

31Dec68

Dear Helen,

Cara reports that you said something to her on the phone the other night which we both find very disturbing -- that "Harold will straighten everything out" regarding Ed Horsey.

Harold will not straighten everything out. He will not have an opportunity to do so. I think I spoke too softly of Weisberg when we last discussed him.

Let me make myself very clear on this subject. Harold Weisberg is a dispicable bastard.

You mentioned that once one [redacted] gets him on one's side, he pulls all the stops. This, precisely, is the problem. The Kennedy assassination is a murder case. Further, anyone who becomes accused in Garrison's conspiracy is, by implication, a mass murderer -- responsible for an escalation in U.S. policy which has involved setting fire to people and their kids. No crime is worse than this.

Therefore, an individual who goes charging around telling lies about someone and who distorts facts concerning them and who [redacted] uses dishonest reasoning in order to incriminate them with an unstable maniac of a DA -- is NOT just an amusing, lovable little freak.

Nor do Weisberg's crimes of irresponsible recklessness, political pyromania, character assassination, and obstruction of justice pertain only to me. [redacted] Besides writing that insane, hate-ridden piece of [redacted] stomach-turning fantasy called OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS (which is not by any means "supressed" in New Orleans, as he so dishonestly claims) about Clay Shaw and other innocent human beings who have never done a thing against Harold, he has striven mightily to cast suspicion on a number of [redacted] innocent people in connection with my case.

The most glaring example of this was his charge that poor, old Clint Bolton (who, among other things, has been active on the Jewish Welfare Fund in New Orleans) was "anti-Semitic" because he spelled Wildgoose's name as Weisberger (mistakenly) in a column. I spoke to Weisberg on the phone the other night and he had the nerve to tell me that Clint had called him by his right name when they met, briefly, on the occasion in question. Clint is not a liar.

You would have to know Clint (and perhaps you will get an opportunity to do so) to realize how utterly insane [redacted] anyone would have to be to charge seriously that he was "anti-Semitic."

You would have to be familiar with the terroristic atmosphere in New Orleans today to realize how sadistic anyone would have to be to make the same charge loosely.

Compared to Harold Weisberg, A. Edward Horsey is fair-to-middling.

During my phone conversation with Harold the other night I also became convinced at last that he is not simply misguided. He is utterly dishonest. He told me at least two bald-faced lies, any number of half-truths, resorted to several logical evasions, and had the most over-bloated sense of his own importance imaginable.

I further quite agree with your contention that most rightwingers, once they understand what Weisberg is talking about, are in favor of it. Most rightwingers are authoritarian patriarchists who are in precisely the same anal-aggressive paranoid bag as Harold. They love conspiracy-mongering and reputation splattering nearly as much as they dig putting the napalm torch to little children. Weisberg is so much like Westbrook Pegler in every possible way that it is he, more than any of the others, who brings out the similarity between the Garrison fiasco and the McCarthy madness of the 50s.

My own political tradition, the Old Right, was utterly destroyed as a potent political force when McCarthy stood up and said, "I have here in my hand...", thereby drawing all the lunatics to one pole where they could meet each other and organize to destroy the effect of the Garet Garrets and Isabel Pattersons and Rose Wilder Lanes, etc. Jim Garrison and his madmen (of which Weisberg is Bullgoose Looney) are doing the exact same thing to the decentralist pacifist New Left that the McCarthyites did to the laissez-faire isolationist Old Right, reducing it to a level of personalities instead of issues, making it anti-intellectual thereby, and substituting hate for the more abiding and constructive motivations. New Orleans is already a police state in the name of anti-Big Brotherism. Eventually the Garrisonites, if they become powerful, will be advocating War in the name of Peace.

And I am quite certain the ONLY reason Weisberg is claiming not to be associated with Garrison is because they have INSISTED he do this. Jim Alcock, for one, has as I understand it taken quite a dislike to Harold as a result of his insane tampering with my case. I believe that Weisberg is in bad trouble in New Orleans, in fact, because of his misleading Garrison and associates on the subject of the "co-incidences" -- not to mention a number of other matters. Harold Weisberg was, according to a source I trust in Garrison's office, "the driving force" behind my arrest. He all but incited Garrison into arresting me. Further, when I went down there to testify I was greeted with the most astonishing hostility (on which I touched in one of our conversations only lightly, in reference to Mort Sahl). I now have reason to believe that this was because Weisberg had utterly inflamed not only Garrison, but several members of the DA's staff -- mostly with false information about me (such as the charge that I had written a series of sensational articles about Lee which appeared in a Chicago tabloid under my by-line when, as I've repeatedly made clear, these pieces appeared as a result of a loophole in my book contract and were not written by me -- but rewritten from my book by a staffer on that paper without my prior knowledge that they would misrepresent my opinions and alter facts.\*)

\*In our phone conversation Harold had the unrealism to suggest or imply that I was responsible for these pieces anyhow because no disclaimer had appeared in the publication at my insistence. I have never seen a cheap paper like this print a disclaimer voluntarily, and the "publisher's contract" which I foolishly signed without consulting a literary agent left me no legal ground to demand one. Apparently he believes that Rock Hudson and Grace Kelly and Sammy Davis Jr. and the other people who "appear" in these crap publications sit around on weekends doing articles on their sex lives and things in order to pick up extra cash, also -- Jesus!

