

5/12/67

Dear Griscom Morgan,

Many thanks for the clippings and the information on Anthony Mendricks. When I get back on Whitewash III, which I hope to do soon, having finished up CIA Whitewash: Oswald in New Orleans a month ago, I may very well have some things I'd like looked up. The two projects I had I've just found two housewives with a bit of time to undertake.

There are things in both the Thelen and Agnewworth stories that may be ~~not~~ disquieting, but there are also things in both that label the intent of the writers and make their purposes clear and their conclusions dubious. What each leaves out that each knew or had no business writing if he didn't know in particular. Both are exe-jobs.

My work very much needs editing. On a subject like this more than others no man is qualified to do his own. More, the pressure of time in each case compelled publication of first drafts. I'm hoping the expected publisher, who seems to have cooled when he saw a tough ms will edit the new book properly. The strange thing is, however, that aside from the intellectual finks of the eastern intellectual community, the hot-from-the-typewriter feel that the unedited work has, combined with the passion I feel and consider it unmanly and dishonorable to hide, gets through to the average reader. You should see my mail. I've got as many letters as the average hardback book has sales. It has meant much.

If Manchester were a whore literally rather than figuratively I would feel compassion. If he is, as I suspect, literally insane, then I shall. But he has wrought a national scandal diminished by the Kennedy suit for no good or necessary reason, for none consistent with honest writing, decent research or reputable intentions. Let the history unfold. You'll see.

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg

Route 1, Box 275
Yellow Springs, Ohio
May 9, 1967

Dear Harold Weisberg:

In accordance with your suggestion I am inclosing with this the clipping on the Novel story you asked for, and I also inclose the article from Atlas I feel you should see. If convenient I'd like it back.

The Phelan story in the Saturday Evening Post about Jim Garrison's work is disquieting. It sounds like a rush to judgement on the part of both Phelan and of Garrison if it is not a more highpowered job of obfuscation on the part of the CIA. I had understood from Salandria that Garrison was more penetrating in his interpretation of the assassination than Phelan's story suggests.

In case you want a helper who knows the Warren Report well, a schoolmate of my son's wrote me last fall of his desire to get back into the work this coming summer. The boy is of good character and intelligence. His name is Anthony Hendricks, and his address is % Guardian Motor Co. 5111 W. Madison St. Chicago 60644. He did a major job of studying the report as a highschool senior project a couple of yeafs ago, buying the 26 volumes and spending much time with them. He wrote me "The country is now waking up, slowly, now more than before we must be sure of all we say. If I can be of any help please let me know." He would be free to work this summer-- at least that was his view in November.

What you say of the title of your work on Manchester leads me to make one comment. I had wanted to express this comment by picking out from Albert Schweitzer's Out of My Life and Thought his statement which I will try to paraphrase. He said that when he was working in the humanities he had been ignorant of what he discovered when he studied the sciences in preparation to becoming a doctor, that training in the humanities develops the capacity to spin a web of convincing theories that one assumes to be the truth but which may in fact be out of all relation to the truth-- or the facts. When he studied science he was faced with the disciplines that made him take facts into consideration and bring his theories into conformity ^{with} the evidence. I feel that Manchester is a typical victim of this weakness of professional writers. The Antioch College professors who considered my articles for possible use in the Antioch Review were typical of this kind of mind. A good turn of phrase and proper style was all that it took to convince them. A more restrained presentation of the evidence did not phase their thinking.

In commenting on your work to Ronnie Dugger I wrote that you were producing a large supply of high quality uncut diamonds. You have too much to do to develop any of the many facets of your discoveries to the point that they would affect the minds of people preoccupied with turn of phrase and a careful polishing and completion of the picture so that they would not have to do any work to follow you with conviction. Most editors and public men are so flooded with paper that they cannot give the judgement and thought necessary to sound evaluation. I think that is a fault of our civilization that is significantly responsible for the assassins getting away with their work so far. Yet I feel it is in order to have some compassion for such well-meaning men as Manchester who are the victims of this weakness.

Best wishes,

Gris
Griscom Morgan