

6/22/74

Dear David,

Years ago, and then years after I should have, I gave up trying to straighten out the nuts. I was unwilling at first to believe they could really believe the obviously irrational, often insane things they actually said. At best these are our own dedicated wrong, the true believers, the only ones who know. Ask them. At best or at worst they all accomplish the same minimum. They destroy the credibility of all responsible work. There is no error they cannot wipe out with the next in endless successions. Each, of course, meaning person and error, is innocent and all the awful stuff is forgotten. Except where it counts. These important people never forget. The signs are always visible and the damage always great.

These people are impervious to logic, reason or fact. They KNOW because they are persuaded that they possess unique genius and others are just blind or unwilling to confront what they regard as reality.

So, there is nothing I can do. I wasted so much time trying! Of those you name, with Sprague and his insane misuse of pictures, never within reason, always contradicted by incontrovertible fact. You'll never know how much harm this alone has done with the Congress and the media as well as with those who might have been of some help to the few who were doing respectable and responsible work.

Thank your blessings. Your ex-friend Trow has done you a great favor. He is giving you a unique opportunity to avoid a self-defamation you would never survive with either your peers or your students.

I can't and if you ask I won't take the time to make explanations. I can't get up anytime beginning 4 a.m. and work a long day for this kind of thing. Believe me or not, I tell it to you straight and as it is. The reason I was silent after getting your well-intended piece is not to embarrass you.

Of the others I know Prouty slightly and know enough about his work to say that in pivotal areas where it relates to the assassination it is not work and is not valid. That he is persuasive, that other parts stack, that he is an intelligent, attractive person, is irrelevant. Sprague in all other ways is one of the nicest guys you will ever meet.

If your friend Trow took a Sabbatical and really spent time "working" and turns out what you accurately reflect in your article, then he simply isn't rational.

You refer to documents. Without seeing them I can't evaluate them. But my experience is that it is not the document that presents the problem. It is the interpretation.

If this is the kind of thing you plan to take up in your seminar, be grateful it can't be this coming semester and avoid it thereafter. If you do not you will never recover the respect you will lose. Including in the end self-respect.

This stuff really is that bad.

You may find this unpleasant but in the end you will find it to be true. The only real question is whether or not you hurt yourself. And what might be accomplished were it not for this nonstop paranoia substituted for fact and presented with vehemence as the only truth.

Sincerely,

18 June 1974

Dear Trow,

I am truly sorry things stand as they do today. I honestly feel this must be an honest mixup somewhere. I am sorry also that you did not allow me to finish talking with you on the telephone this afternoon. Frankly, in view of what I have not done and what I have done I am quite bothered about your change in attitude. I would like to state the following:

1. You have had copies of all my drafts of the story. My only idea here is to give as wide and credible dissemination as possible. I thought we had agreed on the telephone early one morning that we both liked the story.
2. I have never sent ANY of your material to anyone connected with any Congressional group. The only person to whom I sent your document package (the supporting, notes, letters, etc.) was John Moulder. I have never given any of your material to anyone, other than John.
3. I sent EYES ONLY personal copies of my manuscript to six people, you included. I asked the others to keep them personal. They have.
4. It was not my intention to attribute the purported FBI document to you. Indeed, had you stayed on the telephone a bit longer I had some additional information about it.
5. There is no way at all that I am part of any conspiracy or group attempting to discredit you, your theories, or any other serious work being done in this area. I am sorry this type of paranoid thinking has come between what I thought was a good relationship. Further, I personally had no purpose in mind with your story other than to report it--with your approval--as widely as possible. I outlined the plans I had in my letter of 8 June. I do not understand what happened here, I really do not.
6. It hurts me personally that you have been bad mouthing me and my work on your behalf especially under the circumstances we both have expressed. This is very terrible, I feel.
7. Tris Coffin and I became introduced via letter since I wrote to you asking if you knew him. Fletch Prouty suggested we (he and I) get together. Honestly, that all happened within that short of a span of time, and I personally see nothing sinister in that. Before that time I did not know or know of Tris Coffin. I refer to him as Tris because that is how he signed his letter to me.

J. David Truby

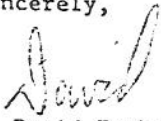
2587 Melloney Lane Indiana, Penna. 15701

8. I am not sure why or how Mr. Sprague is saying bad things about me as you expressed on the telephone. My experience with him has been limited to a telephone call and a couple letters, in which I asked him for the answers to questions. However, I intend to follow up on this, as well.

9. Basically, what you have said in public print prior to our getting together to report this story has been far more outspoken than the manuscript I did. I am truly in a puzzlement as to what "set you off" so much--especially at this date. This is what I was trying to ask you on the telephone. Yes, I am sincere.

There is probably more I could state, but these are my basic thoughts. In summary, I do want you to know that I am in no way trying to discredit you or your ideas. I do not feel I was lax in my research or my reporting, considering that we shared my manuscripts through the story's development. I have not leaked your documents or my story to outside sources, and I have been in touch with no government agencies or groups concerning you. My contacts were made in my name alone, without mentioning you or the specific story upon which I was working. And, this, Trwobridge Ford, is all the truth.

Sincerely,



J. David Truby

cc: Coffin
Moulder
Prouty
Sprague
Weisberg

J. David Truby

2587 Melloney Lane Indiana, Penna. 15701

WED.

Greetings, Mr. Weisberg,

I don't know what stuck in Ford's craw, but, I thought you ought to have a copy of his letter. He has threatened me with a law suit.

David