

John Petrella  
41 Zabrieskie St.,  
Jersey City, NJ 07307

12/10/94

Dear John,

I appreciate what you said about Whitewash. But quite a few people did read it. I published almost 30,000 copies and Dell reprinted it four times, the first print being of 250,000 copies.

If as you say you "lost" your "virginity" in typing the letter to me it was an immaculate conception. Not an error in it!

Yes, there is something I'd like copied at the NY library. The first volume of my WC hearings was stolen. So also was my file on Robert Oswald and on the book that bears his name but was ghosted for him by a couple whose name I may remember incorrectly as Land. The book was titled Lee and LOOK ran an article on it. I can't find any of this in my files now. But I think in his testimony in Volume 1 he spoke about Lee's favorite TV program being Herbert "hilbrick's I Lived Three Lives. I'll appreciate copies of those pages of his testimony on which he says this or anything like it.

As a practical matter there is nothing I can do to make copies of the full Case Open available. What was retyped and finally sent me is not complete and I've not had time and now cannot take time to read those 788 pages. You know what my typing and writing are like and I have no idea how faithfully it was retyped or whether the insertions were made where they were supposed to have been made. What was finally sent me is at Hood College and they can't do the xeroxing, either.

You wonder about why there is no "concerted effort" by critics to do something about Poisner and at the same time you refer to Jerry Rose. He delayed a review of Case Open until the normal shelf life in the chains was about ended and then had twice as long an attack on it by a subject-matter ignoramus named DeVries in which he even offered the opinion and what he said was proof that I had dictated it. Which as you know I did not and could not have. Earlier, they had a conference in R.I. under George Michael Evica for which they requested a scholarly paper on me as a government agent. Or, don't waste any more time in wondering.

You refer to Tom Wicker's endorsement of Poisner's book. In 1965 he read Whitewash in manuscript, sent it to Harrison Salisbury, then the Times managing editor, and Wicker also encouraged Norton to publish it. So he learned and was not always the way he is.

What Reibling includes in his Acknowledgement may lead me to add him to the ms. of a book I have written. I'll think about it and about dictating a longer memo on it. If I decide to add it and what it represents to the book I'll write it and it will not be as long. I've already marked up the xeroxes you sent me for the record for history. I should have asked you for a copy of his bibliography and if I'd known what is in his Acknowledgements would have. It will help to know what assassination books he read and which on the FBI and CIA. I appreciate your offer and may take you up on it. Thanks & best,

Handwritten signature

On the other enclosures, I get the Wx Post and its national edition is taken from the paper I get so I do not need copies of it, thanks. I'll send these to a college professor who does not get the Post.

Of the Buckley article you ask which pathologists said that a bullet entering the back of the neck can make the body go backward. None. I do not know where he got that other than from his prejudice with which he begins.

The Finkerton Newsday column is good. Part of Fonzi's is. He is quite wrong both on ~~the~~ Sprague and why he was fied and on the work that ~~the~~ House assassins did when he was with them. They never investigated the crime itself and never intended to, whatever may have been in the mind of the Fonzis on the staff.

Again many thanks.

