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Mr. George Lardner
Newsroom
Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear George,

The House assassins committee, hopefully ~~sent~~^{born} upon unrecognized self-destruction, is back with the Spragues named Richard, from the hard-headed (and nosed) to the soft-headed. They are also distinguished, these Richard Spragues, by their middle initials, A and E.

It is my information that the committee wheel who goes most for the assorted nut theories is Tannenbaum, who appears to remain in contact with and not disenchanted with Lane. He also appears to be the one all for the second Richard Sprague who, confusingly enough, on political assassinations is the first Richard Sprague.

Sprague's theory of greatest immediate attractiveness to the assassins committee is that the JFK assassination was pulled off from an umbrella. The crazy notion has earlier forms not original with Sprague. He is great at taking something else and improving it, like Lane. Unlike Lane, in all other ways he is a very nice guy. As is his pal, the Mass. architect Bob Cutler. Cutler has done a book on The Umbrella Man.

These guys do not know what they are missing. There are two but they've captured only one. If the assassins nab the second it will be bigger than Bigfoot.

Josiah (Tink) Thompson first made something of the nothingness, that a man on the north side of Elm St was signalling by closing an umbrella that he had had up for no apparent reason after it had stopped raining more than an hour earlier.

Signalling also is big among the demon investigators. They have entire crews who have to be kept in close contact. One means is by radio and the first radioman is one James Hicks from whose left rear pocket Jones Harris claimed to see an aerial wire trailing. After it was all over, that is. (Jones is a Nixonian who pretended to be an RFK man for years. He has some interesting other connections. I guess the best thing that from my experience can be said about him is how principled his mother was to refuse to marry his father. Ruth Gordon, Jed Harris.) No matter that Hicks is crazy and in the crazy house. Sprague picked that signalman bit up from Harris in Garrison's office and has been chasing it since. The whole thing got a big boost from Church committee testimony establishing that there actually were such CIA devices.

Nobody applied the simple tests. in this case, assuming an intent to assassinate by umbrella, the simplest is was it possible? The photographic proof of impossibility is without possibility of question.

All this time I've forgotten - you know this Sprague! He is the one who has you the assassin of Dave Ferris. If this disqualifies you from doing a story let me know. I want it to appear and I'll give it to another. But if you want to slip back into your second life as a CIA operative you can be the first one to penetrate the star chamber. Odd how all the papers breathed a sign of relief and atypically forgot all about this wretchedness as ~~so~~ soon as they decided to operate in total secrecy. Once was a time papers did approve of government in total secrecy. As I have seen Bradley over-react to Lane so do I believe all the major media have over-reacted to the Fautroy/Lane/Gregory CIA charges.

If I kept book on the nuts I'd be doing nothing else. It was Cutler who nominated you assassin, wasn't it? You'd never believe what kind a nice guy he is in all other areas of life.

If you ask the committee if Sprague is on the payroll and it has not yet been cleared it won't be so please don't do that. If they know of your interest they'll kill the deal. You may have a safe way. If not just let me know if you are interested and in my way and after more time I'll get a second source. I consider my first one an excellent source. Once we have confirmation it becomes safe to ask. Maybe some kind of anniversary also is safe. Like now that it is blank months to the day since Stokes became chairman, who are the new employees? Or a month after Blakey? Being interested in no single employee. You'll probably see other such opportunities for a dull day.

But reading this Richard Sprague is not dull. In "Computers" and "People in the PURSUIT of TRUTH." One of the two is capitalized in the title. I got it only when someone else vomits up a copy. And don't keep it in my office files so I can't check conveniently. This Sprague has something like 50 conspirators on the scene. Yup, all in Daley Plaza. He is the father of the "tramp" pictures "improved" by Weberman after the earlier improvements by Garrison et al. He even gave the wins called teamps names. Like Frenchy, after the French cut of his clothes. Some how down in New Orleans one became LBJ's farm manager. Somehow one was "identified" as "Skinny Ralph," a supposed ONI operative. You know about Edgar Eugene Bradley, of course. Lane was in on that one, but big. Began with Bill Turner and Boxley.

I understand the new plans include the rehabilitation of these "tramp" pictures, beginning with a detailed reconstruction from the moment they were picked up. Of course if they do this right they ~~will~~ eliminate. But how much crazier can one be that looking into it at all based on nothing?

There is more about these pure-in-hearts. It seems like the Fonz planned a book all along. Whether or not his pressure helped put deMohrenschildt over the thin line the Fonz launched one of the earlier disinformation operations with his study, along with a paranoid named Vincent Salandria, of the Kapruder film. Complete with sketches traced from projections of the slides of the film they "prove" that Connally was not hit until quite some time by any accounting he had very visibly been hit. This was in Greater Philadelphia Magazine in 1966. I think I have the story someplace. He was editor or a staffer. Probably accounts for the Schweiker ~~Stange~~ link. He also worked on the Odio bit, not very productively. It appears that the committee had her around to eyeball Hall and that she ~~ided~~ negatively. Not confirmed.

Best,