

5530 Eastbourne Drive
Springfield, VA 22151
21 February 1992

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your letter of the 15th.

I would be very much interested in visiting with you to discuss a project regarding our previous discussion. In fact, in light of my own experience, the more I reflect on Katzenbach's memorandum the more plausible becomes the possibility of the bureaucracy simply churning out the report based on Katzenbach's model; men of zeal eager to please the powers that be, inside the beltway, with no one telling the emperor that he has lost his clothes.

It seems to me now, that the relationship between the media's crafting of Oswald from an *alleged assassin* into *the assassin* and the desires of the bureaucracy, as expressed in Katzenbach's memo, made them bedfellows.

In following this line of thought I have been struck by several things recently. Among them:

David Lifton's failure to understand the import of Katzenbach's role; he evidently had the memo or had knowledge of it. He suggests on p. 499 of *Best Evidence* that the *outline for the Warren Commission's investigation, centered on the hypothesis that Oswald was the lone assassin, was drafted within weeks of the assassination and handed to the lawyers, when they reported for work...* he was right about it being ready for the lawyers when they reported for work but wrong on when it was done.

William Manchester's suggestion in *The Death of a President* (footnote, p. 459) that Katzenbach *...played an unknown but vital role in the Commission's investigation...*; just how vital Manchester misfired on... *MAYBE INTENTIONALLY?*

What I am beginning to perceive as unwitting (or perhaps not initially malevolent) collusion between the interests of the bureaucracy and the media. One crafted the fiction; the other bought it; and then they both had to sell it. Vested interests which although not mutual, were served by the same methodology; aka, Oswald *the assassin*.

Based upon our discussion, I have begun to acquire the Commission's 1553 numbered documents on microfilm from the Archives and purchased a microfilm reader. I believe that this is probably the best way to acquire the material and, in fact, maybe the only way. At the very least, it along with the other 27 volumes of material will be a significant repository of data from which to draw. Of interest about this is a conversation I had this morning with a microfilm expert - they now have the ability to transfer this material to computer readable files and/or compact optical discs. While fairly expensive, \$.15 a page, one could probably reduce the entire bulk of material onto one or at most two optical discs...each less than 5 inches in diameter, 1/10th of an inch thick, and weighing less than 1 ounce...amazing.

With respect to your question about the telephone...I have it as a function of work...I don't pay the bill...except when I make very long personal calls...as to the cost I'm not certain but I shall inquire...they are available now in an even smaller package than the one I have...I suspect one can buy one these days for about \$500...my Motorola cost about \$3000 when I first got it several years ago...but VERY reliable...never has been down for maintenance...calls are based on *airtime* plus where you call...you can arrange varying types of service with Bell Atlantic or whomever serves your area...I have what is called *Roaming* and voice mail...as long as my system is on and I've set it up properly calls will follow me wherever I go...that is to say when I leave Washington and go to Frederick someone dialing my number will reach me in Frederick...of course this cost more and the user, not the caller, pays for the charges...but for me that is necessary...the voice mail functions like an answering machine...if I'm not on the system or am making a call the voice mail intercepts the call and asks the caller to leave a message...all in all, very handy...and for your purposes maybe even more so...of course if you don't make a lot of calls on it, it can be very reasonable in cost although slightly more expensive than a traditional phone...if your service in Frederick is through Bell Atlantic I would imagine they would tailor a program for you...I think mine is for about twenty hours of airtime per month which is a lot...alternatively costs go down based on usage/conditions of agreement...in sum, I would find it very difficult to be without it now that I've grown accustomed to having it...kind of like a microwave oven...didn't know I needed it until I purchased and used it...

I'll call you later in the week to discuss visiting with you. Regards to Mrs. Weisberg.

Sincerely,



John W. Masland

4/29/66

Mr. John Hasland
6550 Eastburne Drive
Springfield, VA 22151

Dear John,

Thanks for the explanations in your 2/21.

I had as I recall only two interests in a radiophone like yours.

The 1st for when we have ~~no~~ no electricity.

The other for either of us to carry at home if living alone, as a means of calling for any help that might be needed without phone service.

The latter is not common any more.

But from what you said I should be able to learn the cost. Thanks.

The rest can wait until you are here.

Thanks and best wishes,

