

3/12/70

Mr. Edmund C. Berkeley  
215 Washington St.,  
Newtonville, Mass. 02160

Dear Mr. Berkeley,

How many roads must be paved to hell before too many good people learn we need no more?

Your May article by Dick Sprague was terrible, irresponsible, and has done much damage it will take long to overcome. Your "Report No. 2" is very hurtful in other ways, but you lack the knowledge to understand it. If I do not think you intend these things, I am also completely without doubt about them. Nor do I think that Dick is other than a fine guy, with the best of intentions. In fact, in the area where he has done well, I have just directed technical assistance to him.

How many responsible media editors can read the allegation that there are "about six confessions" to involvement in their assassination without being turned off all over again? "About". Does Dick have them and lack his arithmetical capacity to count them? Every responsible editor seeing this makes a note to block further publication of anything about the assassinations. There is no problem getting irresponsible, inaccurate writing published. The media have an unerring sense of how to destroy our credibility, and such monstrous pieces as this accomplish it well.

In your second you use material you have no right to use, without having the faintest idea how much work lies behind it and what your sensationalism ended, and such things are hurtful beyond measure. It is a simple matter to raid the files of others. You have something that pretty clearly comes from Bud, who told me today he agrees but doesn't remember giving it to anyone, for he knew he shouldn't. Thus you can pick up a few scraps, play big man, and kill any chance of succeeding with ongoing assassination inquiry. What is accomplished by this, other than the gratification of a few egos?

The history of the gilted documents is entirely other than you represent them. I'd appreciate an full explanation of what lies behind your generality. They were not just "noticed by one of the researchers in the Archives", were not unknown, are by no means the entire story, and are part of a completed book which does deal with them in an effective way, in a proper context, giving them the meaning lost upon you, and now the edge is taken from that.

Neither you nor Dick has the knowledge required for what you are hastily attempt. Because you are not bad people, at some point you are going to wind up either without conscience or setting you selves. I have yet to hear a single word of other than condemnation from a single person working in the field, whether or not a real "expert".

Too bad,