

Dear David,

10/4/74

I've just (aftermidnight) returned from an exhausting and taxing a trip as I can recall, if it was one of the shortest, Monday through Thursday in Nashville and Memphis.

It was on the Ray case only, largely but not entirely in an area of which I may not properly talk because of what I regard as quite proper legal restraint. (In practise the prosecution never observes it and is never published.)

I would like to be able to think that one of the ~~xxx~~ by-products was the blessing of some official minds. Time will tell.

Merely typing notes is a real job that must be done but for which I'm now too tired, so I take a crack at the mail.

I can't really make much comment on your 10/1. However, I take issue with your on the suggestion that age is an immunity to questioning of ^{from} ~~the~~ doubters. Speaking for myself I reject this entirely. From the mouths of babes...The one asset of age is the accumulation of experiences it represents and the enabling of learning and understanding. I readily accept criticism from those much younger and welcome it, often seeking it. The factor is not their age. It is the judgement of each individual.

I won't spend more time on FA. You trust four. In Lincoln, plagiarized by Ford, there is the simple wisdom about ten angels swearing. And in All's Well That Ends Well, "Tis not the many others that makes the truth but the one simple vow that is vow'd true."

If you can read this book and need the judgement of another you are neither for it nor with it. It simply can't carry its own weight.

It would perhaps be a good exercise for you to read it critically and to ask yourself with each attractiveness "what does this mean about the JFK assassination?" It appeals to your prejudices and blinds your mind. That is its intent.

This is separate from the possession of factual basis in the assassination. To be satisfied that FA is a fake one does not need this. One needs only critical faculties.

It is one of the spooks' better jobs.

Best,

J. David Truby
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1 Oct 1974

Hello Harold,

Thanks for your long letter. Yes, I certainly understand what you mean and how you feel. I must be honest, though, in saying that we will have to agree to disagree on some points. I also think I may have not written very plainly. You see, it is ME whom I regard as ignorant--not you. I was telling you that I ADMIT I do not know what is sometimes going on. That's rather hard on the go--but, I am honest, if sometimes gullible.

My comments on the two POST reporters is an evaluation from one of their co-workers, a friend of some 15 years standing. He's a man who has no axe to grind, no professional jealousy. His standards of ethics are also higher than most, I might add. Since I have no personal knowledge of either man I was in error to have written that without attributing it properly.

It seems that I spend more time apologizing to people whose ~~x~~ opinions matter to me than I do properly asking questions. I guess I will never have your dedication to one topic, for I am now ready to chuck the whole thing in and devote my journalistic time to the military, to ordnance, crime, and these other less esoteric areas I know better. My attempt to open the lid of assassination has been less than confusing, it has been a sewer of contradiction.

Your letter came yesterday. At the end of last week I got a sudden~~x~~ notice of a full tax audit with the first appointment set for a week from this ~~WEDNESDAY~~ Wednesday. I don't fear this, as my accounts are all in order and always have been. I do question, Why THIS year, which is not different from last. They want my 1973 records as they pertain to my writing and related expenses. Of course, I will go into this with an open mind.

Harold, I DO live in the real world. I think we have two different concepts of it. The problem is that I don't know your real world, I guess. You see, some of my past experiences have been with people who did things and said things which make FA type situations possible. Now, when I have two men with at least fair reputations telling me FA is an honest book with inside stuff, and you telling me it is a put-up job, I am naturally suspicious. I have another man telling me it is a product of the KGB. This man is a foreign national I have known longer than you or any of the others involved in assassination work. Please don't confuse my questions with what I personally believe or do not believe. There is an analogy between a MAP and a TERRITORY. One is real, the other is not, regardless of how close it (the map) may appear to be the territory. Only the territory is ever real. Now, I have been shown a great many maps by a great many people. On the FA thing, I have four maps--and they don't agree too damn much. So, on that basis, I would have to either junk the story or keep digging. If that doesn't make sense to either of us, then, I guess there ~~x~~ is a communication problem.

