

Dear Dave,

4/18/92

Your "bullets of Dealey Plaza" chapter came after you phoned yesterday. I got on it right away and herewith return it. But first my apologies.

It is not unusual that I've been up since a little past midnight, although it was unusual that twice when I roused I got up and listened to an inning of the Orioles game. I worked on the chapter until I went out for the papers, spent little time on them, read and commented on more of the chapter, went to my Carmack walking about 4:45, and then I had to cut it short and return home because the left support stocking was uncomfortable and counterproductive. Home I could remove my trousers and adjust it from time to time to get it fitting better but it still is not right and I had the shakes so instead of sitting at my desk and typing I sat in the living room and used a clipboard and thus inflicted my handwriting on you. ~~and~~ ^{but} at least the shakes are about gone.

You were right to be apprehensive about this chapter. Compared to what I read earlier this is ~~Not~~ as good and needs, I think, more work. Perhaps more than I've indicated, much as that is.

I have the impression that you were impelled to work on this when you really did not have the time; that you therefore rushed; that you depended too much on memory, not having the time to check your sources; that your memory in some instances failed you in varying degrees; and that the writing confirms these impressions.

Often it is heavy, stilted and artificial, sometimes awkward, vague and imprecise when it need not have been if you'd taken time and in general is not up to your standard.

I have not taken the time to explain my suggestions so I could complete it overnight and mail it today. Even though that means having it go to Baltimore, it might still reach you faster. I'll make a copy and hopefully, should be able to answer any questions you may have. and in reading, really struggling through my scrawl, be alert to where you were being the professor again before not very bright students.

If you keep the Shaw/Harris/Shipp business in I think you should begin by saying ^{you know of no confirmation} ~~that it is not confirmed~~ by any other source but because it conforms with the pattern you think it should be considered. (You could ask Shipp, if he is still around and you can locate him but I think that unless you can reach him with a call it is not worth the time it will take when you have so little.

You have me involved with those two young men with whom I had no contact. They are in the FBI's records but not in any relationship with me. My only involvement was with Emory Brown, since-retired SA Lichtinger hand-returned it as I say, with the stereotypical non sequitur.

At the end of the last one you may want to ^{or} consider adding a ^{paragraph} ~~chapter~~ that says that you have just encapsulated umpteen illustrations of the FBI's refusal to study and investigate umpteen found-in-Dealey Plaza bullets on the simply ridiculous ground that they could

have been fired in Oswald's rifle. That the FBI resorted to this irrelevant track to avoid trying to learn whether there may have been an additional assassin or assassins is its and its "investigation's" self-characterization/

The writing is not loose and relaxed, not free-flowing. I think your rushing accounts for this, probably aggravated by your feeling of uncertainty because you did not take the time to check your sources. Perhaps lack of confidence in what you were saying for the same reason. I think this led you to fudge and be vague so that you would not make a mistake whatever the explanation, this writing should be firm, straightforward, unequivocal and should exude confidence.

There may be more but I'm getting tired and it does not come to mind. and I've just realized that after I got home early this morning and immersed myself with this I forgot to wish Lila a happy 80th. I'll not forget now and we'll have a sort-of celebration of it at Hana's this evening.

Gerry is coming the weekend of the 2d, with family, which we like!

Jerry had finished the long chapter of his Pocom book on which he long had been working. I thought it was quite good and made only a few suggestions the short break may give him time to ponder.

If you did not refer to the FD340 as an evidence envelope, that is what it is.

Did the Aldredge testing disclose metallic traces? I do not remember,

I wrote "east" at your reference to a Main Street bullet recover. It could have been west and you should be explicit on it. Big difference.

Lester's metal-dep^{te}r hobby did not center on the assassination. That was an addition to ~~his~~^{his} uses of it.

If I think of more I'll add it before we mail this en route to Hana's,

Best,

Harold