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8/2/66

Dear Mr. Latta,

Your kind and thought-provoking letter deserves a longer response than I can make because there are not near enough hours in the day or days in the week.

As you know, I permitted myself no conjectures in WHITEASH. But some, as you point out, are too obvious to avoid. May I suggest, however, that you rethink your possibility (1) in your third paragraph and see if logic and what knowledge you possess can not take you a little further and then wonder whether there might not be a connection, if not an identity, with (2).

Also, perhaps you might find my comment about the Commission and explanations about the members and the staff and their respective functions and influences, if you project them, might lead you to wondering how much of what was the Commission's knowledge was also the knowledge of the members of the Commission?

Is there any reason to presume, for example, that the Commission knew that the statement made to it by the staff that it had identified by deposition the "stretcher" bullet with the Connolly stretcher was less than the truth? Or of the cropping of the Altgens picture? Or of the "disappearance" of frames 208-11 of the Zapruder film and the alterations in frames 207 and 212? I find it hard to believe that such busy men could or could be expected to take the time to acquire such intimate knowledge of the data and undata collected.

Nor do I think you have exhausted the possibilities of those groups or forces who might have had an interest in the end of the Kennedy Presidency.

Because I haven't the time to dwell on this now, either in correspondence or in what time I have for uncluttered thinking and haven't thought it completely through myself, I shall go no further with this. But I do think that, with the fairly detailed and intimate knowledge you seem to have of national and world affairs, you might, on your own, come to some parallel possibilities to what I have in mind.

None of this is to say I disagree with your analysis. I do not argue against it, and it is quite provocative. I do not pretend to know or to be certain in my own mind, although I have no doubt about conspiracies existing. I just wish I had time to go into it further, with you and myself.

But it is in my mind, and I'd welcome any other ideas or further thinking you might have the time for.

Thank you very much for writing and for the nice things you said.

Sincerely,

JOHN H. LATTA
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July 28, 1966

Harold Weisberg,
Hyattstown, Maryland

Dear Mr Weisberg:

I have long been extremely skeptical of the official pre-cooked Warren Report with its seeming blanket endorsement of the Dallas police "solution" of the Kennedy assassination, and am most deeply appreciative of the effort and research you have put into your book "Whitewash" which I have just acquired and read.

From your re-analysis of the evidence considered by the Commission in direct contrast to equally valid evidence conveniently ignored, it now seems most probable to me that the assassination itself was the direct result of a conspiracy at top political levels within our own country. To me the most convincing proof of this lies in the revealed attitudes and actions of the Warren Commission itself as developed in your book in depth and partially confirmed by the shallower analysis in "Inquest" also recently published.

Accepting political conspiracy as the obvious fact it now seems to be, conjectures must inevitably arise as to the specific identities of the conspirators and their motivations, as well as the agencies through which their conspiracy was made effective. To me it seems the clues in your analysis point in only two possible directions, i.e., (1) a conspiracy among the Cuban exiles in revenge for Kennedy's part in bringing about the Bay of Pigs fiasco (see "The Invisible Government" by Wise and Ross) or (2) a conspiracy by and between unidentified domestic interests for reasons as yet unrevealed.

More than anything ^{else} ~~itself~~, the revealed attitude of the Warren Commission toward its task precludes easy acceptance of the Cuban exile theory, since it seems doubtful if their unsupported influence would have been sufficient to pressure the Warren Commission into such an obvious dereliction of duty. The evidence of pressures upon the Warren Commission to conform to a pre-determined verdict leaves only the frightening probability of a high level political assassination involving conspirators still prominent in government affairs.

Any further evidence of a high level political conspiracy to bring about the Kennedy assassination - and possibly furnishing a pattern for more in the future unless sought out and revealed - probably lies deeply buried among individuals and groups well sheltered from public suspicion and who are most unlikely to indulge in voluntary confessions of their participation, even if fully aware of the extent to which they were involved. Identification if ever made, must come from isolated and widely separated clues inadvertently revealed which fit the pattern of known facts indicative of conspiracy. That which follows is a preliminary effort at such identification from admittedly incomplete facts, but which do seem to fit a logical pattern entirely consistent with the facts thusfar established.

Following the close of World War II it would appear that American business interests ("Big Business" if you will) entered into some sort of pact or agreement with the Vatican to utilize American financial support backed by American military

power to establish and/or support Roman Catholic political control of countries with substantial natural resources largely undeveloped, with the understanding that in return for such support of Roman Catholic regimes, American businessmen would be granted large (or exclusive) concessions for the economic development of those resources. Basic evidence indicative of such a working partnership was developed by Avro Manhattan in his book "The Dollar and the Vatican", first published in England in 1956. Although inaugurated under Truman, Eisenhower was the political stooge under which this religio-political pact enjoyed its greatest development.

