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21 March 1997

Dear Harold:

I got home from mailing you a package (an Internet search of agents' home pages, another union (International Federation of Profession, Technical and Engineers Union) newsletter, the re-typed epilogue and a note) and found I had a note from you.

I am concerned that my characterization of your rightful chiding of me for "editing" in errors into your manuscript was taken as a slap to you. It was not, it was a slap at my own hubris and an indicator of just how much stress I have been experiencing at work. My apologies. I thought that I was accustomed to the tone of your writing after reading so much of your work. I was unprepared to be the object of it in some of your last communications to me relative to the retyping of your manuscripts.

While I have become to understand something of your concern for the raping of history that some "want-to-be-historians" have performed, I have become concerned that your tone maybe inhibiting publication of your works. Inclusion of a copy of the last two drafts of the Union newsletters was an attempt to demonstrate that I can write in just as scathing a style as you without resorting to name calling. Sometimes adopting a more objective tone in reciting an author's ill-performance can be even more harpooning the author personally. With Hersh, citing his list of misrepresentations, fabrications, and mis-attributions can be a more powerful indictment of Hersh than your characterizations. Using your assertive tone shifts the reader's attention from the subject matter (Hersh's journalism(?)) to your denunciations of Hersh.

Enough on style and tone. As you may note, I can't play the sycophant and ask you to be my mentor on the Kennedy assassination investigations. The dynamic tension between are two

wills should be viewed as a positive challenge for the both of us. For me, it serves to question my thoughts and their analysis of the investigations; for you, I hope, it serves to keep your mind sharply focused. For example, from my accident investigation training, I have learned that all people witnessing may see the same event but it is their *interpretation* or rationalization of what they see that causes a departure from the reality that all witnesses. It is the skill of the investigator to tease the interpretation away from the actuality of what they witnessed. An example you used in the Donahue/Menninger book, *Mortal Error* was: "My file on Holland also includes the report that he said he saw a dog between the President and his wife. They had no dog with them." We both know that the President did not have a dog with them. The logical question to be asked is: What image did Holland interpret to represent as a dog? Is this mis-interpretation of what he saw enough to dispose of all of Holland's testimony?

When looking at the echo patterns of Dealey Plaza, I note that where one stands in the Dealey Plaza enables an "earwitness" to record a different reality than an individual across the street or up the street. It seems to me that there is the potential for reconciling the different testimony of each witness to the event in Dealey Plaza and the Zapruder film records.

Another aspect of my accident investigation training that I don't see in many JFK assassination investigation narratives (I am unwilling to call most of them history or non-fiction, except your published works.) is the exercise of basic principles of accident investigation: cause and effect; precursors to actions directly connected to resultant actions to consequences of those actions. In the Warren Commission Report there are great leaps of faith as there are in many of the JFK assassination narratives. Example: working backwards, the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle was found on the sixth floor of the TSBD, it was alleged to have been used in the assassination of JFK in the SE window. The connection is drawn between the rifle, the spent shells at that location and

its potential for that window being used to site-in on the President's motorcade. The Commission could credibly get the rifle in the building; the Commission couldn't credibly prove the shots came from that location when President was shot. If I am not mistaken, confusion regarding the identity of the weapon found on the sixth floor is not credibly explained as that Mannlicher-Carcano. The link between Oswald and that same rifle is even more tenuous with mysterious appearances of palmprints on the rifle and negative or ambiguous nitrate tests on cheeks and hands respectively. Oswald's possession of that same rifle is even further fodder for dispute with alleged post office boxes in the name of Hidell and the order slip for the rifle. In each step of the chain of cause and effect there appears to be a gap of faith that must be closed to make a case.

Have you ever seen the "Idiot's Guide to . . ." or ". . . for Dummies" series of books? I believe that you are the one person who has the breath of knowledge and experience in the Kennedy assassination investigations to produce just such a book or series of books that separate the facts from the "chaff" of speculation, innuendo and fabrication. I could see you taking all of your earlier published works and culling them for the "facts" of the assassination and identifying them and referencing them and counterposing them against other writers as you have done in the three manuscripts that you have sitting around your home.

