

February 9, 1992

Dear Friend,

Thanks for your interest in the Mae Brussell Research Center and/or CONSPIRACY! Mae Brussell designated me to set up the research center in her name in Santa Cruz before she died in October, 1988. She did this because we had worked together as researchers for close to 16 years, and she trusted my judgement and knowledge. Her first offer was to have me take the largest portion of her collected books and work back to Washington. I felt, however, that the collection should stay together, since it represented her years of insight and hard work.

Unfortunately, Mae made no provision in her will, or any financial planning for this continued work. I moved to Santa Cruz at my own expense and loaned the Research Center over \$17,000 to get it off the ground. Mae's family provided initial support, Mae gave \$1,000 and her daughter Kyenne donated over \$3,000. Volunteers and a minimal paid staff got the Center located, moved the materials and helped with the fundraising. I lived on my own funds for the first year and a half, taking a 10% fee from what I raised for my salary at the end.

My goal was to make this huge collection of books and printed matter, tapes and manuscripts publicly available in a variety of ways. Security considerations kept me from opening the doors for public use, as well as the vast job of organization that an open library would have demanded. My first goal was to raise money by making it accessible as a research base for interested groups, and it was used by many, including the Christic Institute, before it folded. I made Mae's tapes accessible by mail catalog, and many volunteers transcribed them.

I felt there was no reasonable way to make the collection useful without computerization and indexing. I began with transcripts, but soon realized that a scanning operation would have to be used to store and index Mae's voluminous Warren Commission indexing, and other writings. I eventually discovered the hardware and software to do this at a low cost range (\$15,000), and attempted to raise enough money to purchase it. In the meantime, I bought and loaned both IBM and Apple computers and scanners to the project.

From the start, though, there were obstacles. The family did not provide any adequate capital base to make the project workable. Literature and tape sales, fundraising mailings and events, public appearances and a few large donors, as well as my own loans, made paid staff possible. Over the year and a half we raised about \$55,000, spending most of it on rental, phones, salary and postage. We were inundated with mail and phone requests from across the country, and provided thousands of people with updates and media appearances.

In addition, there was hostility and disagreement among Mae's friends and followers as to the direction of the work. Some felt I should not even use a computer. Others wanted only a memorial library, not a research project that would carry on Mae's valuable work. Few had contacts, skills or funds necessary

to assist in the isolation of Santa Cruz. One fellow researcher was apparently so jealous of my position that he began first private and then public attacks on my integrity, agent-baiting, and claims that I had somehow stolen money. Under the wing of an existing non-profit organization, the MBRC kept exhaustive financial records and was fully accounted monthly by a local service. Had I stolen anything, I would have basically been stealing from myself. Only when the organization was financially solvent did I repay my own loans.

To my surprise, I discovered that Mae's daughter felt the collection should have been put in her care instead. A disgruntled employee left, taking more money than they were owed, and attempting to ruin my reputation with others. Just when the organization had turned the corner financially, due in large part to our first newsletter getting circulated, and new staff had been hired who I could work with easily, Mae's daughter moved to force me from the organization. She supported a move by former volunteers and others to steal sections of the collection without my consent or knowledge. These were never returned, despite promises by board members responsible.

A "board" was formed, and I was expected to leave the Center one day each week so that volunteers could run it. I was told that no mailings could be sent without prior censorship, and that I was not to connect my name publicly with the MBRC. I was offered a position as "research chair" for \$6,000 a year. Any attempt on my part to enlist helpful supporters onto the board was opposed, and none of the board members were currently active volunteers. One person who had contributed to the organization financially and designed the newsletter was confronted with baseless and vicious charges of being a "CIA agent" when she applied for board membership.

At this point, I resigned. I was unable in good conscience to bring anyone into such an organization, or continue working with any sense of integrity. I paid final bills, and sent the account balance to Mae's daughter. I closed the post office box and directed MBRC mail to her. I recommended that the collection be kept intact, the newsletter continued and the literature and tape sales (save my own works) be continued. Work on a "Collected Works of Mae Brussell" was being done by Kyenne at that point, and the finished product had been promised to large donors. The family attorney, a board member, resigned in disgust.

At my own expense, once again, I moved back east. The finest collection of anti-fascist materials in the country was put into storage. As far as I can determine nothing has been done since that time to open a library or work on the materials. I did discover that Kyenne Brussell was distributing a slanderous letter to anyone who wrote MBRC for information, claiming that I had "emptied the bank account and left town." At that point, I redirected MBRC mail to my Washington address to protect myself. Mae's fellow researcher, Dave Emory, continues to attack me, relying on completely false information and ridiculous charges that include supposed links to the Charles Manson family, the Aryan Brotherhood and Western Goals, all of them fascist intelligence operations I helped Mae to expose.

I have continued my research with my own collected materials, which I had once hoped to donate to add to Mae's collection. CONSPIRACY! no longer functions as a mail order point for my work. Many of my talks are available on audio and video tape, and my transcripts and articles have been collected into a book, Judge for Yourself. These can be ordered from the catalog of Prevailing Winds Research, P.O. Box 23511, Santa Barbara, CA 93921, or call (805)566-8016. In addition, researcher William Kelly and I began the Committee for an Open Archives last fall, and the film JFK has boosted interest across the country. Write to COA, P.O. Box 6008, Washington, DC 20005-0708, or call (202)310-1858. To contact me for personal or informational matters, write to me at the address below.

Those interested in the fate of Mae's collection should write to Kyenne Brussell, P.O. Box 13671, Berkeley, CA 94701. Tapes of Mae Brussell's World Watchers International show can be ordered from Al Kunzer, 348 English Ave., Monterey, CA 93940 or call (408)375-0778. Many of the best books Mae worked from are still available from Tom Davis, P.O. Box 1107, Aptos, CA 95001, send for his catalog.

If you sent check or money order to this address, it has been returned, unless made out to John Judge or Committee for an Open Archives. COA has a newsletter, Prologue, and if you contributed \$25 or more in the past to MBRC, it will supplement the first and only WWI newsletter at this point. The first year's issues of Prologue will come to you free of charge. First time donors, and those who wish to extend their subscription at this point to help out COA can send \$25 and get Prologue. I had no way to continue the WWI newsletter, but feel responsible to those of you who contributed in good faith and were let down by the board.

Sorry for any delay in response to your queries. Mail gets to me very late after being sent to the Santa Cruz address. I have been swamped with work due to the Gulf War, and my survival depends on long hours with progressive organizations raising money for them. I have a personal life now, as well. Unfortunately, correspondence suffers. Those who asked for specific information in their letters, or had questions will get a separate reply in due time. Meanwhile, see JFK if you haven't yet, and come clean.

John Judge
P.O. Box 7147
Washington, DC 20044