

4Nov68

Dear Sylvia,

Thank you for the information. I'll probably not be putting it to work for some months, but this interlude is giving me an opportunity to get organized and I'm taking full advantage of it. I'll probably contact Mrs. Hartmann soon, however, and see if I can arrange to use her knowledge and access to the 26 volumes, now and then, when I need to know something.

I got a letter from a Dr. John Smith in Houston the other day, telling me what a good person Ed Horsey is and how hurt he was over my rejection of his offer to help. Apparently Smith works with Horsey and receives mail for him, etc. I don't really know what I'll do yet. I'm fairly sure Horsey's intentions were good, but he told me so many wild things that I'm forced to conclude he might have some sort of psychological problem with regard to verbal representation of reality. He told me so many things that apparently weren't so and yet there is nowhere along the line an obvious motive for deception. Just pure disinterested lies.

I've put off writing to you until now that I have some time for a few words, because I finished your book a week or more back and have some minor criticisms, comments, questions, and elucidations to throw in -- though I'll doubt anyhow that I get them all into a single letter.

Starting with what is freshest in my mind and working backwards:

The following is confidential. Lawrence Schiller, mentioned on page 402 in the footnote, knows Lifton and was the person who first called Dave to give him news of my arrest. At that time he also suggested to Dave that Billings interview me. Dave passed this on to me, and that is how I got in touch with Billings. Now I'm still all up in the air about Billings because he was supposed to run his article by me and my attorney before publication, and yet in his last letter he said he had already submitted it. Also, he has in his possession some IDLE WARRIOR chapters and other documents which were entrusted to him with the understanding that they were to be returned. I wrote him (c/o St. Pete TIMES) about both of these matters shortly before we (you and I) talked on the phone and have not received any kind of reply yet. Schiller, I understand, was also associated with the book, THE SCAVENGERS. All this I'm telling you for information purposes. I see no immediate significance in it.

Confidential. Horsey told me that Bernardo Torres (mentioned in the Epstein article) works for the Miami Police Intelligence Division, ~~claims~~ claims to have spoken with me ~~recently~~ (recently, I gathered), and says that he also saw me in Sylvia Odio's apartment -- all of which, if true, is untrue.

Also mentioned on page 384 is Ed Butler. Garrison could not believe I was not associated with Ed Butler, even though I had never heard of the man when I was in N.O. to testify. Later I learned that Clint Bolton (a friend of mine who Wildgoose ~~thinks~~ thinks is my "CIA babysitter") was acquainted with Butler briefly, but disliked him intensely.

Concerning the Taylor incident on page 358, have you thought of the possibility that the 30.06 in question was the rifle used to shoot at Walker and that perhaps Oswald, encouraged by someone, was in on that attempt. This would also account for the "one rifle" bit from Marina's attorney.

Involving someone in a murder attempt would seem an excellent way to get something "on" them, in order to make them easier to manipulate for fall-guy purposes later on. It is not quite so fantastic to me that Lee might have been persuaded either to shoot at Walker or to ~~XXXXXX~~ loan his rifle to someone for that purpose, or that his rifle might have been so used and him informed about it afterwards.

Also, I noted in LEE by Robert Oswald an almost unreasoning paranoia about Micheal Paine, stated rather bluntly. On the other hand, Robert Oswald seems to unjustifiably defend the Warren Commission. But his description of Lee Oswald's character, mannerisms, and personality is the most accurate I have read, and he does seem ~~convinced there were~~ ^{KNEW} others involved. (Ed Horsey also asked me if I ~~was~~ a somebody Mays or Maze, saying he was a friend of Robert Oswald's and "almost certainly involved in the assassination.")

Anyhow, that the Taylor incident took place in April or May around the time of the attempt on Walker and that in both events a 30.06 was allegedly involved and that Oswald was later linked with the Walker shooting indicates to me a possible door that needs opening.

Ah, enough for now. More next letter. If you don't mind, I'd like to every now and then confide this or that incident that may or may not be significant to you, because I think you are one of the few people in a position to know and evaluate the importance of such things. I have in my head a whole file of miscellanea on the Garrison probe, the Warren Commission, and Oswald -- most of which is probably utterly worthless.

One other thing, in addition to those I'll cover in the future, that struck me about your book was the quote from Nelson Delgado. Garrison's "press release" on me contained a similar quote, alleging that there was nothing particularly "communistic" or "socialistic" about Oswald. Now this is most out of character! Delgado, more than anyone, was at the time I knew him upset about Oswald's interest in things Russian. I would go so far as to say that he was hysterical about it, in fact, though he tended to be that way about religion and other things, too. (He got very upset with me once, when I attempted to demonstrate the nonexistence of God by loudly invoking ~~XXX~~ Him to strike us all dead with lightning.) But Delgado's suspicion of Oswald's Russianism and Marxism was extremely pronounced in the spring of 1959 -- so I find his change of tune somewhat puzzling.

I would like very much to find Delgado, should my case come to trial, as I think he could be an important supporting witness regarding the veracity of my Warren Commission testimony.

I was afraid Clay Shaw would believe in the Warren Commission. Would he agree to read your book? There are two kinds of people in the French Quarter -- the Quarterites and the Residents of the Vieux Carre. Shaw is naturally in the latter group and they are a very square Establishmentarian lot, and built-in intellectual orthodoxy seems a prerequisite -- along with money and a restored French Quarter home -- for membership. Those who think for themselves apparently ~~lose~~ lose caste.

I still believe that when the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ truth outs, a great deal of Garrison's "investigating" will emerge as ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ having originated in the speculations of Barbara Reid. I am now sure they were on friendly terms before the probe started, as she boasted of this in enough detail to one witness so as to be convincing. I do not, however, think Garrison paid much attention to her until the critics came along.

Salude,  Kerry