself thet he held out. Once I discovered them, he took the initiative in confessing them, meking those to whom he spoke believe it all originated with him. The cost und effect of his work hes yet to ye deternined, but if he came $u$ p with a single thing of any velue, it is unknown to me. He did come up with eny number of thinge thathwould have wrecked everything bed Jim used them. It 18 in no wey his feultr they were not used.

Nor do I know of a single vadule thing any of you worked on out there. Fascists? Sure, you've got losds of them, and they are terrible people. But I heve yet to hear of a single one in any solld way connected with the assassination or the investigation $\mathrm{J}_{\mathrm{im}}$ should heve been conducting. As a result, he wes kept going in ciries and the wrong circles. When he was doing nothing in New Orleens, where he is about to face his moment of truth, he was lavishing the money required for it end the time he owed is on nonsense and worse. Other things that went along with this I will spare you. Now he is about to go to court not prepared, not hev ing conducted the investigations he should have, and with a world waiting for the revelations he cannot and will not meke beceuse theyb are irrelevant and false in any event. Nobody can possibly live up to the advance billing. If it doas not heve a predictable sponteneous effect on the jury, is it asking too much to try and imagine what defense counsel may be able to do with it?

Those very few things I asked of you, you never did. The one importent sewer pieture, the one I esked of you, you did not make. Instead you made pictures thet are utterly immaterial, as the most rudimntary knowledge of the established fact of the asssasinstion would heve told you. The result wes effective propaganda, only because $J_{\text {im }}$ is luckier then most 'but we may yet have to face it in court), the ruin of what could have been an important part of the untold story, and a number of very decent people and stalwart workers on our side quit.

I could go on at some length, but becsuse my purpose is not to berate you but to open your eyes and mind and fut ypu in a pbsition to understand the possible consequences of what you have been pert of - and this you will have to live with - I think this is encugh. eeve for one thing: you must learn thet the way to help a man, perthtalarly on egocentric men of some genius, is not to whim and cater to him and his venity, not to be an spologist and a lickspittle, but tbexercise your own independent judgement, nd $\hat{A}$ give and tell him what you know he wants to hear. In telling you this, I want you to know that I have read a number of your memos, aside from that awful one on the Zapruder film twhere, amed only wi th the most profound ignorsnce, you underfook to explain to him what he did not know -and were completely wrongi.

You kid youself if you believe what you sey in seying this: "I know I prevented a disaster by making sure to see that film - because by doing that I have prevented the film by being shown in the very dangerous stste it was in. I did thet end cut off all essociation with Lamarre as Ixhave promised".

As you know, I heve from the first be more then skepticel of that entire operation. Werdiscussed this at some lengths in Charlie Brown's the ond of October. You were still sold on 1t. I know the book is a phoney. I read pert of it lest sumer. ou cennot know anpything at sil about the sabject and trust this book. Could I expect nore of the movie? Ispecially when its faflure to appear coincided with other thinge of which you had no knowledge?

Recall that I offerad to cheuffeur you and Lamarre around. Kemember I was a bit late? Kemember I made bad turns? From this you will certainly recall thet I got you to the office much too late to show it and catch your plane. You would not have shown it in any event, for once I knew they have the Zapruder film in it (and I do not for one minute bealeve the story of how they got it), hed I gotten you there on time the office would have prevented its showing. Vithout Jim there, If doubt any member of the staff would have permitted it. Are you now awawe of the posaibilitiesфd just this: the stolen Zapruder film, of wich Jim has the only known hofficial Copy, is in it? How could they haver gotten it? From LIFE? FBI? Secret Service? CIA? Do you think that when LIFE had a year ago paid Zapruder a half million dollars for the right not to show it enyone in eny resporsible position wes going to. give it sway if he had a copy?

