

11/25/72

Dear Lou,

Thanks for sending me Jim's newest press release and explanation of how the JFK assassination was committed.

I would have appreciated it more if you had sent what I'd asked for and what you had promised to send. I find it ~~im~~ difficult to tell myself that it is wrong and bad for the Justice Department not to let me have official court records and right and good for your office to do the same thing.

There is a difference. In your case, after you promised these public records and did not supply them, I twice sent someone to do the work of copying them. You told the first one that you'd do it and would call me. You and Jim were and remained unavailable to the second one.

Other differences could be alleged. The Justice Department had no reason to suspect I might help it after getting what I asked for (ultimately sued for and got with a summary judgement -they are not invincible).

The release notes but one of two anniversaries, that of the assassination. It also marks a second, that of "the only honest official inquiry". Sixth anniversary. Of what could have been, not of what was.

And in more than one case.

There is a feeling of pathos after reading the release. It will recur as from time to time I realize, as things remind me, that this is not the inscription on a tombstone. There are two more cases. They also may be lost. I now expect both to be. I know that in one I can help and I am reasonably confident that in the second it is possible. But I now also know that help is not wanted and that, with the accumulating weight of the years, made heavier by the burdens needlessly added by friends, not enemies, were it to be, it becomes less possible.

As there are many people in New Orleans your offices knows and I don't, some of whom I'd like to know, there are some who have spoken to me and who had not been spoken to by any of you - at all or about those things of which they and I did speak. There are some determined people down there. Not Jim's friends and not the friends of those who have been the friends of his friends or will be if they have been.

Jim will be their sacrificial goat, unless there is a change I do not have reason to anticipate. This week is another anniversary: of the time one of them told me this.

The Greeks gave us a special word for all of this, tragedy. It comes, appropriately enough, from the song of those who in ancient days herded goats.

I would still welcome what I do not expect, those court transcripts. Now, however, I would have to lay them aside, for others things require the immediate time.

I wish I could write you in a less morose vein. This word also has an appropriate origin, in the Latin having to do with a way of life (and it means gloomy in the sense in which I use it). I will be happy to be wrong.

Go has often spoken of wanting to see snow. Please tell him we've had it twice thus far this season. Both times with The Glorious Leader on the other side of the mountain, at Camp David.

Best regards,

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State of Louisiana  
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PRESS RELEASE

REPLY TO THE FEDERAL SUPREME COURT DECISION OF NOVEMBER 20 PREVENTING  
THE PROSECUTION OF CLAY L. SHAW FOR PERJURY:

Almost 9 years ago to the day, the United States government began an historic experiment in deception of the people. The above described decision of the Federal Supreme Court -- bringing to an end the only honest official inquiry concerning the assassination of President John Kennedy -- completes the government's circle of deception.

Up to this time, I have refrained from stating publicly exactly how, why and by whom President Kennedy was assassinated. I did this because my office for years has had in an active status at least one open case related to the assassination -- although from the outset, up to the very present, we have suffered from continual interference and obstruction from the Federal government. It was particularly difficult to refrain from publicly describing the exact nature and meaning of the assassination because the national press -- aware only of what had been disseminated to it by the government and possessing no independent understanding whatsoever of the circumstances and meaning of the President's murder -- added greatly to the public's confusion concerning the assassination in Dallas and the related prior events in New Orleans. The Federal government, in order to continue to conceal its involvement in the President's murder, encouraged and contributed generously to the befuddlement of the national news media.

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However, now that the government has succeeded in crushing the last open case in my office related to the assassination, there no longer is any reason for me to refrain from publicly stating precisely how President Kennedy was assassinated -- and why and by whom he was assassinated.

On November 22, 1963, the President of the United States was murdered in a professionally executed guerilla ambush at Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas. He was killed by riflemen located on the grassy knoll in front of the limousine and in two buildings located behind the limousine. The first shot, fired by riflemen in the front, went through the knot of his tie and entered his neck. The following two shots, fired by two riflemen at the rear, struck President Kennedy and Governor Connolly each in the back. The fourth shot -- fired once more from the grassy knoll in front of the limousine -- fatally wounded the President in the head. The Cause of Death Certificate, made out by a civilian doctor at Parkland Hospital, is still recorded in Dallas and certifies that the President died from a gunshot wound of the temple -- which customarily is located in the front of the head.

