

Dear Dick,

6/19/91

I hope you do not have my occasion to learn it but I have learned that however ~~broken~~ up a day is there is almost always something useful we can do with it. Today is such a day. Knowing it would be while at my early-morning walking I thought and when resting I read. Something like years ago, when driving to and from the Archives and then to and from New York was my thinking time and the rest of the time I worked.

After today's blood test I picked Lil up, then we got her sister and took her to the doctor (she came back to report she has Graves' disease (without even having been invited to the White House!)), now we are home and shortly leave for the dental lab where I pick up an added-to upper plate and an hour later go to the dentist. (We can't always make such convenient, time-saving arrangement.) So, having thought this morning about your helpful and informative call yesterday, before leaving again I write about it.

Much of what I do I do instinctively. As I said yesterday, ~~To~~ write now and to get things done in the limited time I'm up to it I make no effort to restraint or disguise my emotions. I am aware that publishing this kind of writing would be self-defeating. At no time did I have this in mind. As I thought of it this morning I came to believe that without thinking of it I was also intending to influence ~~the~~ understanding and thinking of anyone who read it, whatever the purpose of the reading. I'm not certain but I think so. But I am aware not only that it must come out - it really must be written ~~another~~ way with regard to Stone in particular, almost with feigned respect and regret, to lend itself to irony, sarcasm, ridicule, and such things, but gently. With Garrison, more ridicule. The material lends itself to this kind of expression when one can be ~~disapp~~ dispassionate, as now I cannot easily be, and it clearer to the average reader. The more sophisticated readers, from my experience with my first book, expressed like ^{ING} for and appreciation of the irony in particular.

The book I've had in mind from the first has a simple structure. It begins with Stone, his honors and fame, his public explanation of why he decided on Garrison's book, and then with quotations of what he and his spokespersons have said about it, centering around that it is not fiction, that it is to record history, to tell the people who, how and why JFK was killed. I won't bother to correct the error. Then what he says it will say and what it is based on. There is enough of this so the script is not needed and he is so firmly fixed into the essence that it ~~is~~ is not possible for him to depart from what he has said outside the script as well as in it, that JFK was killed over Viet Nam, ^{LBJ withing)} because he was going to get us out of there. (As fiction this is not unreasonable but as non-fiction it deceives and misleads the people and corrupts history.) Even after the ^{same} Gardner story appeared he while going through the motions of ^{same} downplaying it re-iterated that his movie is based on Garrison's book and what I will show are the nuttiest conspiracy theories he refers fo in his Post article as "credible." He is as firmly locked to Garrison, perhaps as I think, more

so, because of his self-defenses and what he has said and said and said.

This is fortunate because it is not possible to use the script and it is not possible to anticipate the relatively minor changes in it. What this really means is that the book will be accurate without any reference to the script other than is already public and is quoted from the public source.

Then, without great detail, Garrison. Stone has said that he is not limiting his movie to Garrison in his book. Garrison from the beginning.

This means that Garrison can and should be handled without regard to the script but on his record. On what he alleged and Stone also alleges, that there was a conspiracy. What did Garrison do to establish the existence of a conspiracy? What did he know about and not go into. Many specifics, some I think interesting and more than interesting.

Thus, and limited to what Garrison knew about, the book can be a new book on the JFK assassination in bringing to light and bringing together what he and Stone do not have in the movie and could and should have in a work not of fiction that proves there was a conspiracy.

Stone has said that his movie "^{is}incorporates" and then "everything" that has come to light since the JFK assassination. What he is actually saying is that it incorporates all the theories and eschews all ~~the~~ facts. This is explicit in his use of the words "credible theories" and in the books he ~~has~~ said he contracted. It also is clear in his selection of "experts" even after they got him interested in a disgraceful, palpable fraud, of a man who wanted to make bucks by saying his ^{dead} father was the assassin.

Even though limited to what Garrison did not do, without that limitation his own words make what he did not want relevant and on this additional basis there is a legitimate new JFK assassination book.

