

10/3/77

Dear Paul,

While I can appreciate the concerns your letter of 22 9/28 represents I wish you could see that each unnecessary letter to which I have to respond reduces the amount of time I can have for work you and others would like me to do.

In your letter you ignore totally that to which I have responded, such as the certain fact that Downing's retirement was his own idea, not under any threat, and is a decision he made long before he pushed to get the committee set up.

Besides, nutty as he was and his committee is, there is no jeopardy to those you think have cause for fear. It is a disinformation operation, a boon to the spooks.

There is no Den Gay and the Donovan Gay of whom I wrote you is a very real person, not an alias for me. He is without the power to do those things you long to have done.

By Gen. Wilm. Donovan I presume you mean William Donovan of O.S.S. Despite whatever you think he has been dead many years. That the intelligence agencies are as you represent does not relate what you represent to the subject of the assassinations.

There really is nothing I can say about the other matters, as if you's stopped to think you'd have realized.

Letters like this put me in a bad position. There is no real response I can make, any response takes time I do not have, and if I don't respond I'm not a good guy.

Please understand this if I do not respond to others like it.

Or any on which you type on both sides, making reading difficult for good eyes, not one of my blessings.

Sincerely,

Sept/28/77

Dear Harold:

Maybe, it is almost time for someone, like you, to write a book about the defunct Downing committee? At any rate I am confident someone will write a book about the mismanagement of the committee since Downing retired. Thank you for correcting my facts.

I think I should at least clear the air about my assessment of Virginia's Th. Downing. If he got out, then he got out because he was scared silly. He was situated in the heart of the matter, and anyone might have folded up under those conditions. The question will remain, what really happened to him? If you don't like him, then you might readily pounce on his leaving as being due to incompetence, and I am glad to see you are not in that category. However, you are not in the next category, either. If someone does like him, then he might get upset by the possibility of his leaving due to Congressional pressure, threats to life or health, etc. I guess I am in that category? I am.

Clearly, the Kennedy assassination re-investigation has been adversely affected by its inability to protect its witnesses, be they stable in personality or not. It is not necessary for people to be 100% normal in order to supply this committee with facts about the assassination. It may be true that most of the potential informants are fruitcakes? I suspect so. But, fruitcakes have been known to be good informants, and they need not be running for Congress. The least that we should hope for is that security of files in the office of Don. Gay, the security of potential witnesses or sources, shall be protected.

I think it is time for me to give my reasons to you, why this thing is off the ground? It is my firm opinion, based on very solid evidence, that there is a split in the O.S.S. establishment, over such things as this assassination, the Menzies affair, and related issues. I think it is true to say, now, that ex.-Gen. Wilm. Donovan, is in a lot of trouble. The N.A.T.O. nations and their governments are not alligned behind him anymore. Without Nixon he is an easy mark for further investigation. Aside from his performance during W.W.II in Italy, which we may hazard to call shabby, even seamy, there can be no doubt that the first C.I.A./mafia network was an O.S.S./mafia network, with New York state residents in the front ranks. Maybe the brain centre of this type of network has now shifted to Langly, Va., and we may now refer to it as the ex-Hughes/C.I.A. network, but, allow me to dub it the mafia/C.I.A. network.

The fact is, that this network itself is pretty well split up into pro and con supporters of the old guard. I think E. H. Hunt is the first to bolt from the inner circle. But, I am positive enough pressure has been put on others within same, to warrant their coming out of hiding just to even the score. It might pay for Don. Gay to get Hunt in his office, pretty soon?

By the way, Harold, are you Don. Gay? I'm curious about the identity of this person and his associations. Is he aware of the extent to which the old guard is behind this business? I feel confident Nixon is out of the picture now, and can no longer protect people who maybe closer to the truth.

Ultimately the degrees of complicity in this case vary on a finely graded continuum, perhaps from 1 to 10. Nixon is the sort of person who is close to the end of the scale. But, only in a strategic and economic sense. The men at the end of the scale are hardened military professionals who represent the tactical wing of the organization. So far, they have had protection served up by their buddies in C.I.A. And C.I.A. is now employing mafia leadmen to do most of its dirty work of intimidation of potential witnesses. This can be inferred from what has happened to our friend the Dutch journalist, who is acting in strict accordance with his government and our own government's unofficial attitude towards those responsible for the death of Kennedy, no matter who they may be. And that includes ex-Gen. Wilm. Donovan.

The death of Giancana and Roselli, has alienated the mafia and the C.I.A. for a time, and no doubt, only the most hysterical underpaid associates of the N.Y. syndicate are in on this Miami business. The people on top are probably out to get the C.I.A. I can only say that I am confident there is enough division within that organization to justify and allow a complete inside overhaul of same. To include a very careful review of all those valuable files at Langly.

Very sincerely,
P. Mackal, Esq.

