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22 October 1968

Dear Helen,

I will start with a "P.S." just to be sure I don't forget it later. There was an editorial in The Progressive on Mark Lane, exposing his complete misrepresentation of contacts with that magazine in 1963, which put me in mind of Steffen Sorensen's last letter to me (to which I did not reply, as we discussed by phone) and his brushing aside of Lane's dishonesty. When I first saw the editorial, I could not use the office xerox, so I typed a copy with maximum carbons, but did not have enough copies to send to all those whom I wanted to be sure to see the piece. I therefore sent one carbon copy to Steffen with a handwritten request in the margin to share it with you. Later I was able to use the xerox, so here is a copy in case you have not yet seen the one I sent Steffen.

Now to your letter of the 20th. I have just read it carefully, and then read it again. Although you took great pains to make the sequence and details of the incidents as plain and explicit as possible, the story is still confusing because of the variety and interlinking and crossed lines literally and figuratively. You did not exaggerate when you described the incidents as "strange things," and you would be quite justified in adding, ominous and hair-raising.

What strikes me forcefully is that Ed Horsey is the one common factor in each case, and he in turn is linked to Garrison (to me, he took a very anti-Garrison position, but I feel sure that with pro-Garrisonites he takes a very pro- posture). The fact that Horsey told Kerry Thornley that I would vouch for him, when I do not and cannot; and the fact that he told Thornley to steer clear of you, while he himself cultivated your friendship--these facts by themselves are enough to establish Horsey's bad faith, dishonesty, and/or derangement (mental disturbance, at the very least). The very same proofs exist in profusion where Garrison is concerned.

I am therefore strongly of the impression that these strangers who got in touch with you, Jack Wade, Jack Senn, and any others including the "Ed Horsey" impersonator/intimidator, are the worst kind of creeps and very possibly sinister in purpose and in nature.

I strongly urge you to disengage yourself decisively and immediately from Wade, Senn, and most especially from Horsey. (By the way--I did give your name to Richard Billings, when he told me he was to become associate editor of the St. P. Times. Did you check to see if there really is a Times' reporter Jack Wade? If so, it is just possible that Billings gave him your name. Even so, I would have nothing to do with him--Billings should have contacted you personally, not given your name to a reporter who would not disclose the source, if in fact he did so.)

I should mention that I also gave your name to Kerry Thornley, assuming that you would not have any objection to that and that it would be illuminating if you and Thornley compared notes on what Horsey had said to each of you.

One further piece of information which may turn out to be useful--I had a letter last week from Bernard Fensterwald inviting me to become a member of a new committee (the "Committee to Investigate Assassinations" or "C.I.A.") which had been organized by Garrison, Bill Turner, and Fensterwald. The by-laws enclosed with the letter were shocking in that they are totally undemocratic--the Directors (Garrison, Turner, Fensterwald, and various others invited who will probably accept) will serve as Directors in perpetuity, and in event of vacancy the Directors--not the members--will elect a replacement. I immediately declined the invitation, on the ground of my absolute and irreversible unwillingness to have any association with Garrison or his fraudulent (no less than the WR's) "solution" of the assassination. I did not