

Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701 8/3/73

Dear Mr. Scott,

I am sorry that the amount of time you had and the way in which you arranged it did not give us more time together when you were east. I think it could have been helpful to both of us and to our common interests.

I presume you will not be east again soon and I know any travel is impossible for me at this point and for the immediate future in the extremely remote contingency appearances were to be asked of me.

You will remember that when you said Tad Szulc offered you access to the Hunt galleys I asked that you go over the Bay of Pigs parts with greater care and that if you felt you could do so with responsibility, you give me your personal appraisal of Szulc. You appear not to have had time to get in touch again. Jim Lesar has mentioned briefly some of what you found in the galleys. I will be seeing him again day after tomorrow. He may then be able to tell me more. I will also give him this letter to forward to you. My interests in what I asked of you are more than undiminished. They are heightened by location of other relevant materials in my files and library. If you could find time to tell me what you learned, in writing or by tape, I would still appreciate it.

In time I think you will learn that you wasted a fair amount of your time in the east. Given what I have seen of your work, I'd say this is regrettable for all of us. I say this without knowledge of what you learned but because of those I know you spent time with. The problem is not unique with you. The assassination field crawls with seemingly responsible nuts who in other aspects of their lives are decent, respectable people. They have, however, done more to impede acceptance of truth, to destroy all credibility, and to close doors partly or fully opened than overt enemies. And the most exotic have the attractiveness to the show and irresponsible elements of the media that is disastrous. As Jim can tell you, despite the fatigue of the years and bitter experiences, I always find time, at the cost of my own work, to try to help others who seem responsible. I distinguish between responsibility and seriousness. The least responsible are often the most serious. Truly dedicated.

There are few theories that I have not explored. Until recently I averaged a working day of close to 20 hours. Rarely do I sleep six now. I have tried to cram so much into my head it no longer retains as it should. And I have accumulated so much, some peripheral, that I actively seek to share some when I feel confident it will not be counterproductive. If Jim did not tell you, I turned over to him more than enough for a book The Informers and about enough for a book on CIA foundations. We will work on these jointly. I have done the same with others, on other topics. There is a prospect that one of these writers will get an advance of \$20,000 for one book. This is to say also that I am into more than a man of 60 who has been impoverished by the work can hope to use himself. However, I can no longer devote the extremes of time I have to helping others or to being their devil's advocate. There are cases where I have invested more time than the drafting of a book would have required. This is another way of saying that the time you might have used would have been available to you. If I understand some of your interests, my Cuban files and tapes and perhaps pictures might have been of use to you. It is for these things that I understood you were coming here, but we never got to them.

You may not have understood some of the things I was driving at. I think you were a bit shocked, at least displeased, that I considered some of your research not likely to be relevant to the JFK assassination. This is not because I have not done exactly that kind of work, for I have, long before you could have been aware of these kinds of things. I was tracing corporate and other interlocks in the mid-30s to show the control of U.S. industry, for example. That I have not done this with the JFK assassination is not because I believe this kind of inquiry is per se worthless but because I consider it not essential in this case and probably irrelevant. I have, in the past, done similar investigations with law firms. I can recall some on the Dulles firm, one then known as Cravath, deGersdorff, Swaine & Wood (from which I knew Bruce Bromley, counsel to Clark's panel), and if they are not parts of files I deposited elsewhere so there could be universal access to them,

Probably have them under file cabinets or boxes I haven't looked at since before

my military service in World War II. My sets of the Munitions, TNEC and Senate Civil Liberties hearings, for example, are in the United Lines Workers library in Washington with the understanding that there may be no restriction on access.

When you were in Dallas, for example, I think you might have spent your time better in other ways. I know something about the people you saw. But I also know that one of them who was to have plumbed two previously-secret archives I opened had never done it. I have gone through one, skimming, and know it could be productive. The other almost certainly would. Whether both or either would still be available to anyone I'd introduce after not using them for two years may be a question, but the effort would have been worthwhile.

Your problem is that of anyone new to the assassination field. You are not in a position to assess those in it and you lack the factual knowledge that can be acquired with the enormous expenditure of time only.

So, I am sorry that we were unable to spend more time together. There are many aspects of the investigation that still need investigation, some that I've strated, others that I've not been able to touch. It will be a pleasant surprise to me if those you mentioned turn out to be relevant and productive. I'd really like to be wrong particularly because it is the kind of work on which I spent so much time in the past on other subjects.

One thing you mentioned that I did not pursue later seemed to me to be relevant to some of my files that I'd forgotten. It is Nixon's legal connections with revanchist Cubans. I think you said CDM. If this is the case, it could be more relevant than were it most of the other groups. I'd appreciate whatever you might be able to supply on this. (I think I told you that ^{he} housed and helped some of the ^{day} of Pigs vets when they were returned to Miami. This includes a man who was my friend.) Nixon had other such connections, so anything you have on any of his connections of this character could be very helpful. There were some 40 Batista millionaires in Miami, so there was a generous supply of possible clients.

If you know anyone who can trace the names of the Cubans who have been identified in connection with The Watergate (which means more than those charged) at the Stanford archive on Hispano-American things, it just might yield some information that could have current value. Were this to be possible and were the amount of xeroxing not to be too extensive, it is possible that there are some of us who might see in the seemingly innocuous what might be other than harmless. If by now this archive includes Cuban help in the 1968 campaign, that also might lead to something. I do have a small file on this and some of the people in it. One group was called Cuban-Americans for Nixon Agnew.

I have been writing this after finishing some work and prior to mail time. There are probably other things that came to mind after you left, but they haven't come back.

Godd luck!

Harold Weisberg