

De
Dear Ian,

2/28/75

Yesterday I had a confrontation with Willens on TV, with Jones Harris also. Jones had tricked the NYTimes into some propaganda that exculpated Hoover for suppressions but did raise the imposter question. I feel that Under the circumstances I did as much as possible on this and that Willens, in his shell for a decade, will spend the rest of his life there. But my point is that this puts me another day behind in work I must do. I have no help and do works others do not. I also got behind from a weekend in NYC and the taping of the nationwide Black Journal show. This is my point in response to some of your 2/20 and clip and transcript mailing of 25 actually here this a.m. I have used Nix on net and may use it more. In simply form Public net, TV.

Don't worry about the misquotes. Not serious. You appear to be handling this well and responsibly and that is what counts. It also account for my opposition to the other project. That can't be any more responsible than including thalidamide in a medical symposium, as in time you'll come to understand.

You should also understand that there are legal problems, real ones, for TV to show Z here. If the stations should win suits the cost would be great. Their not improper attitude is why run the risk of doing the illegal and paying heavily for it? G&G just refuse to recognize this but it is real. They both copped out on this Black Journal show & probably didn't like my keeping my word and appearing. Frankly, their closer friend & in this associate who was with me thinks it was fine and fortunately my own integrity did not require attacking them the way it went.

I haven't time for more now. I'll await hearing from you further. I have set up a file on this wretched business and will welcome any clips, info, etc. It is as you see quite counterproductive. For less money than has been wasted on this I could have printed POST MORTEM, which today does have the capability of breaking the whole thing wide open as Z alone can't. The work is that definitive. Printing estimates of 3 yrs ago = \$15,000. I don't have it and can't go further into debt.

3/20. Long silence. Very busy here. Too much. Just got something new and hot, enough for what I can't do, a Whitewash V. Also today a letter from "Col. Davies" who says he is doing research for you and asking prices, including for unspecified kind of mail, of all but WWIV. In view of the fact that you could tell him these things I feel it best to respond through you. You know the prices and I can't tell him how much mail of unknown weight will cost, more when I don't know how he wants what sent.

On the other hand, if he is connected with you, I'll gladly mail without prepayment and when he sees the amount of postage he can then remit in full in US currency.

Don't be taken in by the publicity for the O'Toole retreading with a gimmick. There is nothing new except the faith in the device of the police state. I never did need a clock when the sun was directly overhead and I don't know anyone who did. Much of it is dishonest. It has no real value except for analysis of whether it serves an unseen master and as a collection item, to fill out a library. Nothing in content.

Apply this to all the puffery. The so-called "Oswald" picture is no more than CE 237 without cropping and without basis of which I know for that which is attributed to it.

All of this will, in time, become clearer to you and you will then better perceive my apprehensions and the basis for them. If not the potential consequences.

best,

59 Talbot Crescent,
Kooyong,
Victoria . . . 3144,

27 February 1975

H.L.V

Dear Harold,

Once again, I am in your debt — for a letter (dated the 17th February) that was full of understanding and hope. By now, you will have received the news that the Nix film has also been shown nationally here, and the TV channels (which showed the films) and I are eagerly awaiting further developments in the U.S. Since we have only had a few news stories over here on the Gregory-Grodin affair, we're pretty much in the dark about any developments in the U.S. The news that the Canadian Govt station has now shown the Zapruder film is great encouragement for all of us. Surely, it is only a matter of time before the story really breaks in America. The reaction here has been excellent, confirming through others (in this case newsmen) that what we have believed for years is true, and I presume the reaction in Canada has been much the same. If Americans are told that they are likely to be the LAST to know the truth about the assassination, this may prompt the TV stations there to show the films DESPITE Dick et al.

Appearing on TV, and being interviewed, has been a sobering experience for me — as you surmised. The thing that most delighted me about your letters has been the fact that you managed not to point out the small mistakes that crept into what I was saying on TV, etc. You realised, as I hoped you would, that the giving of interviews requires decision making on the part of the interviewee that must be measured in milli-seconds! It is impossible to foretell the questions one may be asked and, television being the sort of medium that it is, one cannot be too equivocal or over-qualify what one is saying. At the same time, at the back of your mind, there is the constant tension that trying to be reasonable brings.