I have copies of letters, mind you, in which Weisberg has indicated that he is some kind of expert on me. In letters to Dave Lifton he has even claimed to know my motivations. And Sylvia tells me he wrote her a letter in which he insisted that I am "a guilty man."

Yet -- in his phone conversation ~~he~~ he told me that he has never even received a copy of the charges against me (which he persists in calling "the indictment") and revealed that he was utterly unfamiliar with the attacks I have been making on the Warren Report in public (at the Henry George School in L.A., at the Henry George School in San Diego, on the Harry Pollard Show on KPFK (in L.A. AND San Francisco), on the Joe Dolan Show in San Francisco, in FACT Magazine and elsewhere since early in 1966), long before Dim Jim had even thought of "investigating the assassination."

Just WHO is a GUILTY ~~man~~ man?!

He also told Dave that Barbara Reid's witchcraft was solely connected with theatrical publicity, or something to that effect, which is like saying the war in Vietnam is SOLELY connected with the filming of news-reels. No honest person could spend ANY TIME IN THE FRENCH QUARTER (where there are people Barbara claims to have gotten out of jail with her hexes, cured of diseases, and in one case caused to fall through a balcony and be castrated and, in another case, to have caused to die) and come away convinced that Barbara's witchcraft claims were ~~solely~~ solely -- or even largely -- connected with publicity stunts for theatrical endeavors. I hope to Hell Garrison is stupid enough to produce Barbara as a witness at my trial (which he will have to do or alter the charges) -- IF I ever get the dignity of a trial in court.

Harold also has at least one of his college-kid buffs convinced that I must be "a solid steel psychopath" and has a co-cretin of his going around San Francisco saying that Clint Bolton "is CIA."

And those are a few of the reasons, all of which I can adequately document, why I am very disturbed about your confidence that "Weisberg will straighten everything out."

With that abomination entitled OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS Weisberg inadvertently killed the Garrison probe. With his many shocking and insane letters to people about me he has utterly screwed up whatever feeble hope Garrison may have once had of convicting me.

I do not want this dangerous little fascist on my side.

I want nothing to do whatever with Harold.

I seriously suspect that Ed Horsey is working for Garrison and that Weisberg was supposed, by prearrangement, to step in and save me from Horsey -- so that I would become convinced that deep down Harold was really all heart. And so that eventually I could be persuaded to either: 1) turn my letters and tapes on Harold over to him or at least not use them against him (and Garrison); 2) co-operate with Garrison, as was originally slated, in the prosecution and persecution of some poor innocent shit like Heindel; or (3) keep my mouth shut about Pig Jim's obvious reluctance to bring my case into a court of law.

I must insist that you assure me in writing that no information (private or public) which comes to you as a ~~result~~ result of our forthcoming association will end up in Harold's hands.

I've proposed to Levine that we meet on the first Monday of the New Year and I'm waiting to hear from him -- pretty sure it will

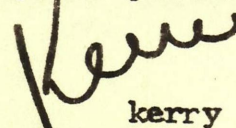
be fine. When he confirms I'll give you a call.

I'm sure I probably have sounded to you like a raving maniac in this letter. I have held myself down, however. It is for fear of sounding [redacted] precisely like such a crazyman that I do not come on as strong as I feel about Harold with people I don't know most of the time. But you must understand that I get the same vibes from him you get from Horsey: worms. And in Harold's case the worm is now turning and I want nothing to do with it at all. Let him squirm.

He made his own bed -- an expression he has used with regard to me testifying before the grand jury.

I should also like to make it clear that I have no desire to hurt him. I just do not want to have anything whatever to do with Weisberg, [redacted] period -- directly or otherwise.

May the Great Spirit protect you,

  
kerry

PS - You may send copies of this letter to Sylvia and anyone else along that line if you wish. My carbon paper is running out and I don't have time to go down to the library and run some off. But no big deal either way.

PPS - The individual who is saying in S.F. that Clint is CIA is Hal Verb, whom a friend of mine characterized to me as someone who "literally, cannot see any difference between you and Hal Weisberg."