

5/6/68

Dear Steve,

Unfortunately, the pressures on us all, pre-eminently those of time, deny us the closeness of communication that would help us all. So, I know when you do not do what I ask, it is simply because you do not have the time. I presume also that when Steve Jaffe doesn't, this also is a factor. (But to the degree that you can, please keep after him on the remainder of the Coll material that he has not sent me, for it may fit with new work on which I am engaged and it may fit with Hall stuff I have. Even if he has sent it to New Orleans, the pace at which I go once I am there precludes my doing any research in the office.)

With what I now have about Thornley in his own letters, the check I asked of Jim Lawrence on his employment is possibly less significant, but for the rounding out of the fact, we should have it. When you can, please ask him if he can still do it.

I will have to be elliptical until we can meet again, but there now are undisguised CIA threats against Jim and me on which I have a first-person source and a number less close.

My new information on Bringuiet casts him in a different role and a different light. If you can get a copy of the record he made for Hargis from Key Records out there and send it to me c/o Jim in time for me to have it there by the end of next week, I'd very much appreciate it. I mislaid my copy in moving. He will be serving papers in the re-institution of his frivolous lawsuit when I get there. He has announced that he is serving Dell and Sage by mail but will only serve me when I go there, an obvious effort to prevent this because it cost me several thousand dollars to get the case thrown out last time as well as an effort to prevent commercial distribution of OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS, now that Grove is wholesaling it. It also coordinates too well with the new work I am doing. But, briefly, the Bringuiet-Caracci testimony on the Oswald who was in Bringuiet's store and their mutual relationships is inadequate to the point of perjury and without any doubt whatsoever, Bringuiet lied to the FBI, it lied to the Commission, or both. Bringuiet may tie to the Davis training camp and I can place more than one "Oswald" there. This is to go no farther than Maggie and Art and his boys, and there in the strictest confidence. Lives depend upon this, but your knowledge is important if you are to help and Maggie, if she can or will. This can be the major turning point in the case.

What Mark wrote in the Freep about the Z film and the copy Garrison has is both damaging to Garrison, for it violates his agreement with LIFE and jeopardizes other things in the works, and false. Again, this is for you and Maggie only because I will not fight Mark publicly unless he compels it. That was not a good copy, not a clear copy, not a first copy, and not a complete copy. The film does not show a simultaneous backward and leftward motion at 313 but to the contrary is directly backward. The leftward motion is delayed. Before it happens, the body spins to the right, that is, toward facing Mrs. K. Here the back of the neck and the top of the shirt are quite visible. No wound is seen and there is no evidence of blood on the neck or the shirt collar. Close examination of the slides, the vitally important form of the film, makes this unavoidable. Mac agrees and further agrees that it is possible to postulate a shot to the left temple and from the left. I took him xxx to the Archives and show him the film and the slides prior to the arrival of the Life print in N.O. It was then that I discovered that I have smoked out those missing nine frames (see FW). These are further informative, and once having seen 343 you will never forget the look on Jackie's face. Also, these until-recently missing frames show the skull flap more clearly, place it farther to the front (where it hides the face from a side view) and mysteriously show no traces of blood, even along the edge of the top of the unutilized part of the head. I am now charging openly that Life really bought the right to suppress the film-and I'm proving it. Again, there is so much we cannot possibly pick it all up without having reason to check for things. This is open and obvious, once you understand. It is all sworn to! By the time the Commission began its work, Z had gotten \$200,000, not \$25,000. As you know from FW, I think (or is it in the unpublished book?) Billings confirmed to me last year that the yield to Z was about a half million, as Penn said. By now Billings' position is as clear as I tried to tell Jim it was months ago. Hall spoke truthfully and I got advance knowledge from Billings, who had to worry about what I told him if he were to publish himself. Fred may be interested in this additional information on Z.

I have been asked to be a member of the King Citizens' Committee of Inquiry and have agreed. To help it get started I have sent Bensky a set of the pix Fred just sent and I've asked Fred if I can publicly credit him. I'll be using them day after tomorrow on TV in Detroit and shortly thereafter in Minneapolis, TV, press conference, etc.

I have had a series of six three-hour TV shows in the Washington UHF station. I agreed to postpone the one scheduled for tonight and to share it with Mark, who will be pushing his new book. It will be aired live June 4. I do hope he doesn't do to my face, particularly when I am giving him my time, what he does behind my back.

have to happen. If she says only what Holt says in their advertising he will also allow me no choice. But I am returning good for evil. I am helping him (frankly, only in an effort to help us) even when help in his new book hurts me. You now have personal knowledge of what he does. Face to face I will find it intolerable. It will be up to him. If he comes on as God he may go off as Lucifer.

