

8/2/77

Dear Bud,

Thanks for your correspondence with Tassoek.

Thanks also if your people do not refer any more nuts like Charles Stone of Fort Worth to me. Years ago perhaps it would have been a joke but in my present condition I do not regard it as funny. I had to wade through so much before it was apparent that he is a nut. I did not throw the letter away because he began by saying you referred him to me. Then I wind up having to write a polite no thanks.

You may have forgotten but I held a different view of Clay Shaw than most others. I did no investigation of him per se, ever.

What Tassoek writes is exactly what I remember Garrison talking about, and making something out of.

Without some reason to connect Shaw with the crime and absent more than the tardiness in getting to Portland I'm back where I was years ago wondering not only what it means but whether it could mean anything.

All sorts of thing went out of schedule once JFK was killed, whether or not Shaw missed the LA train. (I think Garrison had him in San Francisco rather than LA.)

I also think this entire line is for losers now if there every was anything to it.

You did yourself no good with Tannenbaum by sending him a copy that says there is a copy to me. Those people hate me.

And as by now you <sup>h</sup>ould have been able to see, are totally unwilling to be serious - assuming they can be.

If I seek nothing about them, not having the time, much reaches me that says they are still nuts, still irresponsible.

It has long been my belief that even if they should by some magic straighten out and do anything of worth it would still lack any credibility - now would not be accepted by anyone.

I'm sorry it is this way.

That it turned out this way.

That there was nothing I could do about it/

That I think nothing now can be done to save them - and what they represent.

And that in the end not making their insanities public as they go may build into an even greater disaster.

Too bad,

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE  
ASSASSINATIONS  
2101 L STREET, N.W.  
SUITE 208  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20037  
(202) 785-0763

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 1, 1977

Mr William E. Tassock  
421 S.W. Fifth Avenue  
Suite 606  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Mr. Tassock:

Thank you so much for your letter and your interest.

We are taking the liberty of providing a copy of it to the Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as filing it away in our own closet. Hopefully, the staff of the House Committee will contact Mr. Nolan.

Again, thanks.

Best wishes,

*BF*  
Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

cc: Robert Tannenbaum  
Mary Ferrell  
Harold Weisberg

WILLIAM E. TASSOCK  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
421 S.W. FIFTH AVENUE  
SUITE 606  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204  
503 224-7202

July 19, 1977

Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.  
c/o Committee to Investigate Assassinations, Inc.  
2101 L Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20037

Dear Mr. Fensterwald:

First, let me congratulate and commend you for your perseverance. The resignation of Richard Nixon (apparently due in part, at least, to your efforts) must be particularly rewarding in view of the implications developed in your book, Coincidence or Conspiracy.

I think the congressional investigators should talk to a reporter for the Portland Oregonian, 1320 S. W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97201, by the name of Don Holm. Mr. Holm interviewed Clay Shaw upon his arrival in Portland on or about November 25, 1963 (Shaw was to have been here on November 22, 1963, in connection with an international trade center program), and was struck by the vague excuse given by Shaw for his tardiness. As I recall, it had something to do with missing a train connection in Los Angeles.

Thereafter, when Garrison was prosecuting Shaw and it appeared in the news media nationally, Holm wrote the second piece recalling the fact that Shaw was scheduled to be in Portland on the day of the assassination, but arrived several days late. At that time, I went through all the back issues of the Oregonian and found copies of both stories and forwarded them to Mr. Garrison. Considerable time went by with no response, and I telephoned Vincent Silandria in Philadelphia, who apparently made contact with Garrison because Mr. Holm received telephone calls several days later at the Oregonian, however, he was not in and Garrison simply left a message. The switchboard operator at the Oregonian immediately received a call wherein the caller simply asked what was the nature of the business at that number and inquired

Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.  
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about the activities of Don Holm. The operator told Mr. Holm of this occurrence, and he, I am told, decided not to get involved inasmuch as it was evident that Garrison's phone was being tapped.

I do not have first-hand knowledge of the telephone call sequence, as this comes to me from a friend who works at the newspaper who has shared my conviction that the Warren Report was inconclusive.

It is my recollection that the travel agency issuing the train ticket to Clay Shaw was subsequently burned and it was impossible to verify, from their records, the issuance of the ticket as claimed by Shaw.

If I can be of any help to you in your efforts, let me know.

Respectfully,

  
William E. Tassock

WET/ss