

Dear Hal,

2/28/89

Glad to get your chatty letter on your book....I've not seen Ryan yet but he says he and a friend are coming up soon. ...Iyle Stuart could be a stinker. He was cool to Whitewash after initially rejecting it and then, months later, when the presses were rolling on it, he phoned and said he wanted to publish it. I told him I was doing that while we spoke, which was true, and offered him distribution. He wasn't interested.

Glad you put the note on the tape on the envelope. But you referred to a tape other than you used that I thought might find useful. JM makes three kinds of clear plastic tape available here that I use, all 2" wide. I could use a narrowed one also. Besides the thicker reinforced that I've always used. One is clear and very sticky, thus hard for me to use when I make the packages while sitting with my legs horizontal. Another is almost transparent, which the first one I mentioned is fully. The other is brown. All have shiny, hard finishes. The one you used was a dull brown and appeared to be almost like a fabric.

Stockwell is one of the conservative who were turned off by the CIA when they worked for it. Very good book.

I've mislaid the xerox of Bennett's article. If when you have time you can send me a copy I'll forward it promptly. Thanks.

The FBI leaked to Winchell regularly and it is not unlikely that they leaked the stuff on Bennett. Toward the end Hoover seems to have cooled on him.

Holley Cantline means nothing to me.

More on the Lowenthal book. His research assistant was Al Bernstein, who with his wife were friends of ours. Their son is Carl, of Watergate fame. Carl is now doing a book on his parents, going into his father's "security" problems in some detail, the book section of Sunday's Post said. Lowenthal's research was Al's research.

Al is one of those who wound up trying to keep his family going with a laundromat. I think he sold that and was a salesman last time I saw him.

You think there is more to come out on the Cuba Missile Crisis. I think most now is and what is seemingly new is no more than my original and contemporaneous analysis. That was to have been the book Tiger To Ride. The Moscow meeting of this was something. Another is scheduled soon for I thin Harvard.

Maybe my letter to The Nation started something. Fletcher Prouty wrote Navasky at some length with first-person confirmation of what I said. I do not believe that Navasky will accept Prouty's offer to shorten and clean up what he wrote. It will be a good thing, though, if he does. Even if it means cutting his fair-haired boy up a bit. If you read with any care you should have noticed that Kopkind's letter does not address what I did say and instead addresses what I did not say. As soon as I saw it I wrote The Nation again and I don't think they'll be anxious to run that, either.

If you see Jon please let us know how he looks and give him our best. We hear from him from time to time but not frequently.

Best,

Dear Hal,

3/13/89

Hasty response to and thanks for your speedy 3/11. I'll forward the article, thanks.

I do not remember hearing that McCarthy was targetting on EBJ but in those days I was more than fully occupied getting the farm going so I could easily have missed it. Kind of this he and his Judenrat could have thought of and enjoyed. And I never heard of Merritt Lifton. However, if EBJ had gone after McCarthy I am inclined to think McC would have retaliated in some way. Cohn, too.

Unless the archivist is really slipping I think this and any special trip by Hoover would stick in mind. I do not see Hoover making any special trip. Perhaps if he was close by, but even then he and his honchos always wondered if they would help anyone by going after them, from the publicity, etc.

I've heard nothing from Prouty or Navasky and I am not inclined to believe that Navasky will want to publish any such article as Prouty proposed. However, my letter after I saw Kopkind's may embarrass them enough so that they might feel they have to do what Prouty offered.

I know of no position or other papers after the Moscow Cuba conference. I heard there is to be another such confab here, Ivy League, I asked Scott Armstrong to send me anything he could and he's been silent.

On the FOIA request, the agencies are required to specify which exemptions they claim to withhold and with EBJ they could be making phony claims, including to privacy. This ends with death so if you are asked to give advice, and that is the claim made all that is necessary is to provide proof of death and a story is OK for that. They use a "national security" claim often to hide their informers if they claim they have a "security" interest. It is bi. They also claim 7D for this. The requester ought have not too much difficulty appealing such claims.

I am not inclined to credit the woman's claim that the FBI was following her merely because she was writing a book on EBJ and they ordinarily are not that incompetent when they shadow. Not important enough for them to do it.