The situation in New Orleans is even less good. The financial problems are even greater, the manpower is less and not competent for this kind of work, and Jim has determined to have his postponed surgery (hernia). He may have had it by now, from what he told me the few moments we had together when he returned from Calif the middle of last month. What is acutely missing also is the kind of help Mark, Jones Harris and Turner could give and absolutely refuse to. Jones was there when I was. He spent all his time in Tom's files, Xeroxing at office expense whatever he wanted to lift. Ditto Turner the time before. Mark does nothing at all except lift, and most of the staff has complained of this. He may by now have completed the promotional film on which Jim is a large part (using much of what he learned from me a year ago and what he wrote for C In NO). There is very heavy use of Dago Garner, which will horrify Maggie, and which can jeopardize all of us. I have seen not a whit of authentication of Garner's story nor have I heard any suggestion of its existence. Mark did not tell me of the film, I just happened by accident to barge in on his showing of rushes in Jim's office time before last. He and his crew were so totally selfish and so complete opposed to any kind of help or cooperation that they even refused to show Jim a roll of Alyea's footage that I had been able to borrow. So, I got Jeel Palmer to make a few slides and prints which I will now take down. But they are not the same and cannot be complete. There are witnesses down there almost waiting in line to be interviewed and no one competent to do it. Moo wants me to move there for two months but with the other work I should do and without income, how can I? Their finances are such that they owe the motel and I may not be able to stay there (I've been seeking a private home where I will be uncompromised) and even the slight cost of the plane ticket is a burden. They are arranging for me to borrow a car this trip to save the cab cost (which can run \$25.00 a trip). What a way to work, and what a deplorable situation when for months Mark and Jones have been able to work and just won't. Jones, incidentally, is in accord with my representation of the Z copy above. He and I saw it together. I am hoping that what Mark did doesn't entirely eliminate the possibility of what Moo and I had planned. With this open and publicized violation of the agreement, I do not know if Jim will even ask for what we had lined up to do.

Hall phoned me last week to tell me he'd be in **EG** Friday and ask if I'd be there. He indicated he'd stay there the week and asked if he could then fly here (private plane!) I do not know if it is a good idea. I have seen not a word of anything he has divulged since I turned him on. After Howard's interview with Jim he spent a long time with Boxley. There is not a word of it on paper outside Boxley's possession. I'll probably learn about it in Boxley's book, when he does it. I see nothing to be gained in duplicating what others should have done so I'll not encourage him if he phones when I am home. I'll be away much of that week, may even get to N.O. the end of it. There are too many things that can be important to spend time doing what by them, if others do what they should, should not be productive.

Here I'd like to remind you again that I've seen nothing from Howard and Dean, and it could be important. In fact, if you get any suggestion of anything about Cuban activities or camps or personnel, I really should have it. I cannot exaggerate the possible importance of this, or the time urgency, because if my successes along this line continue, some sort of retaliation is inevitable and before then it is indispensable that I accomplish as much as possible.

When you see Jim and Art, please remind them of Jim's promise to send me used tapes and rechargable batteries. If there are reuseable cassettes, I can also use them. I have had to get a machine like yours but a better one and now use it in travelling. I have seven cassettes of interview with one witness alone. My wife is transcribing what I got from a friend of Hornley's and she is on her 50th page, single space, without finishing. I want to be able to dub copies of these ~~int~~ things and sell them away or give them to Jim when I can trust him in advance of his need. I have done this with much and with all the typed transcripts (that of the Hall interview has not arrived), but of any court use, for history, and for defense against counterattack, the tapes are really necessary. I had to get rechargable batteries here. Two sets cost me more than \$30.00! But they were necessary because until I got the most important set of cassettes transcribed (and I did this myself), I used that machine from 15-16 hours a day up, once going more than around the clock, a real strain on batteries (too!).

Hal has also sent me some dossiers on the NSRP people. I presume I have your permission to make all of this available to the new Committee of Inquiry. The London Times has a crew here working on this. I have directed them to some sources. If they return when I am here I promised to help. Without objection from you I will make this available

to them as background, not to be used without their own checking and permission-getting. In this and the connections between the two cases, I think Brown may be very significant. It is my own information that he also plans a book and may go to New Orleans for a while on it or with it as a cover. He has already been in touch with a man he has reason to think is on the other side but is not, is a friend and helper to me. He went to this man through a Bay of Pigs veteran. From what I know I have no reason to assume he is not company.

My additional inquiries at the Archives have not produced any significant new data on NSRP. I sent you what I got on Minutemen. Shand and his family have entirely disappeared. I have someone working on this in that area, someone who knows him and is not hopeful. I do have a copy of the Wetley report if you people out there do not and need it (the one including the interview with Marks and Hathcock and mentioning Brown and Steve Wilson).

Incidentally, and not by phone, please ask Larry and any others who might have knowledge, like Rose (but very circumspectly, not telling that it is for me) if they know a young man whose name, phonetically is Kon-Silly-o who I suspect is now company. Also, try and learn if they have any knowledge of liason with camps in the New Orleans area or if they know any of the men mentioned in connection with the camps in Oswald in New Orleans (which was cut heavily here). I can send copies of the lengthy exhibits if you need them but not if you don't because I'll have to copy them myself. Particularly the Davis camp, Laureano Batista, Ledovino Interan, Victor Peneque (these are FBI spellings and may be wrong, Fernando Fernandez, Henry Infante, (Fernandez' matronymic is Barrens and Batista's is Falla and I think Fernandez was known as "Chink"), and Jamaican Negroes and three US ones in the camps or movements, the Jamaican being an expert on shakes, (other matronymics Peneque's is Batista, Infante's is ledea), Julio Power, one Valdes and one Fornes.

This has taken more time than I expected. I didn't expect to write in this detail, but I did want to bring you up to date on some things as much as I could. If by mail time I do not get a chance to read and correct, please understand. Amongst the chore I must complete tonight is the checking of 50 legal-sized pages of transcript of a taped interview with a Cuban witness whose accent is heavy, almost incomprehensible to me and more so to the typist. Best to you all,