

Dear Jo,

9/2/74

I'd appreciate any comment and opinion you may have about the attached hit-or-miss notes I made this a.m. about yesterday's conversations with Audie. Much keeps coming back, with a few questions, like how does an experienced reporter wind up covering a minor rural beat for a big-city paper when it is a rural area and he does not drive?

I don't know when I'll get to dub the tapes. I wish there were someone trustworthy I could get to transcribe because I believe the exact words made be significant, as may some of the generalities of the general discussion. And specifics I may not recall.

I may use the Sony and the Craig when I know I won't use the Sony. The quality with the Craig, which has been so very helpful and so heavily used, is down. I've been intending to try to find a good local shop that will repair what they do not sell. It is well worth a repair bill if it needs parts they can get, the reason for the new local practice. Or I may be able to persuade JL to get his successor to the TC 40 repaired. Or borrow it if he doesn't. It plays back but doesn't record. Or have a special card made for using my VCR this way. The one that came with it doesn't work for this kind of patching. N&A Moscow before too long I'll do this. But the recent mailing indicates why I don't like to have the Sony not ready for instant use, in my office. The times of need are few but important when they occur.

Lil has the feeling that "omnie felt he was telling me what he felt I knew in essence, that while he might be adding details he would not be telling me anything significant and new to me. She feels he may still be CIA. She thinks that perhaps when his wife realized this she began to relax.

He said that the agency was feeding me misleading leads but I told him I had had nothing like this happen because I was certain that I had no such sources.

His belief is that either the Russians or the CIA were responsible for assassination.

I did note areas to which he did not react or respond but I ignored them because they could have involved sources he might not want to cite. There was never any awkward pause. Perhaps this will be clarified in the future. I do expect them back and I did ask him to let me know when so I could have copies of other reports for him.

His expectation of being called before a Senate committee has no connection with this transcript. (I told him its history.) It appears to be in connection with CIA. "No further discussion of this yesterday.

He says he is going to Haiti in a month, that he now can. Meaning that "apa Doc did not like and that now does. He says he was part of the invasion fouled up in that single airplane operation that was messed up by the mercenaries. I told him how openly Hemming and Howard discussed this in front of me, on tape and with callers on phone. He told me of famous guitar-playing Haitian who was shot, was in U.S. hospital, how he tricked police guard away from door and got to see him to offer asylum only to be told it was an accident or mistake involving Toussaint gang and he was safe there. He was.

The second-most-decorated World War II hero, apparently CIA, was involved in something not clear in my mind now. Next to Audie Murphy in decorations. Would not talk about.

How a Texas reporter gets involved in these kinds of capers for and with CIA is not clear except as liaison with Texans. He would have contacts and could be a cutoff and could be expected to preserve confidence. He disclosed no Agency identifications to me. This really gets back to Lil's feeling and some of what is in my first memo.

He thinks we should do a novel about this together. He ghosted a successful novel, he says.

While the whole thing was very interesting, it adds nothing substantial to what I had already. Interesting details and characterizations and descriptions. But not really useful fact I can now recall. However, were it possible to check some out, like those pictures taken in lineup room Friday night, it could be quite important. And new.

While there are discrepancies, he without doubt is talking about what he knows and can't be improvising as he goes. Lil may have misunderstood daughter's age or perhaps there is second daughter. Son 26. Accountant with small paper of his own on side.

He did not say, I did not ask why CIA would use him on assassinations. He did say he had seen FBI reports which show Lane, Kunstler, Shirley Martin, whose first name we did not remember, actual Communist agents, i.e., working for Moscow. He knew or said what shows he knew much about Shirley, who he says now dead. (Not far right he is stingy anti-Communist.) He says he had lived Hawaii earlier, one of children "drak." Then husband much older man who had private plane and flew Lonnie in it. Believes Father Huber story.

He saw Tippit corpse. Large part head missing, large chest wounds. Says authorities believed there were bullets they didn't find.

Like Tippit, who he knew well. Describes not as dumb cop.

Revill-Hasty story: ~~xxxx~~ does not believe Hubill revisions, believes more likely to have been something like you are surprised whom your own stoolies does it. Like Butler saying he was glad JFK killed but sorry it had to be in Dallas. (Says Fritz had no use for Butler and would have never trusted him to give basement all-clear.)

Has Oswald in Oak Cliff Cuban parties, apparently one is particular Wednesday nights.

Seems to believe firmly that Lovelady was "second Oswald." More places than Dallas. TSBH hangout for leftwingers whose employment records altered. (Inconsistent with what I know of ownership, management.) Distinguishes between similarity appearances in real life and pictures. Note's widow's-peak hairline.

Knew without my telling him that Paines told FBI about him as soon as possible. Has Oswald and Michael close associates, exaggerated red record on Michael and the largest group of USIA agents anywhere in Bell Helicopter, one other area plant but no reason for it.

Says he did work (for government) on Rosenberg case.

No identifications CIA personnel except Noel. These discussions are among times recorder off his request.

He did return to Dallas after leaving. He is oil expert, still contributes articles on it.

From his description there would seem to have been rather heavy federal interests in or centering in and involving Dallas. Esp. Intelligence.

Chiles-Jagger-a-Stovall foreman told him that with all the top-secretwork they did for the government, including AMC, LHO could have made off with what he described as half the nation's secrets. There for three months after check. So much wasted off-set film easiest way to wrap imperfect film around body. Searches never included bodies.

Seems to identify Loran Hall. Knew Seymour (volunteered nothing more) as former Annapolis man. Described as from California, which is correct but could have come from WW II. Does not know Howard, no reaction to description.

Knew Shaw, did not say how.

Comment on Garrison roughly he jumped to the wrong conclusion. No reaction to deBrusys. Did not know Will Ray Griffin (FBI agent tr. from H.O. to Dallas.)

Lil says that it was her impression from the about 50% she heard of our conversation that while Maule seemed to be speaking freely he was not completely straightforward, not saying all he could have.

P. 2 graf 2 she says the quote of LHO is "Who got killed?"