

Dear Jim,

12/9/73

The way my shoulders and knees feel, I'd be sorry the weather warmed enough for the predicted snow to have been rain were it not that we had so much, with such strong winds! But, having overdone it a bit with the ax and the machete, I decided I'd best not jar the shoulder too much and I read, finishing Noyes' Legacy of Doubt.

It is so incredibly bad I have to wonder. Can one guy be so careless, stupid, wrong and still hold down a job?

I have to wonder also how it got printed.

Jim Braden (Brad King) is connected with nothing. He was not even in Dealey Plaza when the shots were fired. At the end of the book he remains connected with nothing.

Of course, he is before the end connected with Ferrie and Ferrie is one of Marcello's top men. He says. How is he connected with Ferrie? Well, Braden had the use of an office on the 17th floor of the Pere Marquette Bldg and that is where Wray Gill's office was.

This guy makes a Keystone Cop out of Hercule Poirot!

He makes it up as he goes but when it is all over he still has not made anything up.

With carelessness yet. I don't see how any editor did not pick up the basic errors in even his manufactures. Or how any lawyer read this for libel. Even if it was assumed that crooks would not sue.

This is also a worse picture of the CTIA bunch than I'd had. They had his ms. two years ago and still kept in touch with him. Had him on the program, although if they had Sprague who was not acceptable?

You hear this guy talk about his great work and you do believe that he does believe it himself. That also seems entirely incredible.

And it all began with Turner.

Even when he is making things up he doesn't make up enough. He invents a connection with Ferrie by two inferences: they both may have gone to the same floor of the same building, although he can't even say they did, and that, we are to believe is a connection; and Marcello is the top man in the Mafia and Braden was Mafia so that connects Braden and Ferrie who supposedly was in Marcello's mob. He wasn't, by the way. He worked for Gill. Then there is also the inference we are left to make for ourselves that Marcello wanted to off Bobby over his deportation. It is explicit that Marcello could not kill Bobby without killing John first. This is supposed to help get the idea across that Braden was a killer although even Noyes has him away from the scene of the crime!

Braden and Bradley are not look-alikes in any way and they are not of the same height or construction (he admits all) but there was a mistake on Garrison's part and he made the wrong identification, getting Bradley for Braden. This becomes comprehensible when you understand that Oswald was really a Minuteman. And the Minutemen fingered Bradley. See?

This is so inconspicuous a work I can't regard it as a black book but it is so absolutely terrible without that there seems to be no explanation of it. It really is that bad.

One shift the carriage and presto! instant evidence.

To the three obvious questions, from his complaints there seems to be an answer to one, why would anyone buy this book? His answer is that are not. The other two are why anyone would write it and why anyone would publish it. To these I see no rational answer.

Best
PW

TIMELY QUOTES

In the service of my country, I withstood hours and hours of depth charging, shelling, bombing, but I never expected to run into a Watergate in the service of a President of a United States, and I ran into a buzzsaw obviously. — L. Patrick Gray, former acting head of the FBI, before the Watergate investigating committee.