I have not seen and don't want to see Lifton's video. He is a persuasive fakir and ripoff artist. There is nothing new in his book except the misrepresentations he did not steal from Fred Swomb and what he stole from Fred is the only thing those familiar with the literature might believe might have originated with Lifton.

I do not remember hearing of Revelations or the company that prints it.

Elmer Gertz did consider himself a liberal so what you report is not out of keeping.

Ryan can't have a "close friendship" with Gertz now because he died some time ago.

On the possibility that McC was going after EBJ and had let it be known, I think it might be in the Times index if he had let it be known. He would more likely have leaked to Hearst.

Please excuse the haste. getting too far behind.

Best,



Hal Verb
P. O. Box 1815
San Francisco, CA 94103

MARCH 11, 1989

hal weisberg,
ROUTE 12
FREDERICK, MD. 21701

DEAR HAL,

AS YOU REQUESTED I'M ENCLOSING ANOTHER COPY OF CLIFTON BENNETT'S PIECE ON THE FBI PUBLISHED BY HALDEMAN--JULIUS. YOU CAN JUST KEEP THIS COPY - NO NEED TO RETURN IT TO ME. I MADE A FEW EXTRA COPIES ANTICIPATING THAT THERE WOULD BE REQUESTS FOR IT.

THE SAME DAY I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM SOMEONE FAMILIAR WITH HALDEMAN--JULIUS HAVING TO DO WITH A MOVE BY THE NOTORIOUS SENATOR JOE MCCARTHY WHO EITHER HELD OR WAS ABOUT TO HOLD "STAR CHAMBER HEARINGS" ON HALDEMAN--JULIUS. IF SO, IT HAD TO BE BEFORE HALDEMAN--JULIUS DIED (IN A SWIMMING POOL ACCIDENT, JULY, 1951). THE SOURCE I GOT IT FROM SENT ME AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN A PUBLICATION KNOWN AS "BOOK MART" OF FEB/MAR., 1984. ITS AUTHOR WAS MERRITT CLIFTON WHOM I NEVER HEARD OF. I'V WRITTEN MY SOURCE TO SEE IF HE CAN TELL ME MORE ABOUT THIS. HAVE YOU HEARD OF EITHER THIS PUBLICATION OR HIM? IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE IT'LL ADD ONE MORE INTRIGUING ASPECT OF EHJ'S AMAZING CAREER. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT EHJ WAS A "PRIMARY TARGET" OF JOLTIN' JOE. IT ADDS THAT EHJ "FOUGHT BACK WITH INVECTIVE AND EXPOSES". THE ARTICLE ALSO REFERS TO THE BENNETT PIECE SO THE AUTHOR WAS APPARENTLY FAMILIAR ENOUGH WITH EHJ TO KNOW A BIT MORE ABOUT HIM THEN THE CONVENTIONAL STUFF THAT HE WAS A PUBLISHER OF "LITTLE BLUE BOOKS" AND LITTLE ELSE. I HOPE I CAN OBTAIN MORE INFO ON THIS FROM MY SOURCE.

