

17 December 1968

Dear Kerry:

Thank you so much for writing to me. We should be able to straighten out a great deal. I will be glad to meet with you and Mr. Levine.

You will be interested to learn that since Ed Horsey left St. Petersburg I have not had any unusual telephone calls. He will be back to spend two or three days with his parents at Christmas and I am holding my breath.

Your suggestion about not letting him know of any suspicions is wise and in line with what I have done from the first, even when asking him about a small discrepancy might clear it up.

The incident that came closest to convincing me of his honesty and his not being involved in the nutty things that happened (as well as nearly making me certain that you were - sorry about that) was the episode about your exchange of letters with Dr. John Smith.

All correspondence to Dr. John Smith is forwarded to Horsey and he is the one who replies. His anger gave every indication of being real when he told me you had informed him you wrote to Smith and received an answer. He was furious that (according to him) you had told such a lie. He said that, of course, no such thing ever took place or he would have known of it since he received and wrote the replies to all mail addressed to Smith. If he was acting, he missed his calling. He would have made the best actor the world ever saw. His face alternated between turning red and then to white.

More disturbing is the possibility that he was not acting and had done precisely what he disclaimed and knew nothing about such actions.

I have written exactly one letter to Jim Garrison. This was a long time ago and I requested a copy of a speech he was supposed to have made. It was a couple of months before I received a reply - and not from him - and I did not get the copy of the speech.

Often I receive requests for newspaper clippings or tapes of radio or TV interviews. These have come from individuals in various parts of the country. Jim Garrison has never asked me directly or indirectly for any assistance of any kind. A couple of times Harold Weisberg asked for two copies of clippings or tapes and indicated he wanted to furnish Garrison with one. In return, Harold has told me where I might obtain something I was trying to locate.

I have never sent anyone any material that was not already public information. There is an exception to that. I have sent tapes of private interviews with individuals who reported seeing UFOs but this was with their knowledge and agreement and I told them to whom the material was being sent. But my first statement is entirely true where it concerns any aspect of the JFK controversy.

Your difficulty in trying to reach me by phone is normal. Bob Ruark would have given you the correct number so it is just the usual outstanding efficiency of the telephone company again.

C
O
P
Y

There is a suggestion I might offer you. Horsey has your telephone number and knows where you work. You cannot so easily change jobs but you might want to have your home number changed. He is convinced that you "know something" and are "afraid to talk". I should not like to know he decided to try to make you even more afraid than he thinks you are.

There is something your attorney might be able to check. Horsey gave me a lengthy report on a trip he said he made to Tallahassee to visit with Gelber, the Assistant Attorney General. Gelber is supposed to have been pleased to have Horsey do some investigation for him in this area and to have given him numerous names of individuals and organizations to check out. I think this was about five or six weeks ago.

I am sending Sylvia a copy of this letter so she will know I appreciate her warning you about Smith. If you check with Bob Ruark you will find I asked him to do the same thing.

My telephone pick-up went on the blink for a time and I missed recording some of the 'best' of the disturbing calls. My husband finally put a longer cable on it and got it working perfectly - then Horsey left town and there was nothing to record except legitimate calls. He did not go to Kalamazoo, by the way. I thought that was his destination, too, since he said he was going to Missouri. He fouled things up by going where he said he was going. Some times you just can't out-guess the opposition. I know he went there. He wanted me to send him something right away and he gave me his address. Do you know, I just can't find what he wanted even though it is right here in front of me?

There are so many days I wish no one had ever suggested that I take a closer look at the Warren Commission's work, that no well-meaning friend had ever presented me with the 26 volumes of stuff, and that I had right then refused to sign for the boxes when they were delivered. Then I am forced to consider that, if an Oswald could have such things done to him, it could happen to me or to anyone else.

In the Sunday newspaper I read of Indians on the warpath in Canada, with war paint and war dances. Can you imagine, in these days, a farmer having to take a gun with him to the fields? I think I will join them - the Indians, I mean. Don't know how you feel about minorities but Indians are my people.

My husband works nights as a musician and doesn't usually get up before noon. He is not quite human until he has a couple of cups of coffee. If he wakes up to find visitors, he is rather unhappy. Monday of any week would be best for me. This is his night off and there is no worry about having dinner at a particular time. He could even take me to Tampa if it would help. Otherwise, any evening until 2 a.m. is convenient - Mondays included. Anything I can do will be done, gladly.

Meantime, I wish you happiness for the holidays so far as that is possible. Last night I trimmed our tree. During the night the cat-people untrimmed it. This will continue - I trim, they untrim - until I pack it away for another year. Seems like I would learn something, doesn't it?

My best wishes to you and your wife,

Sincerely,

Helen G. Hartmann

P.S. I don't trust the privacy of my telephone, either.

C
O
P
Y