There is one other factor, is all the static worth it? This has to be a personal decision each of us makes. You have made your value judgement, which I respect, truly. I feel what you are doing is right. I am making my own decisions based on a great deal of input. I am beginning to wonder "what the hell difference DOES IT MAKE?????" Will anything ~~ex~~ change? Can private people ever "solve" this? Is it worth the trouble to even get involved? Again, I fear my answer will differ from yours.

No, I was NOT really asking you to do my homework. I was asking you your opinion, your advice. In a sense I was using you as a sounding board and as a source. I thought my homework would involve answering some basics I don't have access to. I was simply asking you--whom I consider to be the top source I know of--for your opinion. I did not mean to imply you were doing my research.

Ahhh, forget it. I know what you mean. Sure, I do understand your impatience. I also understand the problems you are facing with funds, bother, and having someone upset your life.

I will take your advice and be more independent.

Thanks much for what you have done for me. I also fully expect to do some writing on your books and your efforts. It might make a nice bow out for me. So, I will be looking forward to seeing your next book. I'll send you a copy of anything I write on or about you, as I said I would.

You are correct about postage, so I enclose a SASE. And, do not misinterpret that gesture as my being patronizing. If I felt that way I would not have even written this. I guess we might enjoy talking someday. It may be wrong for an almost 37 year old to criticize a 61 year old...but, I think I have some valid ~~arguments~~ arguments.

Ahhhh, have a nice day, and enjoy the fine fall weather...When in doubt, I always find a friend in the woods outside. Nature is usually pretty nice.

Just to show you I care about more than murder...I ~~enke~~ enclose the enclosed.

Cordially,

JDT

LV
25 Sept '74

By J. David Truby



Cheers for 7-11

The Seven-Eleven food stores deserve a big feather in their cap for their very unselfish efforts to save the American Bald Eagle. It's a lead too few corporations and institutions are following, which is not a happy situation.

Working with the National Wildlife Federation, the Seven-Eleven people have started a conservation program known as "Save A Living Thing." Their initial effort will be to establish the first permanent refuge for the endangered American Bald Eagle. The company will invest in excess of \$2,000,000 in the project.

Seven-Eleven stores is a chain of quick-shopping, convenience food outlets spread across 41 states. There are about 5000 Seven-Eleven stores in this chain. They are a plastic age version of the old Ma-Pa grocery. But, they've proved they also have a heart.

Their president, Jere W. Thompson, said the company's stores will donate a portion of their sales to the program—a

move which has enthusiastic endorsement from the local outlet managers.

Mr. Thompson noted, "We want to increase public understanding of our wildlife species and to take part in protecting our animals, especially, the national symbol."

It is really great to see this American corporation showing a responsible concern for social concerns, especially for the creatures with which we share our world. Although, it is a small start, it is something positive. In short, while other companies take out ads to piously preach how they are concerned about the environment—the liars—honest Seven-Eleven is actually doing something. It's a cliché, but in this case, their actions speak louder than words.

Can you think of the suffering and problems that could be cleaned up if some of the criminal oil companies would put their obscene profits back into the world, from where they came? But, don't wait for that to happen. The

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giant oil cartel has already showed its truly avaricious ways in so many instances. So, let's look to more moral examples.

Seven-Eleven's Mr. Thompson said that this was the first project his company was being involved in. Others would follow. He added, "Any money left over after we have the eagle project funded will go directly to other conservation projects."

Only too happy to get involved, the U. S. Department of the Interior has agreed to accept the eagle refuge from Seven-Eleven and operate it as part of the National Wildlife System. A spokesman there said, "It is a great and rare thing for a private corporation to get involved like this. We're overwhelmed and pleased, all at once."

I urge you to keep this honest public service in mind next time you need to go shopping near a Seven-Eleven store. They truly deserve our support because they've honestly earned it, not just bought it.