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Feb. 2, 1998

Dear Harold:

Time to write you a short one. Enclosed find article about CIA. On same piece of paper, article quoting my brother.

I wrote Gary Webb of CIA Contra fame last week. Sent him a copy of Whitewash II and a Cat hat, which I told him was indispensable for any investigative reporter. May try to write a short story about him.

Got McKnight's book. Looks good! They did a good job on the cover.

One thing I wanted to mention was that apparently "Unsolved Mysteries" is on its last legs. I have only seen it once this year. It has moved to CBS from NBC.

All is well here. Dad continues to improve, and Larry is getting more strength in his legs. Be nice to have a New Year with all ~~happy~~ healthy. Been to lots of funeral services lately, one guy I had worked with got killed in a car crash, only 47. Another fellow I shared an office with passed away last week. That is enough.

Have never seen anything like the current feeding frenzy on Clinton. I think with cable news, Internet, etc., that there is an urgency to come up with new angles, even if they are almost all speculation.

I think one reason that the news media has not followed the TWA 800- Admiral Moorer story is that it is promoted by Accuracy in Media, which is I believe somewhat conservative or even right wing. But this would be the only story they have not followed up just because it came from the right wing.

If memory serves, Admiral Moorer had a pretty good reputation, did he not? I don't think Newsweek even covered that story. I believe Time did, I am trying to track down an issue.

We are getting an early spring here. 57 degrees today. Sunny. Makes me want to take the boat out.

Never have heard anything from Arnold. You know, it wouldn't hurt some of these guys to acknowledge it when I send them a book that I paid for. One thing I will say for Jane Norris, she sent both of us thank you notes. Classy lady, but her show has been pretty tabloid lately. I don't think they have talked about anything but Clinton's crotch for two weeks. Wonder how much of that is Jane and how much is the producer.

Hope to see you this spring. Take care.

Bill 

Clay Ogilvie
355 Ninth St.,
Idaho Falls, ID 83404

2/8/98

Dear Clay:

What I have written was written in great haste, with ^{many} distraction, some like my health serious distraction, my typing is terrible (more so now that for two years I've been under doctor's orders to have the left foot as high as my heart even when typing), and editing and changes are needed. That you are willing to take that extra time in addition to the great amount of time required to re-type such dirty copy is a great and a meaningful favor that I appreciate very much. However, I again must ask you not to make any changes, other than of the innumerable typos and errors in spelling, in what you retype. Please instead indicate what you think should be done on the rough draft. When you get back what I'm reading, ^{don't} ~~don't~~, if you look at what I've done with care you'll see why. It is because errors have been introduced and ^e meanings have been ~~changed~~.

~~Some~~ Some of the changes were good and are helpful. But I fear very much that error can slip through and it is taking extra time for both of us to correct the corrections, ^{as} ~~so~~ you'll see. You did not intend it but in some instances you wound up with the opposite of what I was saying.

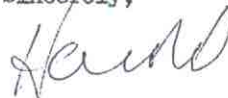
You seem to resent my referring to them as what they were, the House assassins committee. They did assassinate truth and I have always referred to them that way. However, what you substituted did not exist. There was no "House Assassinations Subcommittee." And in one instance, where I referred to the assassination, you ~~etc~~ changed that to "the House Assassinations Subcommittee."

I was the cited source of stories reporting what they did that was ~~intended~~ wrong and there was never any refutation of anything so many papers quoted me as saying of them.

Actually, there were worse than I perceived, as we now know from what they suppressed that has been made public under the 1992 Act that created the Assassination Records ^{Review} Board.

Excuse the haste and again many thanks. It is all a great help and much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

Ballz ^{LEO} Sports Bits and Pieces

Win on Sunday, sell on Monday

by Bill Doolittle

There's something different at the Daytona International Speedway. It's a brand new car: the Taurus!

The Taurus!

For most Americans there's not a thing new about the Ford Taurus. But the old family favorite is about to back out of the suburban driveway and roll right onto the famed high-banked super-speedway at Daytona Beach, Fla., as NASCAR kicks off another season, Sunday, Feb. 15, with the 40th running of the Daytona 500.

Ford is no longer building the Thunderbird, the racing version of which has been extremely successful in the stock car wars against rival Chevrolet. With the T-bird out of the picture, Ford will now throw its considerable financial and technical backing to the Taurus.

"And nobody knows what to expect," said auto racing expert Larry Neichter. "This Daytona 500 will be different primarily because of the Taurus."

Can it win?

