

Route 8, Frederick, Md. 21701 12/73

Dear Mr. Tatro,

The obvious sincerity of your letter and the great tragedy of concerned people falling under their influence of nuts (not all, like Dick Sprague, well intended) impels as much of an answer as I can make in the time before my wife calls me to lunch. If the resumption of the Watergate hearings comes before I finish, I'll lay it aside until I have a few spare minutes.

Please understand I intend neither impoliteness nor brusqueness. It is, rather, that if it had not been for all the insanity to which I've had to address myself, sometimes to prevent or frustrate it, I'd not be as broke and would have had the time for several more books, already researched. Personally, Sprague is a fine guy. Nothing he presents as fact can be so accepted. "Frenchy", for example, is an invention. There is no Frenchy. Whether he or Garrison or some other paranoid invented the name, I don't know. I have finally traced the sketch to its source and I have no time for telling you about it. It would mean nothing to you anyway. It is part of the dept. of disinformation, which can anticipate the Spragues and their misuses.

Also, please understand that the time I take for correspondence with those of decent concern is taken from work that might in its day do some good. When I am without income, deep in debt and overloaded with what should be done, I just can't spare this time. This is also apology for the uncorrected typos.

Trapnell is a genuinely insane genius. He has since been convicted. The Dallas papers states as fact what are really allegations that are without support. T. was and is incurably criminally insane.

Hemming is an advertising psychopathic liar. I know and have interviewed him.

I'd like to see the Councillor picture. They cut my subscription off without refunding what they owed me. I'm suspicious. I never went for Garrison's invention. Of the considerable time I spent working in N.O., none was on Shaw.

Your questions: you have all my available books. I feel Oswald was in the TSBd doorway. Infrequently, Sprague wears blinders. Always at the wrong time. Can't take time to explain. Lovelady may also have been there. That was not Lovelady's shirt.

Manilla book: never heard of it.

Garrison and JCS: wait till the moon changes. It will then be the ghost of both Bullezes.

Seymour pie: ask Sprague.

Thanks for your kind words. Each should do what he can. If you teach, each kid you help grow up straight, thinking independently and clearly, will be a tribute and more than justification for your time.

Sincerely,

7/28/73

I

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

LET ME BRIEFLY INTRODUCE MYSELF. I HAVE READ THE WARREN REPORT AND THE 26 VOLUMES AS WELL AS MOST OF THE CRITICS' BOOKS INCLUDING YOUR OWN WHITEWASH, WHITEWASH II, PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH, OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS AND FRAME-UP. I HAVE BEEN TO DALLAS AND I WAS PRESENT AT THE CLAY SHAW TRIAL FOR A WEEK IN 1969. I HAVE BEEN IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH RICHARD SPRAGUE FOR ALMOST A YEAR AND I AM A HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER. I TEACH 4 DIFFERENT ELECTIVES, ONE OF WHICH IS CALLED PROPAGANDA, USING THE ASSASSINATION OF JFK AS A CASE STUDY. (THIS INCLUDES THE MLK - RFK - WATERGATE RAMNIFICATIONS).

COULD YOU REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

No

— PLEASE INFORM ME OF ANY OTHER BOOKS WRITTEN BY YOU WHICH ARE AVAILABLE.

Yes

— DO YOU STILL FEEL THAT OSWALD IS PROBABLY IN THE T.S.B.D. DOORWAY NOW THAT MR. SPRAGUE SAYS THAT LOVELADY IS DEFINITELY THE ONE THERE? I ASSUME SPRAGUE USED THE DCA FILM TO PROVE THIS.

7/28/73

II

Mo

— I WAS SHOWN A BOOK WITH A MANILLA COVER WHICH HAD PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ASSASSINATION IN IT AND INFORMATION ABOUT THEM. TWO PHOTOS WERE, I BELIEVE, WILLIS #8 SLIDES, ONE WITH THE MAN APPEARING LIKE JACK RUBY IN THE BACKGROUND, THE OTHER WITH THE MAN MISSING. I THOUGHT THE BOOK WAS YOURS. DO YOU KNOW WHAT BOOK THIS IS?

Please

— I HAVE TWO PHOTOS (ONE A BLOW-UP OF THE OTHER) OF DAVID FERRIE AND CLAY SHAW TOGETHER, A PHOTO ALLEGEDLY TAKEN IN 1947. THESE PICTURES APPEARED IN A NEWSPAPER FROM SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA CALLED THE COUNCILOR. MR. SPRAGUE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THESE PICTURES AND I SENT HIM COPIES OF MY SLIDES. I WILL GLADLY DO THE SAME FOR YOU UNLESS YOU ARE ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH THEM OR UNLESS YOU WANT TO CORRESPOND DIRECTLY TO THE COUNCILOR. HOWEVER THESE NEWSPAPER PEOPLE ARE ULTRA-RIGHT WINGERS AND FOOLISHLY BELIEVE COMMIES KILLED JFK (AS WELL AS EVERY MAJOR CRIME IN THE WHOLE WORLD, IT SEEMS). THEY ARE ALSO

7/28/75

III

MONETARY SCAVENGERS MAKING ME BUY 10 YEARS OF OLD PAPERS TO GET THE PHOTOS. I KNOW YOU ARE AWARE OF THEIR GIMMICK OF SELLING PAPERS BY SPELLING OUT EMILIO SANTANA'S NAME A FEW LETTERS AT A TIME. HOWEVER THE PHOTOS ARE AMAZING (IF THEY ARE AUTHENTIC).

