

9/17/69

Bud, Mary, Paul, Gary, Dick,

The "East Village Other" has two lengthy interviews with Mark Lane on the various assassinations beginning July 9. I have just gotten them. I write this not for further dissemination but because none of you has made an extensive investigation of the Ray case and I want you not to be deceived. The error is so total it is incredible, particularly because Mark says "I interviewed all the witnesses". ~~These fabrications~~ The quotes are fabrications or improvisations. It is simply beyond belief that even Mark would so impose on anyone, particularly his friends. This publication, a kind of underground establishment, is so friendly to him that when another editor, a friend of Allan Katzman's, tried to interest him in WHITEMASH in May (and Mark's book wasn't due until September), Katzman would not touch anything on the subject prior to the appearance of Mark's book, when he promptly equated the subject and Mark.

Those of you who have followed the papers on the King case will probably find some of the things familiar. This is because he has a vague recollection of some of the news stories and said the first thing that suggested itself based on what he thought he recalled of what they had reported.

The first piece makes the Warren Report look like solid, scholarly work by comparison.

Of course, there is the predictable cheap self-promotion: the only place you can see the Zapruder film is to break into LIFE, but "I have a copy". How he got it he slides away from, that it is accessible to every citizen in the Archives is misrepresented. The paper prints some of the frames, but nothing can be made out in them, certainly not what the caption says, like the President being driven further and further backward in four succeeding frames!

The poll asking people if they wanted the Warren Commission reconstituted is represented as a poll in which people say they want no investigation of any kind (which is one way of justifying his abdication after he made a pile).

Ray is transformed into a "Southern hood", with Scotland Yard quoted as saying he drew on ~~xxxxx~~ a Swiss account. Rev Bevel, who had first-hand knowledge of the crime "has pretty much the same information that I have" (God save him!). A brief fake broadcast on CB radio becomes (repeated) was a three-hour "infiltration" of the police radio (and the Dallas police radio? "those who infiltrated the Dallas police radio on November 22, 1963 and who gave a description of Lee Harvey Oswald long before any evidence at all pointed to Oswald". Oswald is presented as "present at meetings when the assassination of the President was discussed". There are other unattributed Garrisonisms, presented as the given word.

It is as awful as it is incredible, and even for Mark it is astoundingly irresponsible, which is saying something. However, my purpose is not to say a small part of how bad he is but to caution you against using or believing any of this without the most comprehensive check. What is not fiction is improvisation at best. If there is anything worth special comment in the second article, I will tell you.