

1/27/76

Senator Charles Mathias (attn. Bob Kelley)
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mac,

One of the smoothest con men of all time, Hugh McDonald, is using the Church committee's interest in a broadcast he made in Oregon as a means of selling his book, which ^{is} as complete and deliberate a fraud as there can be in publishing.

He did this within the past few days in a Pittsburgh broadcast my correspondent was unable to tape.

It has been months since I asked the Department of Justice to conduct a fraud investigation. There has been no response to this or a reminder in which I suggested that the failure to respond or even inquire can be taken as an indication that the fraudulent books serves the interest of executive agencies.

For all practical purposes, in any of its three inconsistent forms, this book is what the spooks call a "black" book.

I wanted to conduct an investigation when I was commissioned by a well-known publisher and a publication to first read the book and then address its integrity.

Believe me, despite the protections and escape hatches this glib con artist has built in, there is no question about fraud or mail fraud at the least. The first version has LBJ as the man who hired this alleged assassin, and I have it and the second version. Both differ from the printed one, which has omissions essential to the story after I raised objections to them.

I do not know what the committee's interest is, if McDonald did not again lie. But if I can help I'm willing to end in a position to.

If it gets that Oregon or other tapes and if it transcribes any, I would appreciate being able to fill out my file in the event there is some official interest after the committee's life ends and for the completeness of the archive I'll leave.

Coinciding with the real push on this book, the one I ended, was a Texas operation by a commercial agency composed of former intelligence types. They have since fallen completely silent, many big promises about their "investigation" that "solved" the JFK assassination forgotten.

Our best,

Harold Weisberg

1/24/76

Dear Harold,

I wasn't able to tape McDonald because I had spent the night at my aunt's and forgot to take my tape recorder with me. However, he was only on for about 5 minutes and they didn't take any phone calls. All he really did was summarize the book. He explained how Kimsey had been his boss at CIA and how he had come to tell him about "Saul". He told about Saul's strategy of firing "under" someone else being typical of a professional assassin. Most of the time was spent discussing how McDonald's credentials made the book more believable and worthy of careful examination. McDonald said that so far the book has sold close to a million copies and is gaining the attention of alot of public officials. In fact, he said that the Church committee requested a tape of a show he had done in, I believe, Oregon. The interview ended with a plug for the book and McDonald saying that he would like to see a committee such as Church's get hold of Saul and question him. He did make it clear throughout the interview that he felt Russia was responsible for the assassination, that it had the most to gain by Kennedy's elimination and had exerted "pressure" on certain Cubans and members of CIA to accomplish it.

Some of the local radio talk shows have been getting calls from people who have read McDonald's book so I imagine he'll be doing one of those in the near future. If so, I'll tape it for you.

Best,

Karen