

10/19/71

Dear Jerry,

Not now but after I finish with POST NORTH, suppose I want to interest the Times. What would you think of a letter to Roberts along these lines:

In connection with his writing, Mr. Jerry Policoff has been in touch with me. He tells me, as I understood him, that your attitude and possibly that of the Times is that while the Warren Commission and its Report were "sloppy", what they say is, essentially, the truth, and that your investigative team of four years ago found no substantial refutation.

Our meeting at the time you began that investigation, which I believe Harrison Salisbury arranged, came at a time when I was quite tired. At least one of your team had so openly antagonistic an attitude that I made no further effort to contact any of you. At that time I felt the Times was not about to find or print any disproof of the Report, not going to trouble the national conscience about the JFK assassination.

My own work has continued. I think it has been fruitful, while I have never sought the actual assassins, believing this a futility and something nobody would believe should I succeed. I have diligently pursued fact, especially the suppressed evidence. It took some time to develop a fuller understanding of some of the things I told Mr. Salisbury, that the FBI had foreclosed reporters as it foreclosed the Secret Service and the Commission. It took even more time to develop an insight for what was designed to bog the Commission and everyone else down. And it takes an enormous amount of time to wade through the irrelevant with which the Commission was so effectively smothered.

Aside from the prevailing media attitude today, what difference does it now make, there are other major problems, including, understandably, the unwillingness of competent reporters to believe they went for the century's largest story and couldn't get it. There is no reporter who could. Hoover saw to it.

My own view is that the assassination made and makes a vast difference, that all of our national life was changed and remains changed by it. You may disagree or you may consider this irrelevant. But I have gone into many areas in my research seeking answers to such questions as "cui bono?". One of the many things that separate me from the other critics is the willingness of some of "the other side" to trust me. This ranges downward from a member of the Warren Commission. In confidence, this was Senator Russell, who confessed his doubts to me long before his death. I suspect it is I who am responsible for two things: his breaking his life-long ~~close~~ friendship with LBJ and his statement on Cox broadcasting.

Many considering themselves "liberals" could conceive of Earl Warren doing no wrong. One might have thought this through, and the result is they have made him one of the victims. Much the same is true of Bobby Kennedy. My own view on this is unchanged since my first writing, that part of the first book dating to the end of 1964, immediately after the Report was issued. It is in the Introduction to WHITEWASH, which is in your library. My understanding is expanded and I am persuaded that what I there say on this is correct. I hope you will find time to reread it, for it is short.

To return to the present, let me ask a question and make an offer. What would the attitude of the Times be if I could produce total and complete refutation of the Report right now, in reptitious official form, including what lawyers call "best evidence" that was withheld from the Commission? I have it, redundantly and on many essential elements of the evidence. It has taken years to locate and obtain. If you will preserve my confidence, you can see it. There is too much of it for me to carry to New York, but I can take a few samples the next time I have to go there. Or, what I'd really like you to consider is the Times would play this straight at the right time, which means after I can - if I can - publish what I am now completing, come here so that if you have a question, I can find the answer in my by now enormous files.

What Hoover did with his FBI is, I think, beyond the willingness of most to believe, but it is fact. And the number of people who knew and were silent is likewise difficult to believe, but I stand ready to prove it.

This is off the top of the head, Jerry, but what do you think?

Best,