



Lillian & Harold Weisberg

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NEW ADDRESS: Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701

1/27/68

Dear Steve,

Your undated letters postmarked 24 and 25 arrived today. I am getting farther and farther behind in my preparations for the coming trip, but I reply in haste and want to discuss some of the things (breach of confidence, Trent) when I am out there. Briefly, I'm afraid that you will find that you must have dealings with people who do not treat honestly with you. However, must be certain never to mention what you do not want them to use. Please, I think we should discuss, otherwise you'll not benefit from a senseless face.

On Hall: Yes, if you think he will (and I'd like to try and see Houston anyway), but not in a private plane, for we'll then still need a car. I'd like Art to go with me and perhaps we can use his car. He also can tape. We'll also in a small plane be the creatures of weather. And, especially if you can go along, we can have several hours for talking. Maybe your car would be better?

New Orleans: Do not figure on going now for the trial will not be 2/13 and there is no need for you to be there for the preliminaries. In the past few days I have spoken with Alcock, Sciambra and Garrison, and all say the same, it will be after the first week of March. Also, because of your school work, I encourage you to delay going there until the last minute because you should figure on a 5-6 week trial. Gird you loins, man! Five weeks away from school? I asked Mumu this question when he phoned last night, because he'd like me there and I wanted to know for how long. Also, this means you can figure on me being in LA for the entire week of the 11th.

These are the more important things you raised. If you have any doubt about the above information, phone New Orleans. There is another consideration: making you money last. This means, be there only when you must. Now, if I am there, someone can share my room (I'm real square!) without hardship, for I do not run around with women. That will make his money go farther, whoever he is, and I think it should be you. Hal. Ivon will probably have a room for me at the Fountainbleau.

When I said the end of the week of 2/4 for my being in LA, I was figuring on a full week in SF, as Hal wants. I get there the night of 2/2, unless I have a delay in Chicago, in which event I'll be there the am of 2/3. In either case, not less than a full week. However, load the first few days up. Five shows in two days is nothing. Then, if you do not line up more, I'll try after I get there. While I am out there I will do as much as I can. Try and keep Monday night open or at least flexible on the chance I can do the Pyne Show again. The chances are remote, but they exist. ~~It's~~ I'm to phone them from SF.

Before I forget, one of the young men with you when I met you at Maggie's in 1966 had a Mannlicher-Carcano. I need one, with a sight exactly the same as the one on "Oswald's" rifle, and mounted exactly the same way, with a clip, if possible the several clips that are available for that model. I'll explain when I am out there. This can be very important, so please try and squeeze it in. I have some ammo but could use more if he has any.

But before you set shows for Friday, speak to Hal and be certain he does

not figure on using me then. I'll send him a copy of this letter. Fine about Al Swartz. But you'll find out you'll be there. However, even if you are, it will be good for him to take some of the load off of you, because you should also be trying to get ahead in your school work so that the time you miss will cost you less. Have you made arrangements for a place for me to stay? The Grossmans are a wonderful family. I really enjoyed being with them. They live as too few families do, and it is pleasureable and inspiring to see it.

On your travel to the trial: don't buy any tickets you cannot turn in. Do not worry about it yourself. Find a good travel agency (Maggie's), tell them what you want, and let them do the worrying. It costs you nothing. Do not take your car if you can avoid it. Fly. I'll be in N.O. at the same time and I'll take care of getting us a car most of the time. I learned the hard way. I've spent about \$100 on cabs down there just helping Jim-not for myself! For many things the car will just slow you down. You'll want it only at night, when it is not indispensable.

You are right on Art and the "rumor". Only it was not a rumor. Someone who saw the Dolan Show phoned me because I had been refusing to say anything. I remembered the picture, was not 100% certain but was fairly so, as Art knows. I said nothing about "wrongly", although I think it would have been better to avoid it, as you tried. Don't feel badly. You did what was right, even in showing it to them. This is the sort of accident that is unavoidable. They happen, and they must not be traumatic when they do or it will cripple you. However, since it has been used, I'd like a copy for only one possible use, where it can do some real good. I'll discuss it with you when I'm there. I will not want it in SF. In the future, if you do not mind the suggestion, restrict the consultation to Hal. If you want more than his judgement, I'll give you others, besides Maggie, who I think is perhaps best of all. You haven't mentioned her. I assume she is back now. Generally speaking, if I may make the suggestion, restrict the disclosure of what you want to be kept in confidence to where it is essential. I did not hear of Mort's diatribe, but I'd like to hear it, word for word. I haven't changed my opinion that he and Mark may have arranged Shaw's acquittal, for only wrong and greedy-and dishonorable purposes. He never answered the letter of which I sent you a copy after his first trip to N.O.