However, the Federal government of the United States -- elements of which were actively involved in the ambush and murder of the President -- had its cover story in operation, even as the President lay dying in Parkland Hospital. A "scapegoat" named Lee Harvey Oswald had been planted in the Texas School Book Depository -- and he became the instrument by which the government drew the eyes of the world away from its professional assassins.

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Oswald had been conditioned and carefully nurtured, during the Summer of 1963 in New Orleans, to appear to be a pro-Castro Communist. In actuality, Lee Harvey Oswald was a low-level intelligence employee of the United States government. The government itself had taught him Russian, as testimony before the Warren Commission inadvertently revealed, while he was serving in the Marines at Atsugi in Japan and at Toro Marine Base in California.

The entire operation -- from the prior setting-up of the scapegoat in Louisiana to the ultimate assassination in Texas -- was carried out by the domestic espionage apparatus of the United States government. Most Americans are unaware that their taxes pay for a tremendous domestic espionage operation just as they are unaware that intelligence agencies of their government have been in the business of assassination -- both foreign and domestic -- for a number of years.

Inasmuch as the domestic intelligence apparatus accomplishing the operation was invisible to American eyes, all that ever became perceptible to surface observation was the sudden explosion of shots during the parade in Dallas. Almost immediately, attention was directed to the pre-selected scapegoat -- while the riflemen made their departure -- and around this hapless decoy, a young man who was utterly irrelevant to the President's murder, the fiction of the "lone assassin" was built up by the government and sent out to the world. Within several days, before he could reveal the small part of the monstrosity known to him, Oswald himself was murdered.

Oswald's murder also was effected by a member of the government's espionage apparatus. It accomplished the desired effect of making it appear that the whole affair was ended, that justice had come full circle and that there was no need to search any farther. In actuality, the need to search farther

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had just begun, but the duplicity of the government and the apathy of most of the national news media effectively obscured this fact from the American citizens -- and, indeed from the entire world.

It should be noted that the use of a "scapegoat" virtually is a standard procedure in assassinations conducted by government intelligence operatives within the continental limits of the United States. The resulting distraction of attention away from the actual killers accomplishes the objective of concealing the motivation for the murders and of concealing the involvement of the Federal government. Consequently, such decoys have been used to good effect in assassinations accomplished subsequent to that of President Kennedy. In every instance, the attention of most of our national media has fixed upon the decoy and gone no farther. Any individual who happened to perceive that much more was afoot could expect to be described as "conspiracy minded" by an apathetic national press and, furthermore, could expect to become the objective of a highly effective discreditation operation by such powerful agencies of the Federal government as the "Justice" Department.

Because the American people have not been permitted to learn of the existence of a complex and highly organized domestic espionage operation within this country, it has been impossible for them to conceive of innocuous individuals -- wearing neither black capes nor villain's mustaches -- as being effective participants in an assassination conspiracy. Actually, a career employee of the government's domestic intelligence is quite likely to be an individual with no surface signs of government connection, engaged in a "cover" civilian occupation and

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quite well regarded in his community as a harmless and very pleasant individual. Similarly -- to persons unaware of the hydrogen bombs stored in earth bunkers at Carswell Air Force Base, near Dallas -- it is difficult to conceive of a "night club operator" as being a professional operative for government intelligence. In fact, however, control of night clubs near Strategic Air Command bases, such as the nuclear air base near Dallas, is standard operating procedure for the domestic espionage operation -- just as protection of the security of such bases is one of its constant concerns.

The major machinery used to deceive the American people and to make one of the most significant political assassinations in history appear "meaningless" was the Warren Commission. Inasmuch as President Kennedy's murder -- or "termination", to use the phraseology of American intelligence -- was the product of the top level military and intelligence sector of the government, President Lyndon Johnson selected a Commission dominated by men with long-standing allegiance to the high brass of the Pentagon and to the stratospheric echelons of the U.S. intelligence and espionage machinery.

Here are a few examples of the make-up of the Warren Commission: Allan Dulles was the former Chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, and had been fired by President Kennedy. Senator Richard Russell was the long-time Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. John J. McCloy was a former Assistant Secretary of War and was the former High Commissioner for the Allied Forces during the occupation of Germany. These are but a few examples, but they suffice to show that the Warren Commission was set up at the outset to protect the government's powerful Pentagon-C.I.A. complex.

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And now here is why this powerful complex -- which has become virtually the central core of the United States government -- had to be protected by a carefully selected Commission of men, pre-disposed by their backgrounds to be more concerned with preserving the interests of the government complex than with seeking and communicating the truth to the people at large.

