

Dear Ed;

5/27/81

Thanks for the kind things in your letter of the 18th.

Criticism of my writing are more than justified - they are inevitable. Don't ever think of writing under any such conditions!

The great tragedy is that when I've had editing the end product as diminished. Happened twice. The others are first drafts. In no case did I have time to prepare any outlines and when I was writing books with ongoing developments, like news, as with parts of Post Mortem, organization was impossible.

Your comparisons are much too flattering.

On LBJ and the CIA involvement, he actually went farther and believed even worse. I've not been able to place the info where attention would do any good. He believed that the CIA was involved in the conspiracy to kill JFK. He believed that there was a conspiracy and that the CIA was implicated. He was led into this belief by DeLoach and the FBI. I have enough of the records, if not all.

I have no choice but to take it easier because I'm weaker and more tired. Sometimes I fall asleep sitting up reading, looking at the TV news, etc. But I do plan to get back to writing and I am doing some work on the FOIA cases.

It has been a long time since Lil even mentioned her ancestry, in part because I am first-generation. However, she goes back farther than the first French, German and English settlers. Somebody crawled into an Indian's bed. She is related to the Lees, to the first governor of Maryland, etc. and to the first of the Germans who fanned out from Pennsylvania. I can't orient with the Mayflower, though.

I've read Lifton carefully and I took in all that HSCA had to say. I remain convinced that the actualities of the autopsy are as I reported in PH.

One can't take Lifton's word on anything.

As I may have told you, I waddered about Bernabel over what I observed the last summer he came down here and his failure to respond when I wrote him. Several times. I believe that the breaking up of his marriage was more than he could take, even though he later found a new friend, the point at which I stopped hearing from him.

He was a very fine person and I liked him much.

Excuse the haste. Much to do when I have to stop often to walk around briefly and then for exercise, which means about 200 yards when I've had it.

Best wishes,

P.S.  
Please thank William for  
the kind letter.

5/19/81

Dear Harold,

I'm very pleased  
to hear that you're  
feeling better.

I did not know Dick  
Bernabei <sup>with</sup> but Dave Sobelish,  
who did, told me that  
Bernabei's deterioration into  
madness and alcoholism  
was terrifying. No one  
could reach him.

I've often pondered  
the reasons for your  
critical neglect. Certain valid  
objections could be raised.  
Structural weakness. Certain  
failures of organization. Over-  
writing, lacunae, repetition.  
Then, you are a writer  
whose work transcends  
his "placed" genre of assass-  
ination Buss literature, a false  
genre.

This has been the fate  
of many great artists. Conrad  
and Melville were once  
perceived as writers of "sea  
adventures", the early Faulkner  
as a "pathfinder", film directors  
Robert Altman and Nick  
Ray as "Hollywood hacks", the  
artist Rousseau as a failed  
"academic", Philip K. Dick as a  
"science fiction" author ----.  
The list is huge.

Many great works have  
commercial and critical  
failures. Witness the reception  
of La Chanson de Roland

and Mokey-Ude - one edition in its day  
and mostly unreal!  
Your case is different. Tom Ulinick  
tells this anecdote on Business in  
On Press. P. 190/2. Living Press, 1978.

"On the week - end of 1/4/64 at The  
L.B.F. Romak, Johnson had described  
to me and Doug Kiker and Phil  
Pattar (Baltimore Sun!) his own shock  
at first learning of some of the  
black activities of The CIA - including,  
Johnson said flatly, complicity  
in the murders of Tuzillo and Diem.  
We carelessly entered on a cryptic  
note (Tuzillo and Diem) last the  
notes fall into irresponsible hands.

Does anything better - explain  
your critical neglect! The writers  
of Pravda will grasp this standard  
of editorial freedom. Solzhenitsyn  
put it well - The Russian Change,  
The Archipelago Remains.

You are an American Solzhenitsyn  
An historical witness who  
documented an American  
Concentration Camp of the mind.  
Historiography. Post-Mortem  
is the definitive work but  
your devious deprecating one.  
A huge, single Critique of American  
Society, a Bartholomew  
Opus.

You should take it  
easy. Perhaps, tape your  
memoirs. What a rich work!

My family, on both sides,  
the Society of Mayflower Descendants  
is that similar to yours?

I have always felt there  
was forgery or false autopsy  
data etc. The Government cannot  
have lied even The Ross/Parsons  
H.S.A. Panels. I suspect actual  
photographs but of another person!  
Lifton, using much of Doug Ude's  
is right in saying "Pravda, wrong  
in his gripping 'solution'".  
Takes notes,  
Bert Ude