

9/24/68

Mr. Jim Good
Playboy
918 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Jim,

Here is the rough draft of what I had projected as an addition to COUP D'ETAT when I wrote it. I hate to keep apologizing, to remind you that in order to work on other things I could not read this, but please understand I haven't. It is as my wife typed it. What I worked on instead of editing is, as I indicated by phone, quite successful, for it is enough for another book.

This is not by any means exhaustive treatment of the executive sessions. It is restricted to those parts I considered appropriate to the content (not even the doctrine) of COUP D'ETAT. There is much more, some even more sensational.

There was, I am satisfied (but cannot now prove) a rapid turnover in Archivists of the United States over this. When I confronted Dr. Robert Bahmer with what had been done, what he did, he suddenly retired, not at all old or decrepit. When I kept pushing on his successor, Dr. James Rhoads, he even more quietly -no announcement at all, and after perhaps but a month or two -though young and a careerist, just left. Now there is an "Acting Archivist" who has yet to answer the same letters. He is Herbert Angel. I have not yet reminded him that my wife and he went to school together.

I have an original, government Xerox of every document I quote. It is cost alone that compels me to use the less clear Thermofaxes. Ask for whatever you want in a clearer copy and I'll send it.

Also enclosed are two other documents. One is an answer to a letter I wrote the Archivist, not the legal director. He takes bait well. I did not make a mistake. I wanted him to tell me what he did, that Ford used what is still suppressed -the entire transcript of the executive session of 1/27/64, which was not destroyed. It exists. He also told me there remains no copy of the executive session of 1/22, which I knew but wanted in writing. Note that in this unusual case, Rankin did not date his memo, which is merely a record to which he could refer back, to protect himself. There is more on this, but unless you want it now (and I'll do the whole story, if Playboy wants it) I'm not taking the time of spending the money to make all the copies. For example, the Texans had Law School Dean Storey with them. He said this was typical of CIA, from his experience. Naturally, he also therefore was not a witness.

My own hunch, as a careful reading of OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS will show, is that the two-hour interview of August 1962 is the beginning of Oswald's return to federal service. That agent, Foin, then retired. The new Oswald expert never was asked for an affidavit denying he had hired him (Kasch). I told you some of the rest by phone. There is much on Hosty not known. He was close to General Walker's pal and business associate, the printer of the scurrilous Handbill, Surrey, who right out refused to be a witness. When the local federal

attorney wanted to prosecute, for the case was open and shut, the Commission demurred. Finally Surrey did appear, in secret, and was not asked the right questions. Very nice formula.

I've made a few hasty notes on the documents that may direct your attention. The elimination of Hosty's name from the FBI transcription of Oswald's addressbook, is not the only change Hoover's men made. They also deliberately disguised the name of a CIA-man who ran the New Orleans Cuban Revolutionary Council, organized by the CIA at the Skylark Hotel, Miami, 3/18/61, in anticipation of the Bay of Pigs. He is Frank Barton, who later flew planes in the Congo and this past Spring told me he considers himself under federal protection. Libeler knew of this CIA connection and financing and of Ferrie's connection with it and decided to do nothing. I have him on tape saying this.

Particularly if editing is available, I can rather rapidly go another book, as I told you, AGENT OSWALD. Unless I were to do a separate book on the executive sessions (and I doubt the market, not the legitimate literary and historical importance), this is where I would include that material, which is abundant and very rich.

Paraphrasing, does not some of the contents of COUP tell you that I made good my promise to you to help Eric? This does not even include the Minutemen stuff I then also got, although I'll probably add that threat, also known to the government. I have the affidavit. I got it from a Minuteman I turned on by radio!

There is so much! You cannot begin to imagine how much. I so regret Lawrence never kept his promise to come and examine what I then had, made about a year and a half ago. I wish you could do it now. This stuff should be published. There are urgent national interests. That there is continued media unwillingness after Chicago makes my work even more laborious, depressing.

Among the things I have developed since I saw you are the confinement of a New Orleans man, by order of the Secret Service, to protect the President. Not consistent with the Warren Report. Not accomplished by law or court action, either. I've interviewed this man and his mother and wife (a pregnant lesbian and good friend of Clay Shaw's when they were married). In fact, even though he had also threatened Garrison and was apparently allowed to escape captivity to try it, I stayed at his home my last trip and expect to my next! If this doesn't someday make me a novel, the story of the chick who led me to it will, and I have that all on tape, perhaps 50-75 hours of it. Then there is the suppressed story of the boy who met Oswald or "Oswald" at Carlos Bringuier's store. He was led into homosexuality by Clay Shaw's close friend and associate, Mario Bernandez (Cordell Hull foundation, CIA front). I have the Bernandez identity from four people, including both parents. Father just died in seeming mystery. "Accident". His Oswald-Bringuier relations were other than officially represented, and I have the original transcript Libeler altered before printing to make his testimony consistent with Bringuier's falsehood. I also have documentary proof that it was both false and willful. This and many, many things that relate - for example, an entirely different history and picture of Oswald in New Orleans - is my own work, not Garrison's. I have not yet given him all of it. I have hours of interviews with eyewitnesses on tape, including those who had turned off after being shot at and other ice threatened, including by the FBI. I have now established the existence of four different Cuban camps at the same time, across the lake from N.C. I have a taped statement from the man who ran one, Ricardo Davis, with many significant admissions in it, including proof the Attorney General is a liar and the information his was a CIA camp. What he said is indicative of what I said in OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS, that it was a camp for the assassination of Castro. He gave me the most graphic account of his career as a police agent! Too much? Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg