

12/30/71

Dear Ed,

Your undated letter with clips, postmarked 27, and one dated 27, came today. I also expect Jerry to, so I'm answering all the mail instead of continuing the writing, to be free when he is here and to avoid the inevitable accumulation.

I've not read the clip, but the heads indicate they are interesting. I was so tired the nights of those NBC shows and the CBS one on surveillance, that I dozed during all of them! I'd asked Jerry to get transcripts and he says he is. I am aware of some of the importances.

I did notice the clip on Jones Harris. I suspect pregnancy might have led to the altar. I met her in I think 1969. I met Jones at her apt., and it is clear he was spending the night there. She got me a room at a cheap hotel while he and I talked. This was before the appearance of Flammonde's flackery, when it was still being written, so I guess it was before 1969. I've not seen or heard of Jones since. (Local notices of his mother's new movie not flattering.)

All your advice is good, your estimates are dependable except for one thing: there is no prospect for any commercial publication of anything responsible in any form. If it happens, it will be a fluke. So, unhappily, I've had to cast myself in the role of the one who makes the best and most complete record he can. TIGER might have been and may yet be the exception. I don't think that the kind of work you visualize can be done with maximum responsibility today, nor do I think its commercial prospects would be any brighter. It might be more acceptable to the critic/whores.

Except for a little work on the conclusions, POST MORTEM is completed. I've done the new concluding chapter to the panel part, I've completed an over-long intro, and I've taken the conclusions to the panel part, which anticipated exactly what you are saying that long ago, and am reworking them to be the conclusions for the entire work. You'll find as much as I feel I can responsibly say of the military in this work, as it was from the beginning.

I had hoped to cope with what you argue in making a deal for a condensation/popularization, but that worked out to be a painful disaster from which our nerves have yet to recover. Jerry can give you enough detail. Perhaps we can get together when I'm in NYC, which I expect will be 1/14 or 1/15 to 1/16, as I think I wrote (I note you have been masking the store's return address. Early retirement?)

Harris always indicated belief of some Mafia involvement, going back to our first meeting, but he never said he was positive they did it. There is too much about him I don't know for any meaningful appraisal...What you say of Turner is no surprise. I think Hoover did fore him because he goofed things and I have no reason to believe he is any kind of agent(although the record could be persuasive that he is). So, his vouching for Skolnick is but another of similar stupidities...Nonsense about the destruction of J.G.'s files. He suffers secret shame, fallen ego and knows he did it to himself but can't face it. But security they never had, not even on him, when they were all terrified and they were horrified at my lack of fear. Strange people that way...Sirhan/Process stuff interesting. Bud thinks there may be connection. If and when you can lend Jerry those sources, I'd appreciate his making xeroxes. Bud knew the 1205 Royal address. Jimmy didn't, or at least told me he didn't. Thanks for everything and best wishes for the coming year. I'll have more comment on Vince's stuff and the Pentagon Papers when I see you. I've been nibbling away at them.

Dear Harold,

Thank you for the Salamellis analysis.

The N.B.C. Vietnam show contained a dramatic revelation from Michael Forrestal - Diem was engaged in negotiations at his death, a parallel with the Green Beret Case as per Moore's Court Martial.

Nevy is trying to get the transcript.

The real problem which you face is not data but a communication problem of marketing.

The Assassinations, Vietnam, Tonkin Bay, The Pentagon Papers can be best elucidated by a thematic presentation, a general approach to which Tiger and P.M. and Agent Orwood cannot be matched. P.M. is probably too arcane and esoteric for the general reader but the military

"aspect of what we properly could be  
pursued up."

Only in this context can  
I see commercial success.

Also, it would remove the  
"onus" of a "one subject" writer.

The too facting approach  
can ruin you.

The Ramparts mode of  
presentation appeals to a  
certain market mix.

Reevaluate your data on  
or into a theme and select  
by that criteria.

I hate to pontificate but  
I don't see any other viable  
route.

Sylvia tells me that Jones  
Harris now believes that The  
Magia killed J.F.K.!

Dan Riley, a nice guy, tells  
me that Turner vouched for Slobin.  
Agent or ass. Take your choice.  
J.G. told Henry Borovik, a Soviet A.P.N.  
Correspondent: "All kinds of people  
got into our office. One of them  
must have been a pretty high ranking  
agent. We exposed him when he  
began to destroy our files. They (The  
CIA) made off with almost all our  
files."

Great security!

Best Wishes,