Although you were able to control your critical faculties after reading my interviews, a young man I'm in touch with in Michigan wasn't. He picked me to pieces (and the Herald and channel 7, too). I was delighted by his attitude (although I look forward with some relish to the time he is first interviewed on TV — to return the favor!). Many of the points he raised I was acutely aware of once I read the transcripts, but some of them depended upon up to the moment information from the States, for which I have had to await your letters and his.

Once again, thank you for your understanding and tolerant attitude — and solid gold advice! Despite the Gregory-Grodin / CIA mess, I feel a new wave of hope. The showing of the Zapruder film in Chicago, Australia and Canada means a whole new ball game irrespective of what they have done. I feel that it must put the recognised critics like yourself on a new footing, in that you will be able to quote chapter and verse on what the world is beginning to believe (while the Ford administration fiddles in Washington).

Like you, my workroom is a shambles, and I have to pick my way over mounds of material to reach my desk — and the search for missing items can take half a day! Correspondence has stolen valuable time away from other tasks, time which I can ill afford. As you can see, I am writing on an IBM composer typesetter, working on a booklet of reprints of my articles about the Leith Ratten case here in Victoria. Interestingly enough, the Ratten case often reminds me of the JFK matter — in that it involves an autopsy report that was a lamentable joke (the pathologist was inexperienced — and even failed a practical exam — only three years before he conducted the autopsy on Mrs Ratten). After the exhumation of her body, in 1972, independent tests were made by firing shotgun cartridges into dead pigs dressed in her clothing to emulate the wound she received — and so on... A very interesting case that has absorbed me for more than two years. I took it up because Leith Ratten is in every way an ordinary man. He was a Rotarian, Church organist and father of three with an unblemished record — but that did not prevent him from falling victim to the law (thankfully still not a common occurrence). Perhaps I will send you the booklet ~~as published~~ ~~for your~~ light reading . . .

Your observations about my anthology project have melted in my mind! The only reason I contacted the people I did, thereby earning your ire, was that they were the only people I had the addresses for. A pathetic excuse, I know, but I got a 'brainwave' and BAM — I charged into the project without regard to the consequences. Aided by your remarks, and by the receipt of things like R.B. Cutler's "caution", I have re-assessed my attitude. To make my former position worse, I HAVE learned a lot about discriminating between the published nonsense and the good material. I, nonetheless, went ahead and contacted people I knew would be only trivial — ~~but~~ because I had their addresses. So, there it is, a full, signed, confession! Perhaps you might be able to redirect my thinking even further by discussing the names of people who could contribute (and I emphasise "could" because I'm still deciding whether to proceed). The sort of people I'd really like to be in contact with would be Sylvia Meagher, Josiah Thompson and people of their calibre. Although I don't agree with everything that Thompson wrote in SIX SECONDS IN DALLAS, much of what he wrote was deeply researched — and a valuable source for further study. What do you think?

Well, I'll sign off now — in haste, unfortunately — and in eager anticipation for good news from the U.S. If the work of the two G's can be undone, and attention refocused on the films, I'm confident that a re-investigation will result. The films are inarguable proof of conspiracy and, in this age of the visual, will convert the few remaining sceptics into a united voice demanding a new investigation.

By the way, I've now realised that the Nix film I've got probably wasn't shown at the Chicago news conference. I was thrown by the reference by the two G's to 'visible gunmen' and immediately thought of the Nix film. I goofed, and I guess my friend from Michigan will at this moment be preparing a lengthy rebuke about the error. That's the

BY AIR MAIL

PAR AVION

AEROGRAMME



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Very warm regards,

One final thing. If, indeed, I have been responsible in my interviews, as you say, then there is only one reason for it... you! I'm sure I would have been conservative anyway (that's my style), but without your valuable advice over the period of a year, I'm sure that some major error would have intruded into the interviews. So... thanks.

problem with getting only half the story through the wire services here, I suppose.