

Dear Dick,

7/2/75

A hasty, incomplete note before bed. This time I'm not sending Barney a copy. I have no objection to your telling him anything you want but I don't want to appear to be arguing law with him and I do not know what he decided on the McDonald book.

Sandy Smith has spent much more time on this than McDonald boasted about and before the book was rewritten and before it reached Barney. I have interviewed one of the people he interviewed and from what I learned I'll be the most surprised man in the world if he doesn't write a piece about the zaniest of zanies, as he'll write it.

I have located several others but because it is getting pretty hairy I've not made up my mind how far I'll go.

However, the real man I got him to name has four blood relatives alive, two brothers, two sisters, as well as the former wife (their marriage lasted longer than McDonald said although it was short). There is no doubt at all about the identification of this man to the exclusion of all others who ever lived and in my mind, absent truth as a defense, it is as libellous as it can be. From what I read truth can't be a defense even with the man dead.

I have interviewed his last lady friend. She is a fine, kind gentle conservative lady not without means and not without devotion to the memory of her friend.

This man was not a Ray of Pigger nor was he in a line of work that would have had Saul smashing into his office over anything to do with it. He was - sit tight - an identifications expert. This lady's story is that while he was with CIA her friend invented the Identikit McDonald has but could not get paid for it because he did it on government time. She had the right name and a newspaper clipping on it. This does not mean McDonald did not invent the device, but this lady, who has never met McDonald, sure as hell told me a lot more about the device than is in the McD. bio.

I don't know what kind of conning is going on but she'd heard of the book from the one man in it whose full and complete name is used. He told her it was very kind to her dead friend. Makes a real hero out of him as "The Silent Warrior." Must be still another version!

Sandy Smith told this lady that since Watergate he has been working on a CIA story. (Long time and quite a digression?)

This man did not retire from the CIA. He was bought out and left after paying off. He was pretty far right.

This man also had a connection with Fensterwald. I had known of this but not in the same way. Fensterwald used him in deepest secrecy on the Ray case. I'm the investigator and he kept it secret from me and from the lawyer who has done all the real legal work. I can guess how.

If we take the simplest formulation, that McDonald is an unimaginative man, the fact is that he drew on factual specifics having nothing to do with the JFK assassination which ~~xxxx~~ identify real people. If I were a publisher I'd shudder at the possibilities.

There was, again a single simplification, only one "Sherman Lindsay" was was Barry Goldwater's assistant chief of security. The man McDonald named to me actually was. I have seen the proof. Sandy Smith has a copy of it. With what is laid to him, whether or not as a lawyer you think it is libel, there are those who will and I know that if by chance they are unable to sue they'll be financed in it.

The man whose real name is given bought "Sherman's" pistol after he died. This lady sent the money to one of his family. It was a fine pistol. But far from all the agencies coming in and sweeping up "Sherman's" files, this man had a cabinet full of them. He was not then with the agency. And it wasn't cancer. Heart. Best,

7/3/75
P.S. I still have a few minutes before I have to wake Lil and get to Washington.

I was not able to read their motion until I phoned you last evening. There were people here all day and almost immediately after I called you now ones at night on indispensable work. I even had to cancel an appointment with a printer to get an estimate on Post Korten.

You will have gathered from the hasty memo I did before going to bed that I have interviewed the last lady friend of the second of the real characters in the new "Black book" which clearly, whether or not by intent, today serves CIA interests.

I have thus located others including another real character.

He will be not far away over the holiday. She is going to try to set up a meeting.

I am a bit uneasy about this but see no real choice. He is not the kind I can assume will be a friendly even if he was the friend of the man vilified in the book.

Sandy Smith has spent an enormous amount of time on this and I find myself wondering why Times is putting all this money into such a venture, which can't make any kind of story to justify the great cost.

Anyway, this is one thing I'll have to do. I've had to let everything else go this week. But I will also try something else. I'm going to try to see if we can get some help from the kids, from going to libraries and xeroxing and to messenger service. I'll try to arrange it through Floyd. Some of these college people have interest and cars.

They can save us time.

If only one were a law student he or she could go over the files I have and copy out enough for a decent attachment on the legislative history as it is relevant to Ryan's newest play.

The chances of this kind of help are not very good. But I think it not impossible that we can be saved time we need for other things with messenger service.

Just caught the opening Schorr item on the CBS TV A.M. news. Either his research is hit-or-miss or someone is feeding him, but all on the Oswald issue. I have had that memo for some time now but not an answer to its declassification history. These out-of-the-usual-order declassifications coincide exactly with the Congressional and popular interest in the federal agencies, particularly the CIA.

This is at least the second time on this one aspect of this subject with Schorr.

I have no suspicions about Schorr but the coincidences are remarkable. The first of these declassifications was in February. When the Archives filled my request they withheld such until I protested strongly. This and their delays are the reasons I've decided to begin each with request with invocation of the law, to limit the time they can delay and provide a basis for trying to do something about the games they play.

The two clear patterns in these games, aside from interfering with my work, are anti-Kennedy and pro-agencies.

It is not necessary to assume that someone working for the government is feeding this stuff and/or leads to him. But with each it is possible to believe there is an agency interest of some kind.