"It's hard to make a new model work right away, and the Taurus is not really streamlined for racing," said Neichter. "The Robert Yates team, whose driver, Dale Jarrett, has won Daytona twice in the past five years, has spent tons of extra time testing and tuning the Taurus."

"How competitive will they be?" wondered Neichter. "Well, there are all sorts of reports and rumors, like there always are. And you know there'll be plenty of sandbagging. But we won't really know anything until the weekend before the 500, when they run the first qualifying and the Bud Shootout."

Some of the lesser-financed teams might choose to run their last year's Thunderbirds, which could get them in the hunt at Daytona. But Neichter says the big Ford teams will all switch to Taurus, following the Ford factory backing.

Chevy will stick with the Monte Carlo, which itself was a replacement a couple of seasons ago for the disappointing Chevrolet Lumina. Defending NASCAR champ Jeff Gordon drives a Monte Carlo.

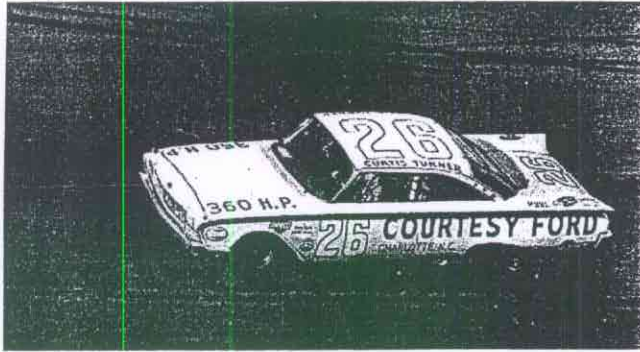
So the stage is set once again: Ford vs. Chevy.

"The car model fight thing has gone on as long as I've been around stock car racing - for 35 years, I guess, or longer," said Neichter. "It is still paramount to the factories. Like they always say, 'Win on Sunday, sell on Monday.'"

ALL ROADS LEAD TO NAGANO, BUT PICABO STREET MAY BE THE BEST

Popular U.S. skier Picabo Street continues to make a remarkable comeback from injury, and may be on her way to contending for a gold medal at the Nagano Olympics.

Street, a silver medalist in the 1994 Winter Olympics and two-time world downhill champion, missed more than a year of competition while recovering from



Curtis Turner rolled his brand new Ford Galaxy 500 to the lead early in the historic 196 Daytona 500. It was in this race that Junior Johnson introduced to stock car racing the technique of increasing speed by drafting behind other cars. Turner, and others, had more horsepower, but Johnson played the draft, and drove his Chevrolet to victory.

CIA clears itself of involvement in cocaine sales to help contras

By JOHN DIAMOND
Associated Press 1-30-98

WASHINGTON — The CIA has released a report absolving itself of charges that it was involved in the sale of crack cocaine to benefit the contras in Nicaragua.

The findings, released yesterday, dispute allegations made by the San Jose Mercury News in 1996. The report says a team led by CIA Inspector General Frederick Hiltz found no evidence that CIA employees or agents colluded with allies of Nicaraguan contra rebels to finance their guerrilla operations by bringing crack cocaine into the United States. CIA Director George Tenet called the report the most extensive investigation ever undertaken by the Inspector General. In August 1996, the Mercury News published stories that concluded a

San Francisco Bay area drug ring sold cocaine in Los Angeles and funneled profits to the Nicaraguan contra rebels for the better part of a decade.

The stories said two Nicaraguan cocaine dealers, Oscar Danilo Blanton and Norwin Meneses, were civilian leaders of an anti-Communist commando group formed and run by the CIA during the 1980s. The articles said they supplied a crack dealer named Ricky Donnell Ross.

The CIA report said there was no such CIA link. The Mercury News' executive editor, Jerry Ceppos, declined to comment on the CIA report. Last spring, Ceppos wrote a column in the paper that critiqued the series, saying it "did not meet our standards in key areas. Among other things, he said the series often presented only one interpretation of complex evidence;

oversimplified the spread of crack; and used graphics and language that were open to misinterpretation."

By then, the newspaper series had generated widespread anger toward the CIA among blacks, as well as federal investigations into whether the CIA took part in or countenanced the selling of crack to raise money for the contras.

Tenet said he is concerned the original charges will linger. "I must admit that my colleagues and I are very concerned that the allegations made have left an indelible impression in many Americans' minds that the CIA was somehow responsible for the scourge of drugs in our inner cities," Tenet said. "Unfortunately, no investigation — no matter how exhaustive — will completely erase that false impression or undo the damage that has been done."