

Sylvia: For your information; Pardon the Lowrey
David ^{copier}

Dec 23, 1968

Dear Kerry,

As usual, I don't have time to write, and this is written in great haste; but a series of events has just occurred and I thought I'd better get this written up and off to you as soon as possible.

Last week, on December 17, I received a letter from Vincent Salandria that was two lines long and dated December 14, 1968. It read: "It seems to me that you owe me an explanation for your strange behavior while I was in New Orleans. Will you oblige?". Signed, Vince.

I immediately wrote back, in a letter dated December 17, 1968: "Dear Vince, Tonight, I came home and opened your letter of December 14 which reads, in its entirety, as follows: (quoted his letter) I have not the slightest idea to what it is you are referring. Furthermore, until I read your letter tonight, I had not the slightest idea that you were in New Orleans, or anywhere else other than your home town, for that matter. If something is the matter, please explain. Sincerely yours, " Signed, David Lifton etc.

Today, I received a long distance phone call from Vince in which he apologized, and explained to me what had happened.

He had gone to New Orleans. (From another source, I have since learned that he went down there with Harold Weisberg).

While he was in Garrison's office, he received several phone calls. Two in particular are of importance here.

One call was from someone saying that Vince should rush over to the West Coast and represent "Thornhill", whoever that is.

Then he got a call which started like this: The caller said: "Do you know whose voice this is?" Vince told me that he recognized the voice to be my voice. So he said: "Yes". Whereupon he went into a telephone conversation with this gentleman under the impression he was talking to me.

The import of the conversation was that Vince should, in exchange for information on the States Rights Party, agree to represent Kerry Thornley. Inasmuch as he was right then in Garrison's office, Vince felt it was downright unethical for him to even think of doing that; and, furthermore, whoever was asking ~~XXXX~~ him to do it should have known that. So Vince was very sore and, he told me, angry and abrupt with the caller.

He assumed the caller was me, because it sounded like my voice.

Then, when he returned to Philadelphia, he wrote me his letter. After receiving my reply, he has investigated, and his wife has informed him that somebody identifying himself as Horsey, Ed Horsey called his home while he was in New Orleans; the person asked Vince's wife if Vince was out of town, and was told that he was; and so Vince concludes that this is probably the caller.

I asked Vince if, when the caller saw he ~~XXX~~ (Vince) was under the misimpression that the caller was David Lifton, why he didn't correct the impression. Vince says that he is not at all sure that he (the caller) had gotten that impression. But that Vince certainly

was under that impression that it was me doing the calling.

I questioned Vince closely on the matter of whether he had addressed the person at the other end of the line as "Dave", but he just couldn't remember, and couldn't say.

One other matter regarding this conversation is of importance.

Vince asked me if I was aware that he (Horsey) has been trying to get him to contribute money to Kerry Thornley's defense? Vince elaborated further and said that "Ed Horsey is authorized to be collecting funds for the Thornley defense."

Vince told me that he's going around soliciting people to contribute and, more than that, he was asking Vince "to represent" Kerry Thornley. (ie: the call to Vince while he was in Garrison's office).

Thompson has contributed and that Sylvia Meagher has contributed.

Furthermore, in urging Vince to contribute, he pointed out that Tank Thompson has ~~contributed~~ and that Sylvia Meagher has contributed.

OK, Kerry, now that is all I have to report. But I have some more to say on this matter, and want to get it off my chest.

If it is very difficult for any person to carry on a conversation with another person and be under a misimpression as to the identity of the person he is talking to. Also, when such misimpressions accidentally do exist, they are usually corrected within the first minute of a conversation.

So I hold Horsey responsible for taking advantage of Vince regarding the matter of not correcting the misimpression given as to identity on the phone.

Furthermore, I haven't the slightest doubt that you have never authorized Horsey to a) collect money for you b) solicit Salawria's services as an attorney and c) offer to exchange information regarding the States Rights Party for anything.

If I am in error on any of the above, I would like to know, along with explanations. But I'm sure I'm not.

Which means that Horsey is guilty of malicious intent, whether he wants to claim he impersonated me wilfully, or not. For (a), (b), and (c) above have nothing to do with the impersonation.

