

3/24/68

Dear Jonn,

Since my return from N.O. I have been busier than usual, although it may not seem possible. One of the assistant DAs had been with me every day but one and three nights. He returns today and there is more joint work we have yet to do. As I look back on it, I am amazed at the large percentage of their work that is mine, originates with me, received major help from me, etc. I have just drafted their request of LIFE, from whom they have subpoenaed the original Zapruder film and who, it seems, will be cooperative.

Each time I go to New Orleans I expect it to be the last before the trial. Each time I turn up new things, new witnesses, that really remind I not leave when I do and that impel my return. This is again the case. I really should be there longer each time and I really also stay too long when I am there, for the accumulation on my desk, even with very late nights and mornings that begin as early as 4 a.m., is still discouraging -and all of this prevents my carrying my own work forward.

Orst Pena has become my friend and assistant investigator. I like him as both. He is an unusual guy, long on integrity, forthright, for the most part, and brave. He has been forced into the basic determination I predicted when he turned off, as I'll tell you when we meet again, and he has resolved the conflict so completely he figured, "So they put a bullet in my head. Okay, I enjoy what I got", and he goes out and buys a purple Cadillac convertible! One night my scheduled work could not be done. I had a dinner date (also a working one) with him. He decided we both needed relaxation, so we were on the town. He is also a member of the Playboy Club! for when he wants a couple of hours of relaxation (he knows how) so we went there...All in all, I took it just a little easier this time, not working later than 3:15 a.m. any night.

I am disturbed by what happened to Harve, haven't had time to write or call him since the first I heard (by phone, from Lil), and wonder if there could be any connection with the abrupt departure of a Chicago producer at the same time. Both have been very helpful to me and us. I do not have his home address and would like it. Try and keep me posted on what happens to them.

Your letter of 3.3 was the last I received.

Lil says he is leaving for N.O. the middle of next month. I've urged him to postpone his going until the trial actually starts, for there is a much greater likelihood that it will not then end for an appreciable time thereafter. The contempt action against Jim, for example, I think is really designed to delay the start (as many other things can and some will) and possibly to get the case into federal court.

By the way, when you speak to any of our radio friends, please tell them I can do a show by phone on why Jim subpoenaed the Zapruder film and what he will find in it that the government did not. If I know in time I can mail a set of prints from the exhibits, or one of our friends can provide the printed volume with them in it.

Your presumption is wrong: I was not subpoenaed for the hearing, as I should have been if the lawyers were serious in their charges. No New Orleans TV station would give me time to point out the frivolity of this procedure, which also permitted a privileged libel behind the cloak of the court.

No word from Bowen. I may go to Detroit this week for a TV show, and I'm doing three hours each of six Monday nights in Washington for a UHF station with a small audience and a small range. I didn't get a chance to talk to Jim much at all, and didn't get to tell him of Jaiser. I have told an assistant, but he takes little advice, save when there is some wrong kicking around. If Penn has done anything, I've not heard of it. Good idea.

Let me know about the books (Kurt now has some extras) and what to replace. Lil is uncasted but uncomfortable. Opinion is she may be awkward and un-

March 3, 1968

Dear Hal:

Harv Morgan has just been summarily fired at KCBS; no advance notice, no options, no severance; and no explanations.

Ironically enough, I was told the night before he was notified -- and I was told by none other than Don Gold! I called Harv just before he went on the air Friday morning to tell him of the rumor -- and its origin -- so that he might kill it in the budding. Some budding, eh?

Another peculiar coincidence -- maybe -- is that Enrico Banducci was hit by the IRS for a paltry \$2,000 in disallowed tax exemptions; and the only advance notice he had was a flood of inquiries from the local news media, who had been notified in writing by the local IRS District Office (before Banducci) had them charge into the hungry i with padlocks in hand; (Banducci is and has been in a financial bind due to his building a new hungry i, which is costing him some \$750,000. So the 2 grand bit was minor.) As you obviously must remember, Banducci has been Sahl's salvation since he got his butt kicked out of Los Angeles broadcasting circles, has housed and hired him when few others will. Sahl has a big, uninhibited mouth, that gets him headlines, that is going to get him, period. When he was subpoenaed to appear at the change of venue hearing on March 5th, he called a press conference (unanimously attended) to blurt out his guts about the CIA's involvement (in the upper conspiracy aspects). The news media is so bloody ignorant of the mandatory essentials of this matter that they either asked boob questions or didn't react at all, other than to convey the feeling that Sahl had flipped out, was but one step away from the local zoo.

Penn Jones was here for Joe's Friday night TV show, which went marginally well; Craig fell ill, returned to Texas from IA; Penn is an era unto himself, a true sage of the Southwest; he is also a fine friend of yours, speaks of your contribution in the most flowery of terms.

We had a session (which I have taped) with him at Madam Hitchcock's pad after the Dolan show; attending were Verb, Hoeh, Bill Turner, and some others whose names escaped my memory; it was revealing and frightening to hear him tell of those in the Dallas police and sheriff's departments who were in on the murder; Penn is a walking encyclopedic on this motly group of American misfits, who appear to have this nation in the innermost dungeons of the wallets.

I'm afraid that I cannot get the clinical dope for you on Porky Pierre, other than he is a principal stockholder in the San Diego Chargers, where All-Pro quarterback Jack was Kemp once employed; Kemp is one of those on Reagan's staff who allegedly played nasty games with one another; that's pretty remote in those areas, I know, certainly not enough to indict anyone or interconnect them. The Plucky Porker, however, was quite heavily rumored

Page #2 -

to get his enjoys from somewhat bizarre sexual activities; I heard this from a most authoritative source, Paul C. Smith, who discovered Pierre's literary talents (just as he did Herb Caen) and ultimately hired him at Crowell-Colliers, then passed him on to Bobby Kennedy and JFK's campaigning.

For my own bit of social commentary on this day: When this whole bag of grovelling idiots is ripped open for their peers to view their proclivities, there is going to be the greatest revulsion in history; my, what a shock it is going to be for the "conservative" elements of our society, like the fire and brimstoners, to find out that their main supporters have been indulging in the most sinfull of hanky-pankies; and think how outraged the "liberals" will be when they are apprised that their foes have discovered the pleasures of free-love and other delightful pornographies; oh, woe are we who are being denied are rightful share of decadence.

I presume you have been subpoenaed to the hearing on the 5th, since you were cited by Counsel as being responsible for the proliferation of pertinent details.

Wes Bowen called me Friday morning for a social chit chat; I asked about the snafu at KSL and he said no message reached him, and he double checked; he wants you to do a show with him in the near future, will call you in a short while.

I have started a ball rolling with Kaiser Broadcasting, whereby they have guaranteed the following: IF Garrison would fly out here for an interview, they will give him one full hour, schedule a re-showing in Cleveland, Detroit, Philadelphia, plus make tapes available to at least 100 independents elsewhere. I was told Friday that they have gone for the deal, which is my foot in the door; now I will set out to do what it is that I want, which will include ~~some~~ Harold Weisberg participation as the #1 Critic in a followthrough Special or Specials on the same grounds. I'll keep you posted. Since I do not know Garrison and vice versa, I have asked Penn to help clear the way with the big man; I'll need your endorsement too, obviously. (Comments?)

No books still. Checked the post office, was told that it would ten days to two weeks, how's that for crap; will check again tomorrow.

Hope Lil's ankle is mending without pain, that she's in fine fettle otherwise; same for yourself; keep me posted on your "Fink" letters.

Best Personal Regards,



John