

1/10/70

Dear Mr. Williams,

Your last sentence in your letter postmarked the 8th says it all:
It is an American tragedy.

I am quite interested in both Operation Phoenix and Fort Holabird. One of the characters in one of the books I cannot now get printed is a graduate of two Fort Holabird schools. I'm putting the clipping aside until later tonight, when I can read it with care. I do not get the Village Voice and they have boycotted me from the first, refusing to do or say anything about any of the books until Lane's came out, when they could then say he did everything, etc. As a matter of fact, this has been true of all the Underground and Overground Underground press.

It is both kind and helpful of you to send me the things you do, but before you buy books, may I suggest you ask if I have them? I do have the Curry book, sent me by a Texas friend. I take it this is what you refer to as "JFK Assassination File", for it is his title, as closely as the cover permits isolating a title. It will not go to waste, for I know others who can use it, but I do not know the state of your finances, and while I appreciate your helpfulness, I do not want it to be a burden to you and, on the other hand, if you have to watch how you spend money, getting me a duplicate might preclude getting something else that is not a duplicate.

The domestic operations of the CIA trouble me more than their foreign ones, for there is little doubt they are precluded by law and the intent of Congress. It is the frustration and denial of the democratic process as it is of any kind of decent society for them to take unto themselves that which is denied them. It is also the essence of a police state, regardless of motive or intent.

I had a report that Quie's book is finally going to appear. I am surprised and I frankly never believed he would engage in such a self-defamation.

Another book is due in March, by the publisher who did the Brenner book against Garrison, Potter. It is by Al Newman, who, I believe, is the man who personally blocked the 1965 publication of WHITEWASH by a small publisher who had sought his opinion, he having represented himself to one of that group as an expert on the subject. If my recollection is correct, he is some kind of rightist.

Hurriedly and thankfully,

Harold Weisberg

Mr Harold Weisberg
Fredericks
Md.

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N.Y.

Dear Mr Weisberg,
Thank you for your
kind letter.

I sent you copies of
"The Great Rebel", "Pentagonism",
and "J.F.K. Assassination File".
The latter has only academic
value but the former
contains significant information
"Pentagonism" deserves serious
study.

The difficulty of obtaining
and publishing material about
"The Company" can be illustrated
by the enclosed article.

I have some experience
and friendships with "Company"
employees and in fact my
family once rented their
summer home from the
late Mathias Cohea, one of a
three man board who re-
viewed the C.I.A. in 1948 for
President Truman.

Consequently, I understand
the Herculean task of ex-
tracting verifacative information
from any source. Those willing

to take heed do so only "off
the record" and informers
usually prove upon closer
checking to be "worthless paper"
hangers like Bailey.

Practically nothing substantive
has been published or is
publishable about the domestic
operations of "The Company".

The penetration of "The
Company" and its affiliates
has occurred on many levels
- from The Mafia (See the case
of Herbert Oskin) to American
Friends of The Middle East.

The operational pattern
of The King assassination
followed The Dallas execution
even in small details.

The murder of Robert
Kennedy was procedurally
different.

The about face of William
Huie seems instructive.

As long as "racists" were
presumed the quiet party
Huie was quite willing to
track down leads but when
it became apparent his
information was leading into
a different area, he joined
the chorus of "no conspiracy".

It's an American Tragedy.

Sincerely

Edward R. Williams