SPEAKING ABOUT SOURCES I HAD WRITTEN THE GIRARD, KANSAS LIBRARY AND ASKED THE LIBRARIAN THERE (SHE'S ALSO THE OFFICIAL GIRARD HISTORIAN) AND ASKED HER TO CHECK THE CITY'S PAPER ("THE GIRARD PRESS") TO SEE IF SHE COULD FIND ANYTHING THERE ON AN ALLEGED VISIT BY J. EDGAR HOOVER TO GIRARD IN 1951 WHERE HE IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE DENOUNCED EHJ. THE LIBRARIAN SAID SHE COULD FIND NO RECORD AND SHE CHECKED WITH THE ARCHIVIST OF THE EHJ RECORDS AND HE SAID THERE WAS NONE. BUT I KNOW THAT I READ SOMEWHERE (I HAVE IT IN MY FILES BUT DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO GO THROUGH IT ALL) AND, OF COURSE, THE THING I READ COULD BE TOTALLY IN ERROR BUT I'M NOT ENTIRELY SATISFIED THAT BECAUSE THE HISTORIAN AND THE ARCHIVIST SAY THAT THERE IS NO RECORD THAT THERE REALLY IS NONE. IT COULD BE THAT THEY SIMPLY RECEIVED NO INPUT ON THIS. I CAN REMEMBER DISCUSSING A LITTLE KNOWN FACT ABOUT EHJ WHEN I DISCUSSED HIM WITH THE EHJ ARCHIVIST (AND HE MAY WELL BE THE BEST INFORMED PERSON IN THE COUNTRY ON EHJ) AND HE SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF THIS FACT. WHAT IT WAS IS THAT EHJ HAD APPEARED AS A BIT ACTOR AROUND 1912 IN A MOVIE. AT THE TIME I COULDN'T RECALL WHERE I HAD SEEN IT BUT AFTERWARDS I FOUND IT IN A PIECE EHJ WROTE FOR HIS NEWSPAPER "THE AMERICAN FREEMAN". THE ARCHIVIST HAS ALL THE COPIES OF THIS PAPER AT THE ARCHIVES AND HE MAY EITHER HAVE READ IT AND FORGOTTEN IT OR NOT HAVE READ IT AND THEREFORE COULD ALSO STATE THAT HE "HAD NO RECORD" OF IT.

Trans
made
4/2/89

LETTER.

I WAS INTRIGUED BY WHAT YOU WROTE ABOUT FLETCHER PROUTY CONFIRMING WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY IN YOUR "NATION" ARTICLE. AND, YES, I DID NOTICE THAT KOPKIND HAD NOT ANSWERED YOUR SPECIFIC POINTS. I THINK YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT THAT NAVASKY WON'T PUBLISH PROUTY'S COMMENTS EVEN IF IT WERE AN ARTICLE. ALEXANDER COCKBURN HAS HAD MORE THAN HIS SHARE OF RUN-INS WITH NAVASKY ABOUT GETTING IMPORTANT THINGS TO SAY IN "THE NATION". AND I CERTAINLY THINK WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE. I'M ALSO INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF THERE WERE ANY "POSITION PAPERS" PUBLISHED ABOUT THE RECENT MOSCOW MEETING ON THE MISSILE CRISIS. THE MAINSTREAM PAPERS HERE, AS USUAL, WERE UP TO THEIR USUAL STANDARD OF INEFFECTIVENESS AND INABILITY TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE ENTIRE AFFAIR. THE LEFT DID NOT PLACE VERY MUCH EMPHASIS ON THAT MEETING.

RETURNING TO THAT BENNETT PIECE ON THE FBI AGAIN, WHEN I SPOKE WITH THE EBJ ARCHIVIST (HIS NAME IS GENE DEGRUSON) HE MENTIONED TO ME THAT HE KNEW OF TWO PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN EXPLORING THE AREA OF HOOVER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH EBJ. HE TOLD ME ABOUT ONE RESEARCHER WHO WRITTEN TO ~~THE~~ GET EBJ'S FBI FILE UTILIZING THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT BUT THEY SIMPLY TOLD HIM THAT THEY COULDN'T RELEASE THE DOCUMENTS GIVING HIM NO REASON. I POINTED OUT TO THE ARCHIVIST THAT SOME REASON HAD TO BE GIVEN BUT ALL HE COULD TELL ME WAS THAT NONE WAS GIVEN. I HOPE TO GET MORE FROM THE ARCHIVIST IN THE FUTURE AS TO WHO THIS PERSON WAS AND WHAT HE COULD TELL ME. ANOTHER THING THE ARCHIVIST TOLD ME WAS ABOUT A WOMAN RESEARCHER WHO WAS ALSO INVESTIGATING HOOVER'S ROLE. GENE DEGRUSON SAID THAT THIS WOMAN HAD TOLD HIM THAT SHE WAS FOLLOWED AROUND BY A MAN SHE LATER CAME TO REALIZE WAS AN AGENT ASSIGNED TO "TRAIL" HER. SHE SAID THAT ON FOUR CONSECUTIVE TIMES SHE