

6/17/87 MWSgrace

Dear Rite,

Until your letter of the 14th came today that sick business was again out of mind. After this it will remain out of mind and I'll not waste any more time in any correspondence about it. I'm past 74 now, not well and tired all the time and I'm not able to do what I want to do and ought do.

As I see it there is just no excuse for a grown person who has any familiarity with my work or me entertaining any serious thought about what Newcomb wrote about me. This is separate from whether Newcomb can be believed about most things.

Whatever the degree of distribution or discussion this kind of thing, over the years, has been a major impediment to real work.

The so-called critical community has been rent by it.

If Tatro was ever going to make any mention of it he should first have asked me and that when he got it.

The question is not one of evil intent. It is of judgement and maturity.

I'm sorry about the blood clot in the hand. I hope they were able to dissolve it. If not, from what I've been told, in time they harden as part of the blood vessel in which they are.

Best wishes,

Hawth

June 14, 1987

Dear Harold:

A typist I'm not but I didn't want to burden you with another tape if it could be avoided so I'll try typing a reply to your letter of May 20. I'm more prompt in responding to my correspondence than this but on June 2nd, I found myself in the hospital with a blood clot in my right hand. Granted, my hands were giving me somewhat of a problem, as I told you, but I had no idea this thing existed. Scared me senseless! But, I'm home now so I will get you a reply in the mail fast as possible.

Admittedly, I do not know quite HOW to respond to your letter, inasmuch as you didn't really respond to my tape....but I will try. The first thing I want to say is repetitious of what I said on the tape --- Ed Tatro is NOT GUILTY of even attempting to spread any rumors around to anybody about you, me, or anyone else. His mind simply does not work that way and, Harold, he has PROVEN IT. Once more, he had nearly 13 years to do anything with Newcomb's letter that he wanted to and he chose to do nothing with it. He was, unfortunately, the recipient of a letter from Newcomb in which Newcomb made those comments. The comments were unsolicited by Tatro to begin with. Why do you refuse to give Ed credit where its due? He could have had a field day with that letter back in '74 and '75, couldn't he? But he didn't. He saw that letter as so much garbage and handled it as such. I don't know what else to say. At this point, I'm so sick and tired of even the name Newcomb that I could scream, and I don't even know the man. I just feel desperate and confused about the entire situation. It is difficult for me to believe that so much of our time (yours, Ed's, mine, Mr. Brown's) has been spent over this mess-----all because I felt so strongly about Newcomb's allegations that I just had to tell you what he'd said. I'll bet you that I will NEVER be as ignorantly curious about anything again nor will I feel quite as strongly about what one person says about another one. I'm surprised that the years hadn't already taught me that lesson but I guess they hadn't, had they? Well, enough reminiscing and wishing that hindsight were 20/20. On to answering your letter. You mention in your last paragraph that you were quite active and "not ill" when Ed received the Newcomb letter so your illness was no excuse for Ed's not asking you about it then.....I miss something here, I guess. I've never seen or heard it said that Ed didn't ask you about the letter because of your illness. I told you on the tape that Ed had 5 or 6 questions in his mind concerning some documents that he had very recently discovered which he would like to run past you for the benefit of your thinking. He DID refrain from doing that because of your illness now. I told him that since I phone you 3 or 4 times a year anyway, that I would be happy to mention them to you for him. He was very respectful of your illness and did not feel comfortable in calling you with a half-dozen complex questions about Oswald and such. He wasn't using your illness as an excuse even then -- he was just being considerate of your feelings. As far as Newcomb's letter is concerned, he NEVER had a desire to ask you about it or believe me, he would have done so in '74. He had no desire to ask you about it in '87 but I did. (You know, Harold, years ago I thought I had learned that if one doesn't really want the answer to a question, don't ask it. How I wish today that I had remembered that little rule before I ever asked you about the comments Newcomb made in his letter to Ed in '74!) That is not an apology, just wishful thinking.....

I don't honestly believe, Harold, that there is a single solitary thing I or anyone else could say that would make you believe that Tatro had absolutely no ulterior motive whatsoever in telling me that Newcomb had made some strong comments about Weisberg. I know that the harder I try, the more frustrated I become. What a classic example of mountains being made out of molehills. I'm devastated over the entire matter. My devastation, tho, doesn't really count for much. What DOES count for

something is the fact that a bright, young, intelligent, honest JFK Assassination Researcher of the eighties (Tatro) is being cut off from a like "Pioneer" of the sixties and seventies. THAT, my friend, will hurt all of us in the overall scheme. There just has to be something that I can say or do to convince you that I WAS THE ONE that got all up-tight about Newcomb's letter -- NOT Ed Tatro. Yet here he is, caught right in the middle between the most unlikely two people in the world, Newcomb and Musgrove. I don't even know Fred Newcomb and he's never even heard my name before!! I don't intend this to sound maudlin but I'm afraid it will-----so I'll say it anyway-----I truly believe that generations to come could very well suffer in their history lessons for just such a thing as this. That hurts. All because of what? Because some fool woman in Texas was determined to let her friend in Maryland know that a Newcomb had said something bad about him? Or because Weisberg misunderstood Tatro's intentions? Whatever.....it's just as sad.

In the last paragraph of your letter, you tell me to "feel easy, not guilty". I do appreciate what you're saying here but by the same token, I feel neither easy nor guilty. I don't feel guilty because I don't believe I did anything wrong. There's no way I can feel easy, either, as long as Tatro is drawing fire for something he didn't do. Does that make sense? I'd feel exactly the same if your roles were reversed. I was just thinking about something nearly as foolish as this affair. In your letter to Mr. Brown dated 5/4/87, you misquoted me. It doesn't matter because it's so immaterial and because I'm sure it wasn't done maliciously. You say to Mr. Brown "Rita phoned and says she'll write". Well, no I didn't. I did phone you on May 2nd, at 5:11 PM and talked for two minutes, a charge of 31¢. But I did NOT say I will write. I called to be absolutely certain that you had a cassette player before I sent you that tape, remember? Just one little word changed the whole meaning of the sentence. It appears to me that is exactly what has happened here.

Harold, I've truly said everything I can honestly say to clarify this Newcomb mess in your mind. There is nothing for me to add - I've said it all, I've used every simple logic I can think of; I've tried every avenue of reasoning that I can bring to mind; I've made every point crystal clear; and if you still prefer to believe the absolute worst about Ed Tatro (or me, for that matter), then so be it. I'll at least know that I honestly made every effort to clarify it. As far as I'm personally concerned, that will end it.

I trust that you are feeling well and as always, I look forward to hearing from you. (I'm enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope for your convenience.)

Best regards,