7/28

— DO YOU BELIEVE MR. GARRISON'S ALLEGATION THAT THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE PENTAGON ENGINEERED THE ASSASSINATION?

5/28/75

— DO YOU KNOW HOW I CAN OBTAIN PHOTOS OF WILLIAM SEYMOUR, THE SUSPECTED SECOND OSWALD? I HAVE ACCESS TO ONE PHOTO OF HIM, BUT IT IS A SIDE VIEW AND NOT VERY GOOD.

— FINALLY ENCLOSED IS AN OLD NEWS ARTICLE WHICH I SENT TO MR. SPRAGUE AND HE WAS "EXCITED" ABOUT IT. IT SEEMS A MAN NAMED LARRY LABORDE IS SUSPECTED OF HAVING SOME OF THE ASSASSINS OF JFK AND FRIENDS OF THEIRS ON HIS (LABORDE'S) BOAT, RIDING IN AND AROUND THE FLORIDA KEYS. (I ASSUME NO NAME KEY ESPECIALLY). A WITNESS NAMED JERRY PATRICK

IV

HEMMING CLAIMS HE SAW FRENCHY, THE FIRST TRAMP, THE ONE IN FRAME-UP WHO RESEMBLES THE KING ASSASSIN COMPOSITE DRAWING, ON LABORDE'S BOAT IN 1963. MR. SPRAGUE FEELS THAT TRAPNELL (WHOSE WIFE PROBABLY STILL LIVES IN QUINCY, MASS.) MAY KNOW LABORDE BECAUSE OF THE REFERENCES MADE IN THE ARTICLE TO THE QUINCY ADAMS BOATYARD, THEREFORE THROUGH EITHER THE BOATYARD OR MRS. TRAPNELL, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO LOCATE LABORDE AND SUBSEQUENTLY LOCATE FRENCHY. MR. SPRAGUE FELT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF I CHECK THESE LEADS, BUT IF THIS LEAD IS VIABLE, I HAVE TWO DISADVANTAGES IN FOLLOWING THEM UP. FIRST, I AM NOT AN INVESTIGATOR AND I WOULD HATE TO MESS UP WHAT COULD BE A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOSE A MAJOR PORTION OF THIS CRIME. SECONDLY, I HAVE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND I AM A RELATIVE NOBODY. HAROLD WEISBERG, JIM GARRISON, MARK LANE ETC. HAVE LITTLE FEAR OF ENDING UP ON

7/28/73

V

MR. JONES' DOMINO LIST BECAUSE OF THEIR VERY REAL FAME. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WILLING TO AID PEOPLE LIKE YOU, WHO WITH PEOPLE LIKE ME, MAY PREVENT 1984 FROM BECOMING A REALITY BUT I'M AFRAID THIS IS OUT OF MY LEAGUE. I SEND YOU THIS INFORMATION IN THE HOPES THAT YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

AS A TEACHER, I CAN NEVER REALLY BE SURE WHETHER I AFFECT, OR HOW MUCH I AFFECT THE LIVES OF THE STUDENTS BEFORE ME. GRATIFICATION IS AN ESOTERIC THING AND SOMETIMES I WONDER IF I AM OF ANY VALUE TO THIS WORLD OF OURS. SOMETIMES MY DAY IS MADE BY A CANDID, SINCERE COMPLIMENT BY A FELLOW COLLEAGUE, OR A STUDENT OR MY WIFE. I HAVE ALWAYS WORKED HARD AND I KNOW YOU HAVE TOO. LET ME CONCLUDE BY COMMENDING YOUR DILIGENT WORK OVER THE PAST DECADE. I CONSIDER YOU A SUPER AMERICAN AND I HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE YOUR CRITICALLY NEEDED INVESTIGATING.

7/28/73

VI

LET ME ALSO COMPLIMENT YOUR WIFE WHO
APPARENTLY KNOWS MORE ABOUT TYPEWRITING
THAN THE MAN WHO INVENTED THE MACHINE.

*Sincerely yours,
Edgar F. Tatro*

EDGAR F. TATRO
51 EDMONT RD.
BRAintree, MASS.
02184