

3/28/68

Dear Hal and Steve,

If I recall correctly, I believe Hal and his friends did not trust this man because he is a veteran of the War of Vigs.

You can see from this letter I feel otherwise. My feelings are based up having come to know him slightly and upon the fine help he has been to me. He has done things no one else could have, things that are entirely inconsistent with your previously expressed opinion. He also has taken much time when he was overly-busy. He is very personable, was quite friendly, is intelligent and, basically, wants the truth and is on our side.

He told me that Brown approached him through a very anti-CI source, that he is writing a book on the assassination, etc.

The other name in the letter will mean nothing until I see it. It is of a man who also has been helpful and who is a friend of

There has been nothing in the papers or on the radio station we listen to, but I understand Ruth Payne has been subpoenaed. I know it was to happen. If you have had any suspicions about her, please send them to Jim, with a copy to me. I may go down there without enough notice to let you know in advance because of some things I left hanging when I was last there.

Dick Billings is changing his position at LIFE temporarily. He will be a writer and he will be writing for a newspaper chain. He plans a New Orleans story. I think the essence of what Hall told me is likely to be true. Is there any news of him or Howard

Steve, Thornley becomes more and more interesting as my work becomes more and more fruitful. I have held an excellent source for almost two years wanting to learn all I could first and I have now tapped it. Among the interesting tidbits are connections with Courtney (who may also have had intelligence connections) and TD. I have developed another very good source whose reluctant cooperation I anticipate. There is much to his LA career that could be helpful, if you can piece it together. You will not be able to do the best source, Eva, and please, neither of you, let any of this out (save to Paul, etc., and Art, etc.). Hal, do you know any former Quarter people who might recall what they observed. Have you ever been in touch with Jeanne Heck. If you or Paul can speak to her, let me know and I'll give you questions to ask of her if this is at a time I cannot be there. She broke with Thornley over his elation over the assassination, which he celebrated with Carlos Castillo, who operated a Mexican restaurant. If you have anything at all along on him or this let me know immediately, please.

Sincerely,

4/23/68

Hal,

Here is the latest on Similes from Gary
for your information and my suggestions.

In my reply I suggested he consider still
an agency in the Davies misrepresentation.

Also, I asked him to send copies of the various
items I have asked him to work on to Paul, for you
out there.

Hurriedly,