

Dear Nancy,

6/1/78

Your reference to Jacob Cohen brought back memories of one of my least inhibited very long moments, an eight-hour night in which I ruined him. He then preferred being known as Jerry. Ix called him Jake the Fake. Most of it wound up on the cutting-room floor in what I presume was TV's most difficult editing job ever. It was for the 1966 WNEW-TV show Minority Report.

The night before the taping we'd all met in the producers office to work out ground rules and to decide on a series of topics we'd agree to go into. Here was this self-important college professor very much aware of his superior intellect and learning and actually expecting to be recognized as der fuehrer and His Pontificator. After a bit of it I told him you try and pull this tomorrow night and I'll spread your guts on all those many megacycles. He tut-tutted but the producer, who'd seen me do just exactly that to four erudite NYC lawyers he once tried to booby-trap me with warned Cohen to expect it. At first I was merely point, then severe. Finally I wound up with overt insults. I'd call him a knowing liar, things like that, with the cameras grinding away. Each time they'd stop to reload the producer or director would ask me to stop calling Jerry a liar. I'd say got him to stop lying on camera. Of course they cut all of this out, but all his lies had to go with it.

That book has been coming out for a decade or more. There have been occasional articles guised as chapters, if I recall correctly. The new title seems to provide an excuse for the delay by including "new" material. If there is anything from the House assassins and it is of worth I'll be surprised.

Cohen's political views I do not know. Often I've believed that the learned liberals of the eastern intellectual community were conned by Johnson's willness in putting Warren in the point. Maybe Cohen, too.

The clips were usefil, thanks. I did not meet Summers when that crew was here. We spent a night with the rest of them. I wish that some of his filming were more dependable. I'd be particularly interested in hearing all they have of Gaudet, for reasons other than those that took them to Waveland. I had a Gaudet chapter in Sax Comp d'Etat, from which Frame-Up was abstracted.

If you can provide your sources on what you say of the financial matters relating to the Epstein book that could be helpful. I've heard rumors but nothing authenticated. If the paperback rights are going begging it is not because the book is "complicated."

We did enjoy both tapes even though our taste runs more to the earlier jazz, mine in particular. Thanks much for them. Most of our listening when the radio provides nothing of interest now is jazz because the radio fare is mostly classical and the jazz is not what is the real jazz to me. By the way, I may have made a discovery that can save money on cassettes. Your Echosound brand is, except for the label, identical with an unbranded cassette that is branded by the case. In the newer form what I've been given (in 90s, not 60s) in replacement of what I gave Univ Wisc is called "Heritage-Educator Premium." Made in USA by or for International Audio, Inc., Educational Products Div. 2934 Malmo Drive, Arlington Heights, Ill. 60005. Low noise, high output, extended range, etc. I noticed that without the label, which was unglued on your of your cassettes, they are exactly identical. Possibly they'd offer a quantity price by say the 100s.

Affidavits that in volume are book length over the past month have taken all our time. Last if the series to be finished today so please excuse the typose as I return to it. CIA has just released about 500 King pages to me. In the mail. Hope your thesis and your lives are going well. By the way, if you want the Hoover records released to Halperin- and they are not by any means limited to King - let me know. Last I got from them was 10¢ a page. I'll be having a largely gibberish inventory soon if you want it.

Again thanks and out best to you both,

26 May 1978

Dear Harold:

I am enclosing a bunch of clippings for you that have been sitting on my desk for a while. The article titled "The Kennedy Cover-up" by Anthony Summers appeared in the English magazine

\*The Listener in conjunction with a BBC1 report by Michael Cockerill.

As far as I know, the BBC1 show has never been shown in the U.S.

The article by Alan Berger on Malcolm X I thought you might find interesting.

I haven't come across too many reviews of Epstein's book Legend. Possibly the best one appeared in the New York Times, and that one wasn't really all that great. I'll send you a copy if you don't already have one. Certainly the worst review was in the New York Review of Books which was so bad that I think I threw it away.

Speaking of book reviews, etc. do you know of a Brandeis professor named Jacob Cohen. Apparently, he has just written a book called

Conspiracy Fever: the final word on the JFK, RFK, MLK Assassinations - judging by the publisher's advance propaganda, its very pro-Warren commission.

If things work out, I'll be reviewing the book for the Boston Globe.

I'll find out about the reviewing job in about a week or so. The book is supposed to contain all sorts of new evidence uncovered by the current House investigation. It sounds interesting, if nothing more.

Getting back to Epstein's book, I thought you might be interested in knowing that its not making as much money as apparently anticipated.

Epstein got \$130,000 from Book of the Month club, and expected to do much better on paperback rights - but on the day of the rights bidding, the telephones were silent. From what I gather, his agent's opening floor bid was just too high for any takers, especially with a book which the paperback publishers consider "too complicated" to interest the average reader. Eventually, the book will be out in paperback as

too much money was initially invested in it, and they can't afford not to have it in paper - but they just won't get the envisioned bags of loot accompanying the deal. I thought you might get some satisfaction in that little bit of gossip - I did.

On to a more pleasant subject - the jazz tapes. One tape is of two big band sessions, recorded in the mid-1950's, by veterans of the Fletcher Henderson band. Rex Stewart, who left the Henderson band in the 1930's to go on to the Ellington Band, does the arranging on this tape. All the big guns of big band, who mostly unemployed at the time these recordings were made (mid-1950's), are present: Rex Stewart on trumpet, Coleman Hawkins on tenor sax, Ben Webster on tenor sax, Hank Jones on piano, Milt Hinton, bass, etc. The second tape consists of recordings made by Coleman Hawkins in the mid-1940's for the defunct Commodore label. These Coleman Hawkins' sessions are among my favorite. I hope you enjoy both tapes. Regards to Lil

sincerely

Nancy