

1/18/74

Dear Barry,

This morning's Post, in validating some of what I wrote you yesterday morning, also tends to support the analyses not yet confirmed.

There were other Uhers and the <sup>explanation of</sup> failure to use one of them is not easy to accept: the Secret Service lost track of them.

Four unused ones in the stockroom, if true, as I presume it is, still does not explain other questions that, from the reporting, went unasked.

Why did Rose Mary need only a Uher? Why could she not have continued to use the machine she had been using? Why could she not borrow a Uher from someone to whom one had been issued? Why does the Secret Service provide normal office supplies to the Nixon White House? Does it also supply other secretarial needs, like typewriters, adding machines, etc.? Why alter an expensive unit so it cannot record when units can be bought that way? And after erasures, yet.

If you recall my first suggestion about checking into the equipment used, I think you will recall that most of this could be anticipated. If I could do this as soon as the 18-minute void was reported, is it not apparent that real experts should and would have anticipated it if not sooner as soon as Butterfield testified to the system and the existence of all these tapes? The Secret Service is expert.

And when from the first delay has been Nixon's "game plan," I regret very much that the lack of proper and obvious inquiry has made it possible, time after time. This is but the newest example. I wish I could believe it will be the last.

There is a familiar sound to this story that all the Secret Service personnel forgot those four unused Uhers in the stockroom. It is like Dallas.

They had Oswald, the lone suspect. They were grilling him to get a confession. "They" is all the Dallas and Texas police units, the same Secret Service, the FBI, even the postal inspectors.

Wanting a confession, there was no stenographer present to record it, no tape machine to miss no word. And not one of the original notes made by any of the police ~~xxx~~ survived. Burning them was as natural as breathing. This inspired no official interest, it is that natural. However, the homicide chief was asked why he did not have a running tape recorder. His reply was that he had requested one in his budget but that item had not been approved.

He was not asked if there was one anywhere else in the Dallas police department, one in the city he could have rented, or one he could have borrowed from the federals. And not one of them was asked why he had not offered to lend one.

Oddly, the one federal officer who recorded any suspicion is the man now in charge of the Secret Service White House operation as Assistant Chief in charge of Protective Research. Tom Kelley was then an inspector. He is the last one to have questioned Oswald before he was led off to be assassinated. The story and the direct quotes from Kelley's report are in Whitewash, my first book, the one with the blue cover. It is in your library and is indexed.

This is the same Secret Service that did use a tape recorder that very day when it spirited Oswald's widow into isolation and started leaning on her. (This is the story I tell in the first chapter of the second book, with the red cover.)

Were one so minded, what conspiracies one could weave when history repeats

1/19 a.m. Here I was interrupted by a phone call that in its relevance to conspiracies that can be woven is almost eerie. I did not get a chance to complete the thought last night. History seems to repeat with the same players in our political scandals.

The call was from a friend who has first-hand knowledge of the 1965 plot against Castro. He was then a federal employee whose work made his seeing some of it inevitable. He had first told me about this years ago, before we moved here on 10/1/67. So, I know he is not making it up after reading Tad Szulc's book.

He has just read what I have not but will if I ever find a copy of the reprint of Hunt's The Coven. I had heard of the plot so what he tells me is not new to me. Nor is it the only interpretation I can see.

He sees a thin hiding of the JFK assassination in this writing.

He was trained as a lawyer but has not practiced. He says it is as he was taught in his criminal-law courses, that Hunt displays the compulsion of the psychopath in telling about himself.

I can as easily see Hunt weaving in what had been well reported. But the inclusion of the story of the assassination seems to be the actuality.

For whatever these suggestions on the tapes are worth, I write them before today's Post gets here and will mail them after daylight, when I go out to our box for the paper. So I also write without knowledge of what may be in today's paper.

I don't know what, if anything, you can do about the shortcomings of the reporting. But if I can anticipate them in advance, as I think by now it is clear I have with some regularity, I do think that others might. It is one of the elements that has enabled Nixon to manipulate the news. And by it survive.

Writing you is not the burden it may seem to be because long ago and most of all because of the attitude of the major media to me and the work I am trying to do I had to and did recognize that I am, for practical purposes, unpublishable. So, when I write, what dominates is making a record for the future. That I know I can do. The texts thus are not in commercially-acceptable form. And I make extensive notes. Carbons of letters serve the same purpose.

Sincerely,