

Dear Ed,

Escalation-De-escalation

8/28/72

I lead a kind of compartmented life. Or try to. There are so many things I'm into, so many things I must do or want to, and so many that I should, there is always competition and conflict. Thus I made brief response to your letter enclosing those six pages from Peter Dale Scott immediately I read the letter, laid those pages aside until the noon-time TV news, read them then, afterward went out and mowed to the point where I felt I should have stopped a few minutes earlier, and now, having done that and while I'm sweating to a cooling off, after which a dip and a planned return to PM, this appreciation.

I have mixed, noncompetitive emotions, predominatingly enormous respect for Scott. Pp.218-23 of the Epilogue to his The War Conspiracy are one of the great monuments to an unfettered mind and a clear eye. He is magnificent! They are really great stuff, and I appreciate them the more because he has seen and found what I did not. I was one of the early ones in that area, if silently, planning it for TIGER, which would have been my second book had it not been for what to me was the evil doctrine of the Lane/Epstein(k) approach.

Having moved since that research and not having finished unpacking, some of the work has yet to be retrieved. I'm confident that in the end it will all come to the surface. I did, for example, find most of my VN clipping files and give them to Howard, several large boxes from before most people were aware of what was going on. Once The Pentagon Papers appeared I knew I could shorten and simplify TIGER. I still hope for it to follow AGENT OSWALD.

Often my analyses begin where others' don't, sometimes with entirely different material. All of my thinking about the JFK assassination and its aftermath has a unique beginning, after the numbness everyone shared: the Oswald assassination. Thus I saw Tonkin Gulf accurately and contemporaneously, as I did the Cuba Missile Crisis (no typo), and my analyses are with both contemporaneous and still accurate, of which I am proud.

There are other and now forgotten incidents that colored my thinking and directed it. I never hear mention of one, the illegal taking of several Cuban fishing boats. I don't know where that analysis is, but if it doesn't show up, I suspect that as Howard searches here he will find it.

In moving I mislaid a valuable file I got the end of 1966 from a great guy, the only one who, to then, I'd met who shared my view. The title "Escalatio" is his. He was then kicking around in the S.F. Bay area having a tough time with talks shows at which he was great because of his outspoken views on such things. He is Jim Eason and is a success now, sort of a top property and in, but with good views still. He had I had seen some of the same inconspicuous stories. He had followed this in a way I hadn't, with some letters. So he and I saw the consequences of the JFL assassination the same way. We discovered this when he auditioned a show I did in med-December 1966 with Harv Morgan, then KCBS. Harv, Jim, Harv's wife and I retired to the hotel's dining room after the show until it closed in the early a.m. and continued.

Undoubtedly others saw the same things, but Jim is the first I met.

I presume Scott, having finished his book, was cramped for space. He could have expanded on these pages. Not that they really need it. I have a few things he doesn't, including an interview (circa 6/67) with one of the generals JFK called in.

I am particularly pleased with the way he puts it together because he has proven what I only suspected and is in my spot analyses of the Bantam Pentagon Papers about Sheehan and the Times and the CIA. (I remind you of their attitude toward me except for Mihss and for a short while Salisbury.) There is more editing that Scott notes, if I remember correctly. There is the initial editing by CIA withholding. They were not making contributions to any coming Pentagon Papers and they withheld most of their stuff so the Ellsbergs could never latch onto it. In itself this can account for vast voids. The simply were not in Pentagon files.

Many thanks! Until I find the old file, with this I'm starting a new one in the Separate TIGER file, and I expect to draw upon it heavily. It puts it all so well! I suppose the book will be remaindered by the time I get to that writing, or in paperback, so I'll go over all of it. I noted the reviews. I'll clipped them for me. Some were very good.

Now for the dip and the other work.

Best,

ccHR