

Dear John,

9/3/74

Your letter of the 29th with the valuable enclosures came some hours ago. However, it has been the kind of day on which it was impossible for me to sit down and read them with care, as I shall do.

I skimmed. The Rotabblatt part is interesting and promising. I fear he has been besieged by the nuts by now. I ~~know~~ also have a secret JFK reason for wanting to be in touch with him. He is conservative and has probably been told much about me already. My point is that if you have had contact you might use your good offices. I have one thing in mind that may be quite useful to him in this and I have in mind the possibility that he might be willing to lend his not inconsiderable talents to other efforts not inconsistent with his excellent statement. Also, if you have the text of his remarks and others then made I'd welcome them.

Last week when I was in the building and waiting for someone delayed in keeping an appointment I went to the offices of the Org. Com. for the Fifth Estate to apologize for the forthrightness with which I rejected an invitation to attend a party in honor of Mailer. The invitation did not identify the project to be supported nor the CARIC involvement but it was to be returning to that office. I intended my letter for Mailer but feared that one of those at that office might have been offended, not knowing the background, earlier Mailer. Hell, the return address didn't even say CARIC.

I met a young fellow named Doug who immediately said he was going to do an issue on conspiracy theories. You know my response, that it would be irresponsible and deceive the people. When he said he'd draw on only responsible I said that involves discrimination and was he in a position to. (It turns out that he has special ESP from his previous intelligence career. It never errs.) He got so hostile then he was soon describing response as hostility. Anyone, I'm sorry I went there. I'd have done better to read the paper. But he said that you were a chickenrouter who had promised and wouldn't. I said to him then and to you ~~now~~, congratulations. To you.

Apparently we live in a world in which opposites like Nixon and this new breed have one thing in common: deep belief that nothing is as irrelevant as fact and nothing as unworthy for people to receive it there is available the arcane thoughts of the superintending ains.

There is no such thing as a certain remedy for colds. But I have two suggestions you might consider trying. Begin each day with a heavy dose of natural vitamin C. Not handfuls of pills but a full glass of real orange juice or its equivalent. And at the first sign of a cold, no matter how slight, pop a pill, whatever anti-histamine you can get a doctor to give you. With me, for other purposes and the consequence of theorizing, I used and found unfailingly effective, 25mg. benedryl. Rarely do I take a second. May be different with you. They can make some people drowsy. Not me. Prescribed for me for allergic reaction to stings.

London Times: Mutual radio moved a story. Fried there called me as soon as he tore the two grafts off Reuters' wire. The real problem is that Ruby was authentically crazy at the time of those interviews. Their purpose was limited and insanity was irrelevant. It was to determine whether he met the requirements of the ancient and outdated McNaghten (right) rule, did he know the difference between right and wrong.

Familiar with Murtagh's views, beliefs, theories and wrote him. Fear too many did. But thanks for this, which I did not seek. I have his letter to Livingston. Bob is still doing and saying foolish things on his own, without consultation. I tore him up a bit a week ago, he expressed recognition of censuring but came back politely today on another matter. On other matters he is so undependable he doesn't even send us clips from the local papers. Your enclosed story good.

On your books to read: there will be a delay in my sending you one. Mechanical.

FYI Rothblatt story, penult, graft: One bullet only is fatal. Ever.

Gonzalez:  
Gibale: paving another road to hell with good intentions. Least likely of possible

Aside from other and I hope obvious defects, one does not begin an investigation with its conclusion. The suggest ex it alone disqualifies to serious people. And the WG connection is at best paperthin. With peripherals only at that. Despite all the loud noise, to date no evidence, no basis for serious belief.

Laying both Wecht enclosures aside for careful reading when I've time. I noticed in flipping pages that he also lays claim to "discovering" that the brain is missing. Like he discovered sex. I worked on this three years earlier with George Herman, CBS News. It is wrong for anything to disappear but Hyril, having flubbed, now has a special chimera. So, he chases and writes and attracts napractice business. It is my understanding that he placed Bob Smith on his payroll like Ford put Stiles on his, to do his writing on the subject and to draw upon what he thinks Bob has and knows he himself lacks, specific factual knowledge of the assassination.

Despite the slackness in the Livingston jaw there are many things that the defense in a criminal case, more in a political one, cannot properly say without jeopardizing the rights of the defendant. So, you know I know what I can't and won't say. However, there is an area I suggest you watch, which is not improper. There has been a ruling by Judge McRae ordering certain rights to discovery. The State has filed a writ of mandamus in opposition to it. I think this part will make what your subscribers and their readers and listeners may find interesting news when it proceeds as I expect it to. Rights to discovery under habeas corpus have been limited and are hazy. Maybe that will change for the better.

Thanks for the good stuff. Please keep it in mind, perhaps by having an envelope convenient for when you use something, and then send periodically to reduce the cost on stamps, a consideration here! Where it involves no ethical considerations, what you do not use may be of value, too.

Sincerely,

# ZODIAC NEWS SERVICE

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August 29, 1974

Dear Harold:

Sorry to take such a long time to get back to you — but I've been very busy with the news service and have been fighting off a terribly vicious cold (and I mean vicious).

In any case, I've enclosed a few odds and ends about the assassinations — including a copy of the article written by Doctor Wecht for Forensic Science magazine last April.

Also enclosed are: a copy of a story from last week's London Sunday Times on Ruby, plus a number of stories from recent ZNS's on the assassinations.

One ZNS story is an interview I did with a former F.B.I. agent in Constable, New York named Arthur Murtagh. The guy really sounds legit, that he knows where the weaknesses in the investigations were, and that someone like you might be able to get useful information out of him. (I got his name from Ray's attorney, Livingston. Apparently Murtagh dropped Livingston a letter — saying that he, too, believes Ray is possibly innocent of pulling the trigger).

I hope this stuff can help you. In the meantime, I've run out of books to read here on the West Coast. I've reached a temporary dead end.

I'll keep an eye out for clippings and send them to you from time to time.

Sincerely



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