

11/3/74

Dear Ian,

I've just returned from three of the most taxing weeks in and working around the evidentiary hearing in the Ray case. Prior to that there was nether siege in Nashville and Memphis. Together, they exhausted me physically and emotionally. It was very, very tough and just as successful. We have built an astounding record in court, tested in cross examination. In fact, we kidnapped all the rebuttal witnesses so successfully that the State quit without finishing its rebuttal testimony! But this kind of preparation and activity takes it toll and the cost I'm going to have to pay, mere with all the extra work that now lies ahead in the Ray case, is discontinue general correspondence. I just don't have time and can't justify taking it from either activities in and for court or from writing so long delayed now and now to picked up again until Ray work is over, perhaps six more weeks for the immediate.

I quoted you the price of US21 for Oswald in New Orleans. However, the extra \$1 is for packaging and insurance within the US. So, to the \$20, please add only the actual postage on the envelope but in US because the exchange here is troublesome and costly. The last case was 14%.

I can't respond fully to your 10/29. Briefly:

With my mind on other things I've forgotten your brochure's contents. My recollection is that it went rather much for the loudly irresponsibles who receive so much attention here. Hope I'm wrong.

Legacy of Doubt is crap. The imputed connections do not exist. Life does hold coincidences and in the absence of proof I find no reason to call what can be no more other than coincidence. He has built a nothing case out of nothing.

No possibility the Dallas undertaker can do what you say. But I've already reconstructed all of that but can't afford to print it. (Whitewash IV will be out soon. It will be US\$6 plus postage.)

The Meagher index is valuable. However, it was impossible for her to make it complete, she does not describe it as complete, but it surely is helpful.

The Georgetown conference was insane. Nuts talking to nuts. Sorry you have not yet learned to discriminate. I went as a favor to Bud after thrice refusing and in a futile effort to inject a ray of reason and sanity.

I am working on more projects than I can remember, hence the need to eliminate all correspondence that does not contribute to them.

I've done little work on the RPK assassination and plan none.

It is possible that I received some inquiries but I don't recall. Thanks.

In haste the best,

59 Talbot Crescent,
Kooyong,
Victoria...3144,
Australia 29 Oct 74

Dear Harold,

I wonder if you received the copy of my booklet sent two months ago. I suspect that you have received it, but have been too disappointed to reply. As I re-read my effort, and contrast it with yours, I'm overcome with self-^{and others}annoyance. This may just be 'writer's masochism', but some of the flaws I've discovered are basic and unforgivable. I guess this is what happens when a shortage of money and a desire to finish a project quickly co-incide. On the bright side, however, I felt that some of the presentation was effective - and that most important points were included...

I've just finished "Legacy of Doubt" by Peter Hayes and Flightpath of ~~the~~ 399 by Cutler. Both have contributed towards further understanding, but both suffer somewhat from tenuous arguments. I felt, for example, that in Hayes' book the connection between the Mafia and the Minutemen relating to any supposed plot of assassination was shaky indeed - relying heavily on alleged Minutemen correspondence and other 'evidence'. Eugene Hale Brading is of course an obvious suspect. The likelihood of his being in Dealey Plaza by chance, taking into account his extraordinary background, is minimal. Yet, one can only ponder his presence there. His Mafia associations seem gravely sinister, but his original activities appear to merely be petty and lacking in inventiveness. Of course, if Tauris and Brading can effectively be tied together - and some real motive be ascribed to Carlos Marcello for engineering a conspiracy - that he will be part way to proving his case. I wonder, would it, if you have unearthed any info. re: the alleged "Military Judging by the Documents" you located, it would be far less tedious to try and discover any liaison between the VORP and Brading regarding the matter...

Re-reading DEATH OF A PRESIDENT, I was struck with the idea that Oneal, the man ~~xxx~~ who took a coffin to Parkland and helped put JFK in it, must have had something to contribute ^{about} the location of wounds on the body (and more particularly on the head). Surely, while he was going about his task, he would have noticed if the President had suffered a wound to the temple (which a head shot from the "shell" would perhaps have caused). Fr. Oscar Huber is alleged to have had mention of such a wound - and to have denied his statement later. I cannot locate any mention of Oneal's observations, if any, on the matter - even although he appears to have been in a far better position to have noticed the wounds (according to Carthage, he assisted in wrapping the President's head in green plastic bags, so that blood would not spoil the coffin's lining material. Can you assist in directing me to any printed statements by Oneal?

I have at last located a set of Warren vols - and am currently awaiting delivery. Likewise, a copy of Meagher's Index (which is coming from England). Although I have previously browsed through the vols on several occasions, it has been impossible to cut through the nonsense quickly and grab the meat of the evidence. Now, hopefully, this will be possible soon...

Because of my booklet, I have come across two other people in Melbourne who share my interest to the point of fanaticism. Like me, both have large collections of rare material - and one took part in a filmed re-enactment of the assassination for British TV. He acted the part of JFW! Like you and Penn Jones, we sometimes feel that the whole effort is wasted and, as time rolls on, we are becoming quiet ~~honest~~ historians - full of theories, talking of trajectories, people and places everyone else has already forgotten long ago...

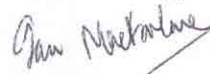
Events like the Georgetown conference never hope that you people over there will continue to agitate for a reopening of the case - and that you may finally be successful. The lesson of the past 11 years, however, is bitter, and, although most thinking people around the world probably believe there was a conspiracy involved, they accept it just as another manipulation of the truth - of the same strain that is still bel^oated out in Washington...

Are you working on any project at the moment (I understand that R.M. Cutler plans to publish another work shortly)? You have yet to turn your powers on the RFK assassination! A treatise on all the assassinations of the 60s plus the Wallace attempt is clearly needed. The political effects have been far in excess of the work of a few dumbed non (Oswald, Sirhan, Bremer, Ray et al), maybe that would be a fitting conclusion to your studies...

Once again, thanks for your interest in the past. I hope to hear from you again at some point in the future - and wish you well, both personally, and in any work you may be doing, in the meantime...

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Ian MacFarlane

P.S. Can you let me have a copy of "Oswald in New Orleans"? - you stated that there were few copies of those left. If you are able, I would like a copy by air mail on the same basis as before with the other books (I will be in New Zealand between Nov 14 - DEC 10, but will send check as soon as possible).
By the way, have you received any inquiries as a result of the booklet