Because even after the criticism Stone reiterated that his movie is based on Garrison and is not fiction Garrison's credibility is more than germane- addressing it in terms of his ludicrous record is essential.

(A Britisher named Mangold has a book coming out soon on Angleton, "Cold Warrior". I ~~we~~ know he spends some time on Yuri Nosenko so I'll have to get a copy of that as soon as possible after it is out. Uncorrected bound page proofs are not safe. But ~~the~~ ^{the} real reason is not to duplicate what he says, more ~~than~~ to know what he says. There is one helluva and relevant story. There is a part I expect him to miss, that after the CIA's testimony was broadcast and telecast nationally the published testimony was censored. This relates to Oswald, charged as a conspirator by Garrison and ignored by Garrison in his book as he also failed to investigate Oswald for his trial.

I hope I am making clear that all of this is relevant and makes for a new and important book on the JFK assassination, for which there has always been and now is a good market. It is not to be what is dragged in by the heels but is what is relevant to the movie in

Stone's own description of it.

This can even be done in the form as raising questions about why Garrison/Stone never used the FBI/Secret Service proof that there was a conspiracy, that both disagreed strongly in private with the Warren Commission's conclusions; why Stone omitted this in what he refers to as telling the truthful history and instead restricts himself to the theories which are not proved and not provable.

All that the book should include cannot be included in a long magazine article and aside from reader interest, which I am certain is there, is important to our history, to our understanding.

Maybe more of this that I regard as essential and significant and pertinent will come to mind when I read and correct this but soon I have to leave for the dental lab and there is another aspect I want to address. I am certain that you are correct in what you say about publishing and publishers. The low opinion I formed of many with whom I dealt is consistent with what you say. Exceptions may be rare but there have been some successful departures from practise.

My experience tells me that there is a good or better market for this book that Stone's name adds to and what it says about Stone also adds to. The interest in the JFK assassination is not only undiminished, in recent years it has been greater. So also has anything about him as a person. I am uniquely in a position to be able to appraise this, every day.

I don't know what your ~~expensive~~ friends at Carroll & Graf experienced with a really crudy, sloppy, stupid and in innumerable ways inaccurate book ^{in costume} but I believe that for what they put into it they got a good return. Otherwise why reprint as a paperback with an ~~index~~ ^{added} index. I am not aware of any real effort they made to sell it. I am not aware of any ads or promotions, although there could have been some.

If they got a return on their investment with a lousy book, does not that indicate what is possible for a good book whose publisher makes an effort? I think it does. I am sure the book can be a great success and properly done at the same time an important book.

And that there will be more scandal to promote interest in it. *I think much.*

Resumed 6/21. As usual after a trip to Johns Hopkins yesterday I am more tired today and soon will take a nap. Don't worry. It was for the regular checks. On the eyes so good I don't go back for them absent some development for two years. No more checking on the operation required. On the legs, OK. Sort of, anyway, although I know they are deteriorating. But the blood pressure in them remains above the critical level. Six months back. I'll be going there again Monday to learn if a new injectable that has a good experimental record of reducing the size of enlarged prostates can be used on me and at the same time, if not, so they can be prepared because the lousy job done on it here five years ago will

soon have to be repeated. This entails relatively minor cutting but any cutting can be a danger for me. Clotting. That'll take one day and tire me the next. But it is necessary.

Walking this morning I wondered whether your belief that this is only a large mag. article is based on what you think the Stone part alone is worth? On that I could agree.

But this will be what there has never been, a book on Garrison, and it will include important new information on the JFK assassination. Each can easily be a worthwhile book. This book will have all three and absent Garrison and the JFK info in detail and documented those parts will lack credibility. Without these parts and without use of the script I doubt there could be a long mag piece on Stone and this movie without padding or resort to generalities that are not documented.

I guess I have not given you enough on Garrison and JFK. But I will.

Best to all,

Handwritten signature