Initially it appears the American implementation of the pact was primarily financial through our large "foreign aid" programs which almost without exception were channeled to nations under Roman Catholic dictatorships, and were largely devoted to enriching and perpetuating that political control rather than for the benefit of the civilian populations as ostensibly intended.

Coincident with the development of this Dollar-Vatican pact, the CIA was organized as the liaison and conspiratorial agency to jointly serve both masters, i.e., the Dollar and the Vatican. It promptly proceeded to implement its functions with undercover agents "on the ground" in each of the foreign nations then involved, as well as those nations scheduled for early blitzkrieg. This agency has consistently shown a strongly Roman Catholic complexion by (1) its employment of large numbers of Catholic priests throughout the world for its espionage activities (which feat could hardly have been accomplished without the full knowledge and consent of the Vatican), (2) the strongly Jesuitical character of its semi-concealed activities reminiscent of that same organization's political activities throughout Europe inclusive of political assassinations several centuries ago, which led to the expulsion of the Jesuits from most European nations for a period of several centuries, and (3) the appointed heads of the CIA who have consistently been either Roman Catholic or Episcopalian (the latter affiliation often used to cloak the activities of "concealed Jesuits" in non-Catholic areas and, in this instance, additionally suspected by reason of John Foster Dulles' son being inducted into the Jesuit priesthood, strongly suggestive of Jesuit influences close to the family circle).

John F Kennedy's Catholicism was of the "American" variety which puts the nation above the church and independent of papal political authority. Thus by orthodox Roman Catholic standards, John F Kennedy was an apostate and a heretic who moreover had taken strong political stands in open opposition to the demands of the Hierarchy in this country and who had surrounded himself with Protestant advisers to shield himself from clerical pressures. It is a matter for speculation to what extent the successive trips of Robert, Jacqueline and John F Kennedy to the Vatican were purely personal, or were instead "command performances" by the Hierarchy to "club" the Kennedys into submission to clerical dictation. It is a matter for still further speculation to what extent the Kennedy defiance of the Hierarchy in this country may have led to execution of the death penalty under Canon Law at the hands of the Jesuits, historically the "execution arm" of the Roman Catholic Church in political affairs.

"The Invisible Government" by Wise and Ross which influences at high government levels reputedly sought to suppress, documents John F Kennedy's semi-independence from dictation by the super-secret CIA and his attempt to re-assert the independent authority of the Presidency in all foreign policy matters. Kennedy's reluctance and failure to fully support the CIA in its Bay of Pigs fiasco not only deprived American "Big Business" of an opportunity to re-establish its rape of the Cuban people, but threatened the very continuance of the Dollar-Vatican pact in other profitable areas as well. Effective continuance of the pact obviously depended upon a President willing to accept dictation from the CIA.

Thus there were at least two strong motivations for the Kennedy assassination by powerful interests within these United States, i.e., (1) the open flouting of religious authority to which Kennedy ostensibly owed his first allegiance according to Canon Law, and (2) the threat that an independent-minded President posed to "Big Business" in its commercial exploitation of the resources of other nations throughout the world in partnership with Roman Catholic political control.

This is a theory only - a working hypothesis if you will, which to me appears completely consistent with all the facts currently known. Obviously it will be protested by those unable to understand how a Roman Catholic President might be anathema to his own church, yet according to orthodox Catholic doctrine that was undoubtedly so.

"We are to take with unquestioning docility whatever instructions the pope gives us." - Catholic World. If the CIA is in fact Jesuit controlled, then it is the "pope's voice" in fact that John F Kennedy questioned and defied.

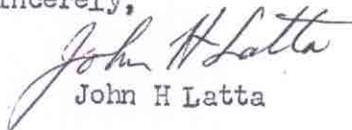
Heretic - "one who maintains opinions on any subject at variance with those generally received." - Oxford Dictionary. John F Kennedy's stand on the school-tax question in opposition to the Hierarchy alone was a considerable "heresy" by Catholic standards.

"All heretics of whatsoever description are under sentence of excommunication" - Body of Canon Law, V, II.

"The death sentence is a necessary and efficacious means for the Church to attain its ends *** when rebels against it and disturbers of the ecclesiastical unity *** cannot be restrained by any other penalty *** it (the Church) can and must put these wicked men to death." - Canon Law by Marianus da Luca (1901)

Finally in the CIA we apparently have a joint agency of the United States and the Vatican ready to carry out ordered executions or assassinations of public officials whenever the need arises. If such be the case in the Kennedy matter, then the former head of that conspiratorial agency could very well have been the "fingerman" and arranger for the assassination after which he sat as one of the principle members of the Commission formed to investigate the crime !

Sincerely,


John H Latta

Copies mailed.