

August 20, 1966

Dear Mark:

Congratulations, summa cum laude, on your book.

With 20 months of work on the 26 volumes behind us, we know how many weeks and months of research, cross-checking and refining lie behind some of your simplest statements. We re-checked some as we read your book. You build a case which seems to us impregnable. Practically all the points you make are the ones that have concerned us most.

At this writing there seems little prospect of renewing our brief acquaintance of early 1964 when you came out after a television interview and we all discussed the assassination through the afternoon and dinner, and then we took you to your lecture appointment in San Francisco. We're now taking advantage of the same mutual friend to put before you a question which seems fundamental just now. If you know the answer and care to do so, would you please, at your convenience, let us know? It's this:

Who declassified the FBI report of December, 1963 (and its supplement of January, 1964)? When was this done, and is there any indication why? We ask this because everyone, from Salandria on, seems to write around this point. Assuming the report was classified in the first place, the upheaval following its declassification suggests that something more than normal bureaucratic routine may have been involved. For instance, if the source itself did the declassifying, the only inference we can discern that makes any sense would seem to point toward some sort of bailing-out operation, a move toward disassociating the source agency from the work of a commission apparently destined to face mounting criticism (as shown by the Sylvan Fox book last fall, if by nothing else).

There are, of course, dozens of things we'd like to talk over with you, and if you should find yourself with an hour or so to spare, by all means give us a ring, DUnlap 8-2426, and we'll see if schedules can be synchronized.

Your book has been more than worth waiting for. Until much more evidence is made public, we don't expect ever to see a better one.

Most cordially,



James D. White  
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