

Dear Larry,

If you saw the Buckley/Hunt/Laso show on Public TV Sunday night you know it is now admitted that Hunt is exactly the guy I said he was in the Bay of Pigs. I add, I alone, signed Dick Daring. The significance of this in WC and in his being in any capacity inside the White House has been lost. It is so great the department of Disinformation had to go to work in June and did, with success only because the reporters on the story, with one exception, had no knowledge of Cuban affairs. Don't ask me to explain how Tad Sculz could have gone for the crap he accepted and printed. Or how the Post, even after I told Woodward, didn't even ask its own reporter, Haynes Johnson, who had written the definitive work on the Bay of Pigs. I am suggesting new credentials, for Hunt also announced on the Buckley show that he has a book coming out on the Bay of Pigs.

I'd like to review that book.

Prior to this WC stuff, I'd completed research for a book in which the Bay of Pigs is a major part, as I think you may remember. When I finish the one on which I've done five chapters, I'm returning to that.

So, I have Bay of Pigs credentials, Hunt credentials, and spook credentials. I was in O.S.S. and before that I was what today would be called an unregistered agent in British economic warfare. Not Hunt's department, but the same game.

If your book-review people could go for this, I'd be willing to do it on a satisfaction-guaranteed basis: no satisfaction, no pay. I think I could do the kind almost nobody else could. And when they could get so fierce if unshrieking a partisan as Elmer Gertz to review anything I wrote, they owe it to me. Elmer should have disqualified himself because of his partisanship, because he was so strongly committed in his own book (or, unless he clobbered me he admitted his own error), and because I went to Chicago in 1/67 expecting to debate Jenner, who had agreed, to find Gertz replacing him, then, with what for me is restraint, took him apart on TV. Further explanation: there was a heavy snow storm, taping was a Friday afternoon, Elmer's wife was with him, the taping was delayed, and we spent a long time in BBM's cafeteria. He was lecturing me and I warned him not to attempt it on camera and not to improvise "Fact" there as he was doing. He snarled worse on camera because his wife was there. I have just been given a copy of his Ruby book and have gotten past his handling of Dean, which seems honest but is corrupt as hell. He edited out the key part of the Warren Commission appearance of Dean while quoting it. He was protecting Warren personally in doing this. Burt Eriffin, Commission counsel, called Dean a perjurer. He was. The Commission, confronted with this, passed it off, Warren saying it was not the Commission's job to protect anyone, like Dean! Would you rather go to Skokie or by bus? Yet Elmer's point in his book is that Dean did commit perjury and he infers it was suborned. Omitting this in a book of the length of his can't be for space considerations. And I think before Elmer was in the case, I wrote Belli of this perjury. His review of Frame-Up was an ax job. Nothing can undo that. But I do think, unless you people like axing, they should make this gesture, asking me to review Hunt's.

I don't think they will.

If you can get a spare review copy, I'd like to see it before it comes out because there may be content that is WC-relevant and with the end of this trial there will be no end to the case. I'd like to see what there is in it that might be relevant.

Depending on the depth of his work and its scope, the book could easily have been completed after the arrests. That was seven months ago. Unless he plays Shirer, it could be in type because there was little he could do or had to do in his defense, once he did what he had to do before speaking to the feds. (If you didn't know, this included flying to Los Angeles, meeting with a lawyer from there, and going to Mexico with him - all before the Mexican laundry was known. Hunt spent four years in Mexico with a State cover but in CIA.) He appears to have been preparing for a book because ^{on Buckley's show} he read from a classified memo he seems to have taken from his CIA career. Naughty boy.

Best,