

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
8/28/75

Mr. Rod Gibson
National Enquirer
600 South East Coast Ave.,
Lantana, Fla. 33462

Dear Rod,

While I recognize and respect the need for checking I am aware of and have lived through some situations and problems similar to this and am thoroughly intimidated by the possibilities of the kind of approaches you mentioned by phone when we discussed several of the enclosures a few minutes ago.

You simply can't regard anything of the magnitude of this as just another story to be checked in just the normal way. You talked about checking with people who committed criminal acts when a President was killed, people with a past I'll remind you of in a similar case.

If you expect any of them to bow thrice toward the east and beg for Allah's mercy you seriously underestimate them, their situation and the incredible potential. You know I have been dealing in confidence with political figures on this and I'm not giving you my own opinion.

The particular parallel is, I think, in the first part of Post Mortem. I put Richard Levine then of the Baltimore Sun up to prodding Boswell on the body chart. Boswell was the first to leave the service and he was nearby.

Boswell saw Levine's reaction to a childish false story, liked it, and before Levine could get his story in the next morning's Baltimore Sun the identical story was given to AP, which A-wired it sensationally. Levine never was quite convinced that I had not done this to him.

You talk to any of these people about any of this and you're going to be scopped with lies and what will dull what is left. Neither of us wants that.

How CAN Burkley react to any questions, or excuse anything he did except, perhaps, to say he took orders? How can Boswell now say other than he has said, other than the reports I sent you the other day and the sworn testimony says?

Once you start checking these kinds of things out with them they have no choice but to consult around and to do what will kill your story and at least dull my book.

I'm not saying don't check. But I am saying don't needlessly cut your throat or mine. It isn't necessary.

The receipt does not say exactly what I remember. But it simply can't mean anything else and it is disguised with semantics. The mere fight I had for all the years it took to get this- and do I have correspondence on it!- belies the language. There simply are no medical personnel anywhere who do not know the need for confidentiality and none need reminding. This is hardly a description of a threat to court martial.

Other descriptions are of similar ~~descriptions~~ irrelevance to the actual papers.

The Texas certificate of death is neither that nor is it dated 11/22/63.

I'm been through this much and I must remind and warn you. Remember what the FBI did with the Zapitder camera? Hoover also issued a press statement before Whitewash II was out pretending to refute it when he had no proper way of having a copy. He got enormous attention for lies and they had possession of the camera to claim that writing was false. Not until the next book, where I reproduce the actual documents in facsimile, could I even set the record straight but the damage from these lies

could not be undone and never really was. It isn't possible and that is the kind of situation I fear.

That threat doesn't even make an exception of the FBI or the Secret Service or a grand jury and that also is not normal.

Sure as hell the doctors didn't require any such kind of notice. Or those dealing with the film.

Before I can mail this in the morning I'll try to think of something else that might be more pointed. I'm so tired I've having trouble remembering. I do not believe any other purpose could reasonably be served by that threat or by the gross violation of regulations in getting rid of every single paper when they are required by regulations to be kept by the Navy for 50 years. You have the receipt saying they haven't kept any records. But do you think they had no records of this one sheet, those who got and probably signed it?

I take this time when I get farther and farther behind schedule only because I am worried that this thing will blow up the way these people have done these things before and we'll both be hurt badly by what it will ruin for us.

I've got ten of the hardest years in this work. It is close to ready to go to the printer. I sure don't want it blown.

And I have a very long experience of having not a peep from any official after publication. Then they can't.

I've just gone through a siege of proving perjury in court against them. They have laid no charges on me and they have yet to make even pro forma denial. Their closest contact with an answer is to say I know more than anyone in the FBI. So there really is a solid basis, this stuff has always stacked. You've seen an enormous documentation. I would like to think that especially where there is no danger of suit it would be enough to avoid unnecessary risks to your people and me.

However, if you have other questions, please ask.

Sincerely,