On Haggerty. You read him correctly, but not the meaning. There are other motions that can and will be entered by the defense. After all of them are disposed of, after all the appeals are heard, there will still be the impanelling of the jury. Tell Steve to save his time and money, unless he gets a call. When the jury selection begins is plenty of time, believe me. PLEASE, all you fellows in college, try and be patient, or you'll miss what you want, which, really, is only the meat. Please discuss this with Steve-and remind him of the picture he was to have taken for me. If he did, get a copy to Hal for me for my arrival there.

On Trent: I've written him more than I sent you. He phoned me several days ago, ignoring my letters but asking me if I'd be available 2/19 and 26. I think your analysis is close. If you read my letter carefully, you will understand that it really is aimed at reducing the existing divisions and preventing others.

Ricardo Davis has been in touch with me. I have much to tell you all.

Sincerely,

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

BOX 150 • 308 WESTWOOD PLAZA
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

STEVEN J. BURTON, National Chairman

Dear Harold,

Our address is correct as printed herein.

I received your letters today. Usually, I'll receive nothing for a week and then receive two or three the same day.

The Crane Show tape (of exceedingly poor quality) will be dubbed shortly. My extra recorder broke down, so I'll have to get it to Art. Sorry for the delay.

Your letter gives us nothing more definite regarding the dates of your visit to L.A. than the end of the week of Feb. 4. I spoke with Hal and he wants you in San Francisco about a week. That makes it the eleventh and the trial is set for the 13th. No time in L.A. if you are going to New Orleans. We can get in about five shows in two days (I'll leave for New Orleans around the 5th), so if you have no objections, we'll set shows for Friday (9th) and Saturday, and then you can go to New Orleans.

One of my assistants, whom you haven't met, Al Swartz is handling the arrangements and will run this show. He is extremely competent. If you would like to contact him directly, his address is 8633 West Knoll Drive, L.A. 90069; Apt. 305.

I'm now swamped with preparation for the trial. Mostly the trivial preparations for travelling when you are not accustomed to it. Also, with Hal's help we've compiled an extensive card file which will come in handy.

Art passed on to me a rumor that he said came from you re: the Bingo photo. The rumor says that it was wrongly publicised over San Francisco television. I assume that this refers to my appearance on the Dolan Show, when he alluded to a "document" which proves that a certain someone, who has denied it, was in Dallas on 11/22. I consulted with Hal and Turner before showing it to Dolan and made it clear that this was not to be publicised, but he went too far anyhow. His goof was not nearly as bad as the L.A. Free Press allusion to a "photograph" two weeks ago. I spoke to the editor about that but he stands on it. Therefore, I will not cooperate

beyond sending them news stories. I don't know who told them about it.

I guess that you've heard of Mort Sahl's diatribe against the committee. If you want me to, I'll send you a copy of my letter to him.

Haggerty seemed determined to start the trial on the 13th. His statements regarding a possible change of venue motion imply to me that he has already considered it and has decided to deny it. Therefore, it looks like, assuming Shaw's good health, the trial will start then. Steve Jaffe will leave for New Orleans shortly to confirm this. Can you provide anything further? I don't want to drop my classes before I'm certain that I should.

Re: your letter to Trent Gough. I think that Trent is naive and vane. I appreciate your letter. You should know that his group started as a result of an ad I put in the Village Voice. It was to be the New York Citizens' Committee of Inquiry, but his vanity caused him to change the name. We are still in contact, but on a cold level. Whenever he writes me, it is a patronizing lecture, which I resent. Sprague has had personal contact with him and says that he is "immature". Ray also has some reservations about him. You might write him and encourage him to adopt an orientation to us, rather than his current (in effect) repudiation of us. It is not so important, though, that you should ignore your other work, of course.

That's about all for now. I may not see you until the trial.

Best wishes,


Steven J. Burton

January 23, 1968

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

BOX 150 • 308 WESTWOOD PLAZA
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024


STEVEN J. BURTON, National Chairman

Dear Harold,

We would like to know as soon as possible if you'd like to see Hall while you're out here. As you probably know, the judge in Bakersfield said today that he will not be extradited to New Orleans.

We have a pilot who will fly you up to Kernville and he must know so that he can reserve an airplane.

Quickly,


Steven J. Burton
January 24, 1968