

Box 392 Mayo Hospital

January 26, 1969

Dear Penn,

You are doing an enormous disservice to both yourself and the critics, and Jim Garrison by defending Bill Boxley. Have you made any attempt to contact the office and find out the basis for the charges against him? If you have not done this, and from your article I assume you have not, then the present article is unjust.

Your statement that the fact that you and Joel Palmer accompanied Boxley was "unknown to the critics" is patently false. First of all, we all wrote you letters after you first published that fact, which some of us were aware of before hand anyway. Furthermore, we, or at least some of us, pointed out that neither your presence or Joel's in any way assured that you were speaking to people who were telling the truth about anything, including their identities. I would be most interested in Joel's apparently recent verification of what Bill Boxley found, since he has been hard to find of late. Barbara Reid, a fine woman, who has spent more time in the French Quarter than Joel ever will, agrees with us. Boxley, of course, tried to convince Jim that she was an agent.

It matters little that Boxley said he had not been employed by the CIA since 1953, since he was still recruiting for them long after that date, and this has been documented. This you would have found out had you decided to cheek on the facts.

Your statement that following the firing, Boxley offered to verify his denials, etc., is nonsense and you have to know that it is, unless of course you no longer believe factual statements made by Vince or Harold. Both of them and myself told you on the phone and in letters that Vince and the staff had tried in vain to get Boxley to come in and defend himself. They didn't ask for truth serum or polygraph, just for an oral defense. This he would not do, even when they begged him to. Your statement that "His offer was not accepted" is slander against Jim, his staff, and Vince. Poly graph and truth serum are fallible, but a man's behavior when charged and continually offered the chance to defend himself then are not. Not to mention the fact that unless we are lying, he is. If we can back our statements up, then he has told you at least one lie in recent weeks. This whole thing saddens me beyond description as I'm sure it does the others. This is not a question of opinion but of facts.

Gary