President Kennedy's murder was instigated by the powerful military chieftains of the Pentagon -- with the notable exception of the Marine Commandant, General David Shoup, who remained loyal to him -- in concert with dominant elements of the Central Intelligence Agency. By 1963, the thrust of the Pentagon and the C.I.A. toward deep involvement in the Viet Nam War had become irresistible. Nevertheless, by 1963 President Kennedy had begun to resist this thrust -- and had changed his earlier decisions, recommended to him by the military, permitting the U.S. to have limited involvement in Viet Nam. In early June of 1963 -- having begun to encounter increasing resistance from his own military leaders -- he required Secretary of Defense MacNamara and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Maxwell Taylor to announce from the White House steps that all American forces were going to be withdrawn from Viet Nam by 1965.

President Kennedy had become convinced by the advice of Senator Mike Mansfield and -- most particularly -- by warnings to him by retired General of the Armies Douglas MacArthur against allowing American troops to become involved in a land war in Asia. By the Summer of 1963, he had made his final decision against involvement in Asia -- and ordered total withdrawal of all U.S. forces from South East Asia. This decision was his undoing because the thrust of the American warfare machine toward

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involvement in South East Asia now had too much momentum to be reversed. Nevertheless, one of President Kennedy's last orders to the military was to have the first 1,000 troops returned from Viet Nam by December, 1963.

Within 72 hours after his death, the new President -- Lyndon Johnson -- completely reversed President Kennedy's new foreign policy with regard to South East Asia. Immediately after the eulogy for President Kennedy was conducted at the Rotunda of the nation's Capitol, Johnson met with the U.S. Ambassador to Viet Nam, Henry Cabot Lodge, and instructed him to return to Viet Nam and inform the Saigon government that we now were going to give South Viet Nam strong military support. Within months after President Kennedy's death, the secret build-up in Viet Nam -- of what was to become more than half a million American troops -- was underway.

The rest is history: the 55,000 American dead, the 300,000 Americans wounded -- and the continuing guile and deception by the federal government concerning the real reasons for John Kennedy's assassination and the real reasons for our capricious and unnecessary plunge into disaster in Viet Nam. Nor can we forget the many American prisoners of war who are still suffering in Viet Nam as hostages to the catastrophic adventure -- which began with the assassination of a President of the United States by his own government.

When it became apparent to me that there was more to the President's assassination than had been revealed to the public -- and that some of the preliminary activities had taken place in New Orleans, within the jurisdiction of my office -- I decided to act, not in the interest of



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publicity but because it was clearly my duty as District Attorney elected by the people of my city. In fact, rather than publicize our inquiry into the assassination I sought to keep it secret until the news media stumbled across it and spread it to the four winds.

After the Federal government's deep involvement in the President's murder became apparent -- and this developed at an early stage in our inquiry -- it was quite clear to me that I had nothing to gain and everything to lose by continuing to press ahead. Nevertheless, no other elected official in the country was attempting to bring out the truth about one of the most critical and far-reaching events ever to occur in America -- and, meanwhile, the Federal government actively was working to conceal the truth -- so I concluded that I had no other alternative but to push ahead regardless of the predictable obstacles and regardless of the predictable misunderstandings. I adopted as my guideline an ancient but rarely followed legal maxim: "Let justice be done, though the heavens fall".

Since then, the heavens indeed have fallen and obstacles and misunderstandings indeed have occurred beyond accounting. I will not attempt here to delineate the viciousness of the many counter-efforts of the Federal government -- fighting to preserve its now artificial facade as a government of the people. Nor will I attempt to describe the varied smears which I have had to read about myself in some sectors of the American press. Suffice it to say, that if I had to do it over again -- I once again would conduct our entire inquiry as deeply and aggressively

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as I did. To do any less would be to fail to do my duty as District Attorney of New Orleans.

The Federal judiciary, not too surprisingly, took the position -- in ending the investigation conducted by my office into the assassination -- that our inquiry had been conducted in "bad faith". Inasmuch as the Warren Commission concocted one of history's greatest lies in order to fool the people and inasmuch as the Justice Department and the Federal judiciary have actively worked to obstruct and block the only honest official investigation into the assassination -- I think it is all too clear where the "bad faith" really lies.

On November 22, 1963, agents of the United States government launched their deadly ambush against the President of the United States. The afore-described Supreme Court decision of November 20, 1972 -- almost exactly nine years later -- puts the final nail in John Kennedy's coffin.

JIM GARRISON

November 21, 1972