

The Politics of Lying and your letter of the 3rd with the Boston Phoenix clip came today. I'm delighted to have the book and look forward to having time to read it. The letter I'll answer now in haste. So you'll better understand what I mean by "haste", it is not 8 p.m., three hours after the end of today WG hearings. Since they ended I have written about 2000 words, had supper and taken in parts of the NBC and CBS evening TV news. This is the clip at which I have to go. There is little choice. It may, of course, influence my judgement the wrong way.

Your thesis is correct. An Echoes of Dallas piece might be publishable, might get attention, and in turn, might attract attention to a book. However, I think correctness is not enough.

First of all, there is too little solid stuff and using and even selling an inadequate piece would dull a solid one or a solid exposure in a book. In terms of WG, it means no more than unanswered questions, including use of the Hunt cable faking. Even if I add the Chicago story, Velle, etc.

I am working on Hunt. I do have much that has not been indicated. I do have leads on more. I don't want to blow the possibility for a possibility. Actually, I fear that one of the underinformed will do this, for it is obvious.

But two bigger objections are time, how to spend it, and what is the best approach.

WG is a story that does not depend on unanswered question. Nor unasked ones. It needs putting together and it needs meaning imparted. This is what I am working on.

With the hearings, getting anything written has not been easy. I have about 30,000 words from the front and large hunks of odds and ends I will work in. It is for that reason I did those 2000 after Gray, Kleindienst and Peterson, while it was fresh in mind. At this pace I forget, and I've just remembered I forgot the ending I'd planned, another graf only.

Now, what I am working on, is trying to find an unsacred agent. I may have a lead on one. I'll know soon. But then I'll have the problem of having nothing worth sending because I'm writing, not reading and correcting. Again, the question is how to spend time.

To put the amount of work I've actually done while the hearings have been on and while there have been other things I could not lay aside, I've written more seriatim than the length of Inquest and maybe half that much in pieces, while keeping up with the hearings, making notes I may not be able to read as I summarize and annotate all the testimony, keeping up with the papers, and getting things filed so they can be retrieved.

I plan a definitive work. This also means a long one. If I'd gotten a contract in May, I'd have done a shorter work. I think I am doing it so that, if too long, it can be cut easily.

It is also a Nixon book, and much of that is done. Can there be any WG without Nixon, the way the prosecution was conducted, the way the hearings are being done? We face another Warren report, this one with a higher degree of advance credibility because those who have no way of knowing must be impressed by the proceedings and their revelations. A mag piece in the face of that is like breaking wind into a hurricane.

So, to keep up with what happens and not to forget, as example, I started writing about Nixon's counterattack before he launched it and was correct. I've been writing and making notes about the committee's whitewashing as it happens, not as soon as I detected the method.

And it is more than a Nixon book. It is a book on authoritarianism, too.

Right now, if I had a publisher, he could have a hardback out before the committee reports and with decent editing, it could be a successful and important book. I can't evaluate the chances, but I think I'd rather go for that and have something definitive and meaningful than ask questions to which there really is no answer and not be at the crux with any of it. That Cuban stuff isn't the center of this and it is tenuous, as is McCord's U-2 connection and, if tied to that, the Hunt JFK framing.

I appreciate the thought and your taking the time, but this is bigger and better than that mag piece.

Even the Hunt plan to kill Castro has much more meaning than you are in a position to know and I can't take time to explain it. I have enough of that in hand and hope for more. Sincerely, and thanks,

LOYALIST } COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

8/3/73

Dear Harold,

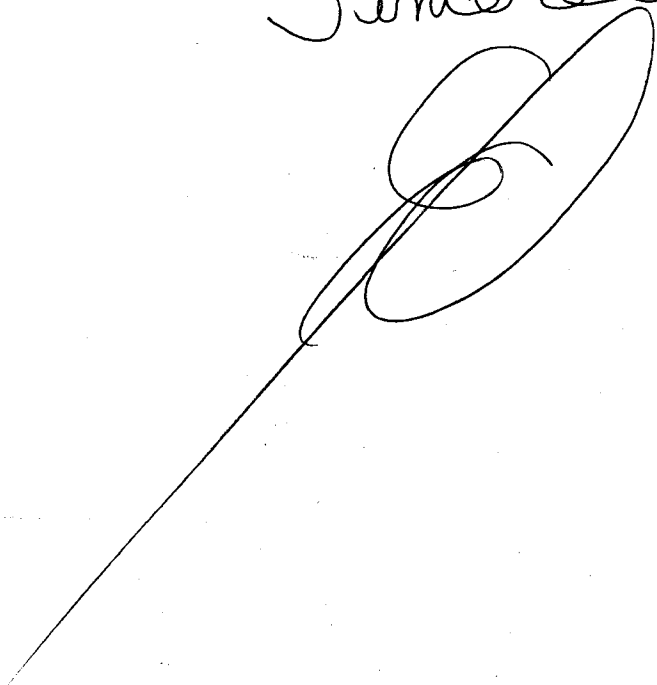
Perhaps an article along the lines of "Watergate and The Echoes of Dallas" would be the best method of securing visibility re: publishers.

The article - whatever published - caused them to want to know. We have F.B.I. interest in Sturgis and others, the protection of the assassination by Swales, the Cuban angle, Hunt's plan to kill Castro, Mafia/CIA attempts against Castro, McCord's U.I. relationships and L.H.O.'s etc.

I feel a story along

this time cannot be
published and would
get attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature consisting of a large, stylized 'C' or 'S' shape with a long, thin tail extending downwards and to the left.