

8/20

Dear Howard, Cassette of McDonald and Sprague, 11/22 11/29/76

It is quite possible that each has value, depending on what I'll have time to do. Each does.

McDonald says exactly the opposite of what is in the earlier versions of his "book." Especially on LBJ. The rest, of course, is for ridicule. I may in time ask for the chance.

Sprague said of both assassinations "if other people were involved" and "who else was involved." This need not be taken to betoken his belief that the two accused were. Because both expressions are ambiguous. But he at no point suggested that the two accused might not have been involved. I took it from the context and expression that he believes both are and not with any innocence.

I have a few taping suggestions for you.

From the sound I believe that you made an air tape. Half of the McDonald is incomprehensible. Both segments are full of echo.

For a very small sum you can get a TV to tape recorder patch cord. It has alligator clips to go to the speaker terminals on the TV. The plug goes into the recorder like a microphone and into that jack or receptacle.

With this you can talk or do anything else and it will not be on the tape. The machine's microphone is bypassed and inoperative. This way you'll also get a much better tape.

I take it you have two machines or a second one available. From the sound I cannot be sure but I'm inclined to believe that you may have a patch cord for connecting two. If you do not they also are cheap and give better quality and permit conversation, etc.

As a general rule it is better to use more than one cassette for more than one filing. In this case I'll keep this with McDonald so it is no problem. And I am glad to have this. I mention the two cassettes because it is obvious I can't file Sprague and McDonald in the same place.

For repeated use the cheap tapes are not good. But for no more than a record they are adequate. And cheap. Here there are often sales @ 3 for \$1 and even less.

If you do not have a cord with alligator clips most stores have them. If you have any trouble finding one or do not have time let me know and I'll get and send one.

Probably your TV has a cord that has to be detached to remove the back cover. If it does not pull the AC plug out of the receptacle. These things can store and induct and load a surprising charge of current.

Once you affix the alligator clips you do not have to touch them. The free end of the cord is available, with a plug at the end, to put into the recorder.

Thank and best,

Dear Jim, Several updates- PW reprint, Gray Schoener, etc. 10/18/76

Having had no answer from the printer on whether I can safely add another sig to the reprint of PW I've gone over the finished copy, actually retyped rough draft, and cut it to fit the space I have. I finished this just before daylight. I hope Lil can do the little retyping necessary so I can make it up for the camera today. Then I have a few minor changes to make, in the cover, back-title page, table of contents, etc. I'll not be able to include an index to the addition, I fear. I won't know for sure until I make it up and see exactly how much space I have. If we can include names only we will.

The cover may present a problem. I've not been able to locate the original set work. All those student promises of last year after they did the good job of getting the books ready for Whirlwind have been unfulfilled.

Gary phoned twice last night. It has been so long I didn't recognize his voice. The second call was over something he forgot on his first, that McDonald is still on the stamp. A local TV station is considering doing a half-hour special with him. The first was over my asking if he could still offer the kind of medical consultations he wanted me to accept when I had a blackout several years ago and faced the GHA stonewall. It seems that from his checking I'd have to have all the medical records with me. This clearly would be impossible. I never got them all for the local vascular surgeon. He understands what troubles me, the lack of explanations, because the same thing happened to him when he lost his eye. Another disaster almost followed because of this failure, he said.

The changes in him are interesting, all toward greater maturity, some involving a sort of confession. He was close to bitter about Cyril, in whom he apparently invested much time and effort. It seems that Cyril was to have prepared a definitive statement after the examination of those autopsy records, and that what he was to have done was all laid out in advance. He never did it, not in any sense or way.

His experiences with Schweiker were like mine only he took a long time to learn. They appear to have had much contact. Gary says he came to feel that Schweiker never listened. He is disgusted at the report.

He had a similar experience with the SatEvePost and Cory Servass (?). She was hot after him for a story on the so-called mysterious deaths after the death or killing of a niece for some reason turned her on. When she pressed Gary he did a long outline. That excited her. When he then took about three weeks to do the story and it was faithful to the outline she cooled. A word in a year save that Beth has asked if Bud can use it in "his" book. The Bud-SatEvePost connection thus becomes clear. Gary finally concluded as I had long ago, that Penn is irrational and that while there may be some questions in a few cases only, each of these has another explanation, another and more likely cause of the death or killing. Naturally the SatEvePost had no interest. It is reasonable. However, this reminds me of Jerry's connections, as with New Times and Village Voice. I expect neither wants anything to do with me, especially not anyone Anson-connected, I do think there are two good stories in this PA addition. The first is on the suppressed CIA evidence in the Zapruder film, the other on how they connived with Dulles to avoid facing the reason Oswald and Nosenko issues and how both Commissions went along. The so-called experts have missed one entirely, the other largely and months late. I'd be content for them to rewrite for magazine rather than book epilogue use if they pay decently. I'd provide copies of the records, some of which I'm using in facsimile. Both, of course, expose both Commissions and Schweiker, the Rockefeller Commission and Schweiker both having suppressed this to Ford's benefit. As I say.

The first call lasted about an hour. We talked about much else. But I'll not be stopping in Mpls while in Wisconsin. There will be no point in it now. He seems to be in touch with Jerry and to stay busy at his work. I've suggested that if his TV station wants to use McDonald they use me at the same time and I can make it on that trip. It won't happen, of course. It may help end that added deception of people. Interesting that McD continues these efforts when they not can't help his book unless he thinks the House committee will give it a new life. Can't sell enough to return his costs. Best,