

David,

1/27/75

I went through your 1/13 before reading 18 other letters, not all of today's mail. I went to bed after 11 last night, was working well before 5 this a.m., it is now after 10, and I've not yet had time to even glance at the papers. It has been a real struggle since I began preparations for the Ray hearing in September to get back to writing. In 2 1/2 months I'll be 62 and I've been living like this for 11 years, mostly with less sleep and more activity. Can you get a glimmer of how it feels to write letters to those who want to help, don't know how or even ask, and generally wind up doing something hurtful, or at best not very hurtful?

To people like you fact is irrelevant. You go for all the wildest yarns that no intelligent kid should consider twice. You are impervious to what even can be real in the world today (plural intended). And if I answer truthfully the best I can hope for is that the time is not a total waste. Generally the truth makes an enemy.

The kind of writing I have seen from you can't be helpful. The ways in which it can be hurtful is by spooks and pols flashing it in places like the Congress, where it is guaranteed to turn anyone and everyone off. There is an enormous amount of this. Frequently it isn't even necessary because the well-intended nuts go in person and turn these people off for sure.

I have my own reasons for wanting to know who spoke to you about the irrelevant low-flying aircraft. Do it or not as you see fit. There is much going on of which you have no knowledge and are not in a position to judge. Candor also impels me to note that you have displayed no capacity for analysis or critical judgements. And I don't consider everyone I know a friend, of friendly intent, or even dependable. In fact, I know too many whose judgement is invariably wrong and I have to spend(waste) more time cleaning up the messes they have made and a few still do.

One reason the major media won't touch the subject except for an ax job is the kind of thing you write, the kinds the crazy commercializers in Cambridge say - the frightful stuff that simply can't be credited that sewers across their desks. Some they check with me. But we are all tarred by it. Or that Tom Snyder show? Wow!

If you are not a resident genius then you owe your readers what is true and reasonably certain to be true, not all the crap I've seen. People need fact for representative society to work, not worthless theorizing.

That the publisher took out how to get the book merely means that there was nothing in the writing to overcome the deficiency and that, regardless of your intent, there was neither good nor "help" to me in it. Do I have to tell you that what counts is not what you think is in your mind, your intent as you see your intent?

You ~~also~~ ^{have} met those who are legitimately sick, paranoid and the other things you said because they are so numerous, so loud and visible, and you can't consider that for all practical purposes you are one, thus my frustration. Undoing all of this is impossible, overcoming it next to impossible, and it tends to make serious work pointless.

You are right about my need for an editor. Everyone needs one, I for more than one reason more than most. I've been making efforts for 10 years. The only times it was at all close there was a self-important, under-informed nut who knew better than anyone else or wanted to give the work an invalid political doctrine. Of many efforts, few were close. The last thing I want is to publish a rough draft written under the worst of circumstances, too many interruptions and distractions and sometimes over too long a period of time. I also do not want to mail letters I can't take time to read. But multiply the kind of time wasted with you and you can begin to see the problem. What are my choices? Long ago I decided it has to be making the record, but bullshitting silly think pieces or taking more time than required for another book in editing that would still need editing.

You yearn, but you are out of your depth.

Sorry,

23 Jan 75

Dear Harold,

You surely do have a knack for turning off the enthusiasm of someone who wants to help. Although I am sorry the latest effort upset you so much again I really have a tough time not getting a bit angry about it.

Perhaps I should send you a copy of my original column, where at the bottom I indicated in ~~UP~~ FACE type the author's name, total title of the book, publisher, cost, and address. This material was killed by the editor because to him it smacked too much of advertising. I did not know it was being killed until I saw the column in print. If it will make you ~~xxx~~ feel better I will write the editor a letter and ask him please to ~~xx~~ run that information in the letters to the editor column. I am sure he will as I already questioned the original editing.

I am not a resident genius. Nor is my entire life tied up with the assassination business. Not by a long shot. I do not pretend to be an expert at all. I act as a conduit for information and misinformation. I do not have the facilities to check out all items. I do not have the expertise or contacts to tell, always, who is lying, why, and for what purpose.

Never in my life have I met with more strange, odd, sick, paranoid, and semi-~~insane~~ insane persons as with this situation. NEVER! Granted it is a very confusing case, but, why can't I get understandable answers to very simple questions? I get theories. I get tomes. Yes, Harold, I read your presentation and all your books. Yes, I understand some of the material, but you lose me a great deal of the time. That is my fault, based on my ignorance of the myriad of details you know so well. If you think I am confused you ought to see the people out here who read my column and who ask me really basic, simple questions. They haven't the time, interest, or ability to wade through the verbiage to get the answers. If they're like me, they wouldn't know whether or not to believe what they read anyway.

I guess you're right. I don't comprehend. I guess I just don't understand what is going on. So, your time is valuable. I agree. I have other stories, ~~stories~~ other projects, and things I can comprehend. So, I will probably not ask you any questions. I will continue to buy and read your books when I know about them, however.

As to your friend who mentioned the personal problems you were having with your home being broken into and the low flying aircraft--I gather you do not believe that I was told this. I assure you I was. I am under no ethical restraint nor were any "ground rules" established for this discussion with the friends. I assure you you know this source well and this source knows you. This source TOLD ME THOSE THINGS. I am not playing games. I am respecting the same confidence I told you I would respect months ago when you gave me honest opinions of persons in an off the record fashion. If this matter bothers you, please let me know and I will certainly call this person and obtain permission to identify by name.

Ben Waters was a freelance news writer who was in Washington in the '60s and until the early part of this decade. He is not out of journalism ~~at all~~ entirely. While there he covered some interesting things-- generally military, political. He is about 45 to 50 years old and quite a serious person. His comments came in a letter. I do not know where or how he got your book. I doubt very seriously if he would care to involve himself. His words to me were in a personal letter, which he gave me permission to use. I might add he thinks all conspiracy people are correct, ~~about that~~, but that most people in the field are nutty. As I say, he is out of journalism now. Perhaps I ought to have inserted the word "former" in his identification.

~~There is a story about the POST.~~

Tough darts on my close about the POST. The question I am asked over and over and over by people is "Why doesn't the press get into the Kennedy coverups with as much vigor as they did on Watergate?"

Do you have an answer? I don't.

Call my close a crack or a cheapshot. I mean it as a challenge. I don't mean two columns, I mean full mobilization.

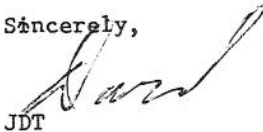
Sorry to disappoint you so much. But, you surely do make it tough for a person to (1) understand you...(2) help you. For whatever it is worth I believe very much in your work, your ~~cause~~ cause, and your efforts. Perhaps I can best help you by remaining silent about it.

Or, forget the whole damn thing.

On the other hand, if I stew enough.....but, I won't.

Good luck.

Sincerely,



JDT

P.S. As one constructive suggestion which I mean totally in a ~~positive~~ positive, helpful way---get a good editor. I can't help but wonder if ALL the uncomprehension is more a fault of my reading or your writing. And, for God's sake, don't take that comment as a cheapie. I honestly mean that as a helpful comment. If you feel it is none of my business--I might argue.