

Dear Howard,

2/25/77

Thanks for theclippings included in the envelope with the chapter.

The comments by Bell you marked in the Times clipping are on the superficial. They are quite right only also very minor. This is one of the areas that bears on conspiracy. It is superficial in that there is tangible and unequivocal proof of a conspiracy. Thus it becomes a diversion.

You also marked the part referring to an unnamed FBI agent's having said Ray moved to far and too fast to have been alone. They have several backstop positions. This is one. It is broadly hinted at in the report just released. They think his brother Jerry was a conspirator and chide the FBI for not having followed this. Well, they did. In time the FBI will live this as it does all unjustified criticisms.

I was in Wednesday afternoon but you were not. Probably after you had gone for the day.

I'd had what I think is a good meeting with Zebra. It is entirely opposite the Curtis representation. Zacharias and Grossman both took me to lunch. I suppose they also had some other Washington business but it was an entirely unhurried lunch lasting several hours.

They appear more than merely interested and they want to see other of the materials I had mentioned to Curtis, like Agent Oswald, of which there are about five chapters.

Zacharias appears to be exceptionally sharp. He is also a pleasant man. He was impressed by the two records I showed you.

What he asked for is precisely what I had proposed to Curtis, that I go to New York with some of the evidence. I agreed but I offered a counter proposal he preferred. The passing of time and the accumulation of materials with it led me to this offer. If they are not for real there is in it hazard I'm running. I'll take the chance.

(Before I forget, Grossman also said when I proposed a much shorter book to them that the entire book also should appear.)

Unless it was what I do not believe, some kind of device, they appear to have some concern about a really tough book, which they say is exactly what they want. Then appear to be stunned that I can have such records in such volume and more than stunned with the knowledge that there will be not fewer than 25,000 pages of these FBI secrets.

I told them that as I go over the records I am making extra copies for book use and that I will now start organizing them into files in accord with planned use. I told them that I can carry these to New York but that I cannot carry all and I have not copied all pages of the longer records, only those parts I intend to use. Because they want their counsel as well as the co-owner to see the records I said that there is no way they can see the entire record if I go to New York and I am willing for them to see not only the entire record in each case but any and all records and all the receipts, the entire chain of possession and acquisition, which I do have in writing and in checks as well as the FBI's own records of conveyance to me. They appear to like this. So they are coming here week after next, with the co-owner and counsel at least.

They claim to be looking for prestige, for your information.

If they do with the book I've proposed what they did with the fake McDonald book - spend \$200,000 promoting it - we can break the King case.

The OPR report by Justice is so totally a coverup it is going to be counterproductive. There are already indications of this from the press which is to now unfriendly toward us. I do expect before this is over for Jim and me to be seeing Bell. Before that happens I want this all put together. The Zebra people may not have realized it but the proposal they seemed to approve of the shorter book will amount to the case that never got to court, with the evidence that was suppressed. Thanks and best,