

June 12, 1967

Dear Hal,

I now have a new ribbon and my typewriter has been fixed up so you'll receive readable copy from now on.

Thanks for the compliments but it's always been my feeling ever since I first read your book that you had the best all-round knowledge of the case and I write you offering suggestions because your judgment has proven to be so accurate in the past.

I'm enclosing two copies of the interview that one of my students had with Kessler. I will, myself, interview him but first I wanted to see what your evaluation of this whole thing was. I haven't contacted my friend who first told me the story on this yet but I note that in checking over my old notes on this matter my friend said he couldn't quite remember whether Kessler had told him that he (Kessler) had dinner with him (Oswald) or whether a friend of Kessler had the dinner with Oswald as told by Kessler. In another conversation with him many, many months ago I do recall that he wavered on this point. And I recall mentioning in a letter to you that my friend's story could contain errors and I wasn't sure about some thing he was saying but I did believe the story about the "wad of money" being pulled out. As you can see from my investigator's report this apparently was one of the elements of the two versions. This investigator seemed to feel that Kessler was telling the truth. What's your view?

Still checking out the lead on this individual named Click. When Lane checked this out in his testimony he said he contacted a Mr. Roseboro of the Teamsters Union who referred him to a "Mr. Pott" of the Dallas City Transportation Co., a company monopoly. Lane said (see Vol.2, p.50) that they found there was no "Daryl Click" in Dallas who drove a taxi. But what about Irving, Texas? Is it not possible that after Whaley drove Oswald near his home that Click was the cabbie in Irving who drove him somewhere?

I note, too, that Click's nickname was "Bo". If you pronounce his name "Bo Click" it does resemble the sound of "Oak Cliff" which Wade insisted he had said. But isn't there a televised version of this interview available from some network TV-station in Dallas? It's possible a stenographer could have thought Wade had said Oak Cliff and typed it as Daryl Click but if a lip reader were to examine the lip movements of Wade when he made his remarks I doubt if Wade could fool one. Is it possible for someone to do this?

Have you seen the 6/10 issue of the New Yorker on the "buffs"? Here's a point about Aynesworth and his article that may have been overlooked. He says that the only relationship between a William S. Oswald and Lee Oswald was that they both worked at the same coffee company. If that's so, why did Oswald have the notation "W.S.Oswald, 136 Elmeer St." in his address book? (See Vol.16).

I understand from Burton of L.A. that Otis Chandler, publisher of the L.A. Times, told him: "We think Garrison is running a circus and will treat him accordingly." That would seem to be borne out by the L.A. Times story of June 5 which was titled as "Probe of Assassination Builds Garrison Power".

An investigator in my class says he has a two-page letter from Bill Barry of the Miami News. He calls the Enquirer article on Del Valle "a total fraud". Claims there is no connection between Ferrie and him. Barry indicated he's willing to check out leads for us in

Miami but will use what ever he uncovers for stories there. Frankly, I don't trust him. Do you know of him? It seems to me he pedalled the anti-Castro stories of assassination plots hatched in Havana.

Do you know who the spokesman is who (in US News & World Report) says Gordon Novel was not CIA?

Richter of CBS has seen Maggie. No further information on who else he has seen. Lifton was not contacted by him as of June 8.

I spoke to Dolan on another matter and we came around to discussing Garrison. Dolan said he believes that Garrison's case is "insubstantial". I did not mention your name and he didn't bring you up. I thought I'd be diplomatic about it and see if he would but he did not, so I didn't.

Dolan also said that Mark Lane wanted to get Garrison on the Dolan show but Dolan said he had heard nothing further from Lane and is wondering if Lane will follow through. What's Garrison's policy on appearing on talk shows? Seems to me he'd shy away from it at this stage of the game, if only because he's probably bogged down in work.

Well, that's the latest info from here. Hope everything is going well for you. I'll write soon again when I hear from you or if some new bit of news develops.

Best,

Hal Ver

Hal

P.S. For your information the CIA telephone number in New Orleans which I wrote you about is JA*2-8874 (in 1963).

At approximately 2:30 PM on Saturday, June 3, 1967, I interviewed Arnold Louis Kessler of 2619 Regent Street, Berkeley, California. He was in the company of a young lady who I believe was his wife. I paid absolutely no attention to her face so I could not possibly identify her. She made her presence known about half way through our talk. The following is a summary of the important parts of our conversation as I recall them. This summary was written June 9, 1967 from notes jotted down immediately after my talk with A. Kessler.

I identified myself, and mentioned that I was from the Bay Area Citizen's Committee of Inquiry, and we were investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. I asked Kessler if he had had dinner with Lee Harvey Oswald while at the Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City. He flatly denied ever eating with Oswald and stated that he had never told anyone that he had dined with Mr. Oswald. I was also led to understand that he never dined with anyone resembling Oswald either. He told me that he had been contacted in Brazil relative to the supposed meeting, but he did not name the person or organization which supposedly contacted him. He stated that upon ~~him~~ returning to the U.S. the Federal Bureau of Investigation interviewed him. Kessler stated that in both instances he told his interrogators that the supposed meeting simply had not taken place.

Kessler wanted to know who told me that he had dined with L.H. Oswald. I advised him that Hal Verb of San Francisco had received a tip from someone who stated that Arnold Louis Kessler mentioned Lee Harvey Oswald while in Mexico City.

From the phrasing of my questions Mr. Kessler knew that I tended to doubt him somewhat and for this reason I thought it futile to ask him the names of the agents who had contacted him. Besides, I wouldn't name the person who contacted Hal Verb, and Kessler probably wouldn't have given out any further information unless I told him all I supposedly knew with reference to Hal's contact.

Kessler stated that a Mexican friend of his (unnamed) was contacted in regard to Oswald. Kessler stated that the spurious story may have originated from his Mexican friend. (Kessler did not state why a friend of his, who supposedly spoke no English, should be contacted in regard to Oswald, and I did not ask him.)

I told Kessler that Hal's friend had stated that Oswald pulled out a wad of money at the dinner and proclaimed, "There's a lot more where this came from!" Kessler stated that he had dined with an American and I was led to believe that the latter meeting took place two days after Oswald was supposed to have left Mexico. (It would be interesting to know from what source Kessler received the date of Oswald's departure.) Apparently the unnamed American lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and I was led to believe that friends (unnamed) of Kessler have told him that the American acts strangely (because he is an undercover agent?) Kessler went on to say that he ate at the Casa quite often and had stayed in Mexico about a month. The unnamed American seems to be the one who pulled out the wad of money.

Upon leaving, I asked Kessler to contact Hal Verb if he remembered anything else. He stated that as time progressed he remembered less. His wife exclaimed, "What more is there to remember?"