I offer the following short outline as a discussion point:

- I. The Pre-Kennedy Presidency Cold War National and International Politics
 - A. Gary Francis Powers
 - B. The Military-Industrial Complex
 - C. Race Relations
 - D. The Economic of Oil
 - E. Assassination as a Political Instrument
- II. The Kennedy Presidency
 - A. The Bay of Pigs Fiasco
 - B. Cuban Missile Crisis
 - C. The Civil Rights Struggle
 - D. Scandals: (Billie Sol Estes, TFX Scandal, etc.)

- E. War on the Mafia
- F. Big Oil and Big Business and the Economy
- III. November 22-24, 1963: Dealey Plaza
 - A. The Motorcade
 - B. The Hospital
 - C. The Flight Home
 - D. The Dealey Plaza Witnesses
 - E. TSBD Activities
 - F. The Tippit Murder
 - G. Oswald's Arrest
 - H. Oswald's Interrogation
 - I. Oswald's Murder
 - J. The Public Relations Machine
- IV. The Scramble to Explain and Investigate
 - A. Pre-Warren Commission Activities
 - B. The Warren Commission Initiation
 - C. The Warren Commission Investigation
 - 1. The Politics of Investigation
 - 2. The Role of "Investigators"
 - 3. The Agenda vs. The Search for Truth
 - 4. The "Witnesses"
 - 5. The "Evidence"
 - 6. The "The Single Bullet Theory" solution
 - 7. Quashing the Rumors
 - 8. The "Preservation of Evidence/Records"
 - 9. The Report
- V. The Aftermath of the Assassination
 - A. The L.B.J. Presidency
 - 1. The Great Society
 - 2. The War in Vietnam
 - B. The Critics' Report: 1964-1968
 - 1. Thomas Buchanan
 - 2. Harold Weisberg
 - 3. Mark Lane
 - 4. Jay Edward Epstein
 - 5. Sylvan Fox
 - 6. Sylvia Meagher
 - 7. James Hepburn
 - 8. Etc.
- VI. The Garrison Investigation
 - A. Discovery
 - B. The Grand Jury
 - C. The Clay Shaw Trial
 - 1. Connections
 - 2. Revelations

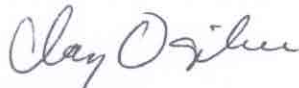
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 - C. The Clay Shaw Trial
 - 1. Connections
 - 2. Revelations

- 3. Acquittal
- VII. The Senate Select Committees
 - A. Government Operations
 - B. Intelligence Activities
- VIII. The House Select Committee on Assassinations (The House Assassins Committee)
 - A. The Politics of Investigation
 - 1. The "Investigation"
 - 2. Echoes from Dealey Plaza
 - 3. The Conspiracy
- IX. The Critics (1969-1990)
 - A. David Lifton
 - B. Gaeton Fonzi
 - C. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.
 - D. Jim Marrs
 - E. Michael Eddowes
 - F. Robert J. Groden
 - G. Harrison Edward Livingstone
 - H. John H. Davis
 - I. Dick Russell
 - J. Henry Hurt
 - K. Anthony Summers
- X. Politics, JFK: The Movie and the Assassinations Records Review Board
 - A. The New Mythology
 - B. The Politics of History
 - C. The Assassinations Records Review Board
- XI. The Critics (1991-Present)
 - A. Bonar Menninger
 - B. Jim Moore
 - C. Seymour Hersh
 - D. Gerald Posner
 - E. Walt Brown
 - F. Claudia Furiati
 - G. Peter Dale Scott
 - H. Noel Twyman
 - I. Richard B. Trask
- XII. Future Revelations
 - A. The Kennedy Tapes
 - B. The Johnson Tapes
 - C. Opening the Archives?

You have the knowledge and the name to take our history back from the tabloid publishers. But do you have the will? The desire? The time? You have my resources to type

and research on your behalf as you have may others should you wish to marshal their support. Your can be the Maestro of an orchestrated ,movement with Professor Wrone, as your assistant, to make this happen. All you have to do is say so. Gather all your contacts and give the assignments and monitor the progress of the work. Critic the submittals and lead the charge to reclaim our history. You may be old, you may be ailing but your not dead until you give up the ghost or choose to graze on the weeds that proliferate in the fields of historical research. A bitter meal they must be for a man who knew the sweet morsels of truth and fact.

Give Americans and opportunity to learn the truth of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, a man whose assassination you have dedicated so much of your time and money to flawlessly record for generations to come!!!



Clay Ogilvie,
your apprentice

P.S. The outline is by no means complete and obviously needs work. Nonetheless the concept holds that you are the best man for the job.