

Olson (CIA - dump) file

Dear Mike,

6/17/79

I've been reading The Search for a Manchurian Candidate in snatches, while resting from physical work. I'm through the Olson chapter. It is a fine and worthwhile work and I appreciate having it.

While my high regard for the work to the point I've reached also extends to the Olson chapter, I do have some questions about it. Some of the more basic statements are in direct contradiction to what I learned early on in this case, before Marks was onto it, so far as I know. Like the CIA falling all over itself to see to it that Alice Olson was taken care of. While her complaint about Russett may be justified I think the treatment is less than fair to him. The early records I obtained seem to indicate that he is directly responsible for her getting anything at all, little as what she got was under the circumstances. As I recall it his threats only turned the decision against any pension around, and for him to make threats was kisky.

If course I'm pleased at the confirmation of my early analysis, in such detail confirmed. Where it is not I regard the question as open and not of a nature that would be reflected in any CIA records not all of which are available in any event. Among the details I recall as now proven accurate are Olson being CIA and his specialty and the work he was negaged in being aerosol disseminations.

There area few little touches that could have added very little while taking up almost no space. (There appears to have been a decision to keep the book short and that it is this good in condensing such a vast file is a tribute to it.) One may amuse you and I have no objection to your telling Marks if you want to. The part about OSS, the behavioralists it consulted and whose published work it believed and the alleged Japanese soldier attitude to his own bowel movement. Some college educated ignoramuses up high want such more for that than Marks indicated. One of my last assignments before getting a medical discharge and being rehired elsewhere in OSS as a consultant on Nazi cartels, which I then preferred and had done much work on, was as part of a team that was to write texts for the Army of occupation and for the re-education of the Japanese. The precepts were frightful and they extended this crap about the bowel movements to all body voiding and all Japanese. It was supposed to be the key to the Japanese character, no less, and to be required understanding for the project. My recollection may be flawed after all these years but I seem to recall that some Harvard genius had actually published a study or studies in which this was the central point. Or the nuttiness was not limited to the gang he dirty-workers.

Assassination methods were not limited to drugs and bugs. We had primitive texts, house printed, showing how it could be done. With even pencils. Without leaving signs.

No time for more but I did not want to forget to thank.

God what I wouldn't do to have all of those he had helping him! Glad he credited you, as he should have.

Contractions for space always makes problems. I'm sorry about the one that makes it appear that the derring-do Rockefeller Commission dug the Olson story out. Nuts! It was one of Colby's "family jewels" he was (I think properly) determined to expose voluntarily. I have what amounts to a confession of this from Belin, the one time we were person-to-person, right after I was out of the hospital. He then said they didn't have to investigate because the CIA volunteered everything.

best wishes,