

Dear David,

For all the evil in it the world is full of good people. Some of them say and write good things. Some are in many fields authentic experts. Among those who are called "critics" and "researchers" on the JFK assassination my taste runs not to words but to deeds. Most of the words have done no good. Of them, most have done harm. The result is that where it counts none have credibility. Those who make all the noise couldn't care less. Those who want something accomplished ^{ed} should care. All the theorizing in the world, all the genuinely deep belief is not going to move anyone who may be instrumental in doing anything. But because these well-intended are too often wrong on fact, when their stuff goes across an editor's desk he is less inclined to read anything else on the subject. So, I tend to stay to myself and do what work I can.

Prouty is a persuasive, personable ^{ble} man. I have but have not read Secret Team. I do have trouble believing Ellsberg was a CIA agent in what he did, like risking most of his life in jail. I have heard only well of his book, he joined the CIA, which does not give me a high opinion of his judgement. They have done nothing except a few foolish things. I can understand that knowing nothing about the assassination he could have felt that he wanted to align himself with those making an effort. He may have had no basis for better judgement.

There are many vital issues that need addressing so the people may be informed. One is the military, which has come to largely control the politicians. Has Prouty exposed anything along this line? Or is it all anti-CIA only?

With a book to sell how can I object to a story? However, I might object to some content. I speak candidly in private but in public I have nothing critical to say of others. This is to say the serious ones. The other I never mention. And most of the serious ones are of the now distant past. The new ones are almost entirely talkers to whom talk is more important than content.

I can't tell another what to write. I can say what I don't like. One is being made into some kind of hero. Nobody made me do what I do, nobody who approves owes me anything and the cost I pay is my own choice. I do what I think I should and what I do not see others doing.

Thanks on Snyder. It may be worth while. I remember Bruce as a very decent fellow of serious purposes. He also seemed to be responsible, which is saying much today. However, discriminating has become extremely difficult, so much so that I now tend to resist perhaps too much. For example, if I can't see Ruby as a red kid in Chicago, I can see him as a fiak.

There is a letdown when I complete a job. In that stage now. Tired. But I did write a long Harlan piece this a.m. as a change. I was part of two investigations. Someone is coming tomorrow but I hope to get to read and correct that first. Then when the printer has done his work there will be the effort to get the book around. It will not be easy. I have written those I can to attempt distribution. I have almost completed a long and different Watergate book, serious on content and analysis, both missing in all I've seen and heard of. When I complete the draft I'll have the hardest job of cooling the anger, understanding the typos and shortening the long sentences. I ache to get back to that because I believe there is a need. But in a couple of weeks I have to go off and work on the Ray case and 10/22 there is the hearings. So, I'm staying busy.

Delighted to sign and send the book. One of the extravagances is a time-saver. We're buying ~~with~~ envelopes, as I did with the earlier books. Mailing single copies will mean addressing envelopes, mostly. Of course, much paper work for my wife in the record keeping... Hope it will be soon. We may hold it because of the possibility of subsidiary interest and for Congress because of Freedom of Information law content. I mean hold after printing. At 61 I could stand no new debt, no new mortgages. Jim Lesar borrowed the money to pay the printer. Som the first income goes to retiring this debt. With 555 freebies to the Congress alone, there can't be profit from one print.

Best regards

29 Aug 1974

Dear Harold,

Thanks for writing. Among the many to whom I sent materials and letters (most very impersonal--I must have some ~~XXXXX~~ sense), you and Fletch Prouty are the only ones who reply. I want to and do believe the man is a fine, decent chap who tired of playing their game and quit. I know there is a lag between when he quit and when he published, and I will ask him about that. But, I really do believe the man. He is totally disgusted with the SS stuff that was forming when he quit and was demonstrated in the years afterward.

Fletch

Enuff....

I enclose my check for \$6.25 for a copy of your new book. Please ~~send~~ ^{Sign} words ~~xxxx~~ inside and I would appreciate a signed copy afterwards. It may be one of my few links with a real world in this business. It's funny, as I send my latest manuscript to the publisher--a silly thing on improvised/modified firearms, you have to publish your own books on topics SO VITAL to our survival as a free country.

For that reason, I am going to break my self-hated thing on book reviews. I have always avoided them. But, here goes...when I get your new book. At that point, I will keep my earlier promise and do each book. I feel the series will help.

Indeed, Harold, would you be willing for me to do (try) a feature on you for a national publication? I don't have one in mind, but, would try. Please let me know.

I will listen to the Snyder stuff...and try for two tapes. I have only one recorder, but will dub ~~one~~ ^{my} ~~one~~ ^{one} tape for you.

You forgot to ~~send~~ ^{send} enclosures for your 26 Aug letter. I had no ~~reference~~ reference to your 1st graf.

Agreed with your next to last graf on the letter about the FBI dishing that stuff out. Please remember, Harold, they didn't dish it out, as far as I know. Maybe they did. But, keep in mind that my friendly file clerk may have gotten that on (her) (his) own!!!!!!!

Yes, I am not old enough to personally remember the "early" Nixon. Being only ~~36~~ 36, I recall "wakening" to Nixon in 1952...and knowing he was a crook. I have felt ill against him ever since. I have a sad thing to relate when ~~we~~ ^{we} meet concerning my late father and myself shortly before he died--viz., Nixon.

Anyhow, I feel no sympathy with him. I feel he is ~~also~~ greedy little hustler who should go to jail. Perhaps that is why I bit so eagerly at the bait offered by T. Ford!!!

Cordially--your friend,

JDT

David