

9/12/71

Dear Jim,

If I haven't answered your 8/2, I'm sorry. I've been pretty busy.

AO-No outline. You've seen what I've written. Plan to take rest chron order, prob. new recounting WC "investigation" last.

Would be interested in promised ref to LHO's ~~offer~~ offer of service to Navy. There is no separate aff denying service in any mil. intel outfit, only DOD. Checked years ago.

Good point on refs to his various stories of how he learned Russian. But I won't have time, too much to get onto paper.

He did have small N.O. bank account (I've forgotten my source), and he did have about \$220 in bank when he left Marines (In WW).

Proutylegit. Met twice, both time Bud's. While he is willing to serve on Bud's board I'll have no contact and I will have doubts about his judgement. No doubt authenticity. He is writing book.

Castorrs' interviews on untranscribed tapes or no notes, no tapes, when it was social. Ask what you'd like and I'll answer. I think I recall most pretty well. I never spoke to either Connell or Rogers, although latter agreed to interview (she was then going away 6 mos).

I've just written re Ramous bar. They both told me story (i.e., Castorrs) farout wife baseball player whose names could be spelled or misspelled this way. She had wild tale of being offered \$50,000 for what she knew ass., Trudi C took her to Butler, who never said any more of it, but B's wife got a little jealous. When I was in Dallas 11/68 Butler had been transferred to charge jail.

I also interviewed Machann, on untranscribed tape, if that is relevant.

Prouty again: I think he has good general knowledge but not specific on case.

If you have your copies of the CDs filed in a way that makes it possible, one thing I could use and I think, in time, PH also could, is a list of persons said to have seen LHO by CD.

Did you ever do anything with secret Ferrie stuff I sent, those CAP names, etc?

And the special report, which included license numbers, names, etc. If you did, I never heard.

I've had much company and I felt I had to return to PM, the last part of which I've now drafted. As I've probably said in carbons sent you, I now have to contract what I had done, and quiet some down. But I'm also deep into many other things, some important and not for corres. now. You'll see in time.

Sorry your letter got in the unanswered stack, but what didn't have to be handled right away I had to let wait. I'm not attacking it because I haven't enough uninterrupted time for editing. Apologies.

Best,

August 2, 1971

Harold Weisberg
Rte. 8
Brederrick, Md. 21701

Dear Harold,

Sorry not to have written sooner. I very much appreciate the way you (and Paul) have been keeping me apprised of developments, with carbons of your letters, and sending on carbons of CD's obtained from Archives. I hope you will continue to do this when time permits.

I feel bad about not participating more, nowadays. Sure I'm busy, more than in a long time, but so is everyone else. I've got to get more disciplined in my use of "free" time.

I intend to return the two draft chapters of Agent Oswald tomorrow (8/3). Harold, your style gives me fits, like hacking thru virgin jungle. Employing Paul's suggestions would possibly give a draft that could be worked with. Necessary as the work as it stands is impenetrable.

Can you list the potential chapters for A/O? Presume you are going to cover his entire (brief) career. Have you considered his employment by someone other than CIA and FBI. One little point that must be analyzed is Oswald's offer of his services to the Navy, based on his experience since discharge (will get you the reference if you don't have it).

Oswald's learning of Russian is a mystery (still). He preferred to keep it that way (what was he hiding?). He told various stories. All the references should be gotten together on this and sifted for the truth. Oswald's money. I doubt he carried \$1500 on his person. He did have a bank account early in his working career (1955?) (Have ref. somewhere). But was it gone over by Feebees? I have never been able to put together a coherent picture in my mind of all LHO's activities. This suggests to me something is being held back, considering all the information we have on the boy.

I hope very soon to be able to deal with most of the points you and Paul are discussing.

Am sending clip from 7/3/71 Oregon Journal, Saturday, re comments on BBC by one Lt. Col. Fletcher Prouty, now a banker in Wash. D.C. but with extensive intelligence background. This may be quite important, the man may also be willing to talk to the right person (HW?). Harold if you have any notes of your dealings with Castor that could be conveniently copied would appreciate same. Ditto Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Rogers.

Again heartfelt thanks for keeping me up to date. I assure you I have not and will not lose interest in this subject until it is pursued to a conclusion.

c/e PH

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Sincerely,

Jim Schmitt