I think its clear that Horsey is some type of pathological liar. I'm not interested in giving him any more rope, or in laying some type of trap so that he can be confronted with the error of his ways. I think its clear that you should have nothing, absolutely nothing, to do with him.

In one of your letters to me, you made the remark that you think he is harmless, or "OK". Its clear that neither is the case.

It is not wise to have, in one's collection of acquaintances, anyone who deliberately disseminates false information. And when you are in the position of a person who may very well be in court in the near

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future, it is clear that a progenitor of false information such as Horsey can cause real trouble.

When you even hold a conversation with Horsey, you give him the opportunity to tell some third party, truthfully, "I spoke to Kerry last night..." And then to go further and misrepresent the conversation. And to say so when he hasn't spoken to you.

If you talk to him about your lawyer, he can misrepresent about that. If you talk to him about your finances, he can misrepresent about that.

The list can go on and on.

I don't think any psychological self-satisfaction that might accrue to you if, by prolonging your contacts with this fellow you might somehow "trap" him and be able to "confront" him is worth the risk.

Furthermore, Ed Horsey is not going to reform his ways because you confront him, or scold him for his misdeeds. And for every charge you make against him to his face, he will have 1000 excuses to offer, plead that he was misunderstood, ask you to recheck your sources, ~~XX~~ and perhaps cite one truth he told or one nice thing he did to allay your fears.

I have had experience with one or two pathological liars in my life and they can cause all sorts of confusion. Your trial may be coming up. This is not the time to study the psycho-pathology of Ed Horsey.

Please, don't speak to the fellow any more. And, if you can get his address, write him a two or three line letter telling him you want nothing to do with him. In fact, that is probably unnecessary. Just ignore him.

If you do not do this Kerry, you will find that when your trial comes around, in addition to Barbara Reid and people like that

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Please, don't speak to the fellow any more. And, if you can get his address, write him a two or three line letter telling him you want nothing to do with him. In fact, that is probably unnecessary. Just ignore him.

If you do not do this Kerry, you will find that when your trial comes around, in addition to Barbara Reid and people like that who you can deal with in court, reporters will find in Ed Horsey an amiable source of malicious misinformation. When one of his fabrications hits the underground press, or even the wire services, and you sit back in anguish as you find that corrections don't get printed and that false impressions have been created, it will then be apparent to you that the whole thing could have been avoided if you had not had anything to do with him in the first place, and that any curiosity you might have had as to just what makes Ed Horsey tick was not worth the damage you enabled him to do to you.

Please let me hear from you as soon as possible, so that I may know your reaction to this whole matter. I hope that is clear that Salandria's call from Horsey at Garrison's office, and its content, provides more than enough rope to hang Horsey, from your point of view, and that you shouldn't have anything further to do with him.

Somewhat fearfully,

David

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P.S. I am fully aware, in writing the above, that Salandria does not come off completely clean in this thing.

I don't mean that he acted with malice: he just over-reacted, period. There is so much suspicion now amongst the different followers of Garrison about each other's motives, about clandestine connections with the CIA, that is far easier for a person of Horsey's ilk to succeed in conning people who are already firghthened and suspicious, than in a more calm and objective situation.

Returning to the first sentence of the "P.S.", Vince went to great lengths in the conversation to point out that it was his misinformation, to even qualify the voice at the other end of the line as "allegedly" that of Horsey, or of "one who pupports to be Horsey."

And yet, when it came to evaluating the information regarding Horsey collecting funds for you, he tended to treat it as fact; despite the fact that it is hearsay, that any hearsay should be treated circumspectly in the absence of corroboration, and certainly should be treated that way when it comes from a person whose ~~Honesty~~ depends on being able to believe that a failure to correct a misimpression as to identity in a long distance phone call was innocent and not intentional. As far as that goes, I think Vince's actions betray a double standard: one for Horsey, another for you. And the fact that, Salendria was vulnerable to this whole thing from the sloppy way he has been thinking, regarding this whole Garrison business, certainly does not excuse Horsey for what he said on the phone, whether he claimed to be "Horsey" or "Lifton"; and is only compounded if he indulged in impersonation.

Further material on Ed Horsey
is in "Helen Hartman" file