The reality is thet you did not prevent a disester by meking sure to see the film. It has yet to be learned whether yaur aasociation with its will yet be a disaster. Mors, there is nothing that can be done to that film to make it anythine but dangerous. I am willing to assume, from whet you sey, that you are responsible for certain changes in it. That cannot possibly be enough. I have to be persuaded it is less than on enormous trap for us.

In the course of all of this, how much office money did you spend? what is there to shoy for it thet im can take to court, now that he will bess there, at long last? Not a single thing. Now ask youself what could have been done with just the money alone that you so happily pissed away. Suppose some of that could have been spent in "ew Urleans(as loot of it should have been)? Can you begin to imegine whet the results could be? Have you the remotest conce t of the work yet



could not possibly bear fruit, I was going deeper in debt to try and do some of this work, abandoning my own work in order to be oble to, and even paying my own expenses. While you were living it up I spent two weeks in New Orleans, with so little money that in this period I hed but four meals, each se a guest. I begen the day with a glasa of powdered skim milk, had a 196 hamburger for the evening meal, and rarely had more. Therem was a bonus. I lost 15 pound I had to. But this is only s sample of what you heve cost. That money spent in ev Urlesns Could have yielded much of the still-missing information. The leads are visble, many, if not most, slreedy developed am authenticated, and no one to do it and no money to pay for itr And did you get good movie footage you can use for your own purposes? You brought nothing back but a potential disester.

Here agein I do not exhaust the possibilities. For example, I coudd go into how you spent your time in Dallas, and what it cost, and whet could have been done there. However, my purpose is not to sbuse you, so I do not.

This cannot be pleasant for you. It is not for me. I could let it go, I could aend you a polite thanks for the card. And I have other thinge to do with the time, so many things I do not have time for, a aide from a few momenta for a personal life. הhy, then, do I take the time for shat cennot be plessant for both of us? Simply because you are not, in my belief, what $V_{1} n c e$ accused you of. $Y_{\text {du }}$ know and unaerstand considerably less then you think, but I do not coneider you this or a crook. I think you are a nice guy who is simply over his depth. However, you are not a completerfool. I am satisfied you also want the truth, and you are going to have this history to live with and survive. Therefore, I write you so you cen begin to be honest with yourselif, not hali-honest, ss you were in this card. You must begin by facing the reslity of thia awful period ant your port in it. If what can eventuate does, you will be better sble to face it and live with yourself. Even if it does not, as you grow older, unless you are corrupt (and I w neither think this nor imply it) you will have the grestest difficulty rationelizing this record. Face it nowis try and underatand it, and do whet you still can to undo what may be undone. The Warren ommisaionit had no monopoly on error. I am not and heve not been imune. However, I hed certain adventsges you did not: more years from which to profit and s beckground from which to benefit. Nonetheless, I alko heve erred, as who cannot and hes not?
"But you should know the whole story before you judge", you conelude.
If there is enything I should know and do not, I encourage you to put it all on paper, and imnediately. Forgat about self-justification. That is meaningless and self-pitying. It sometimes comforts, but bhe confort is indtced and unreal. uive me what fact you can. About Lamerre and his associstes, get it ell down, in the most elaborete detail possible. Whp. Where. Assume nothing to be innocent, end lot the checking out determine. Please leave nothing out. Give what descriptions where possible, and do not load it. Do not say how extremely importent thinge are,
fust ssy what the things are....I think you owe this. I think we need it imad1ately to prepare for anything that might require preperation. I also think you trery much owe it to yourself.

Steve, I have not cushioned this as much os perhaps you*d like, but if I did I'd not be honest and I'd not be acting in your interest as I see it. I resily do think you have to face those many thinge thet should not bave been (here I remind you of Broshears) and what may flow from them. Imagino what can be done in court with some of these things end ynu carrying Garison's credentials. Please do it, immediately, thoroughly, and accurately, without the ssles stuff you gave Jim. Let me remind you, if it has not dewned on you, thet in thinking and writing this way you also condition yourself and your own thinking...As an older men who has toomoften evaded, I tell you there ia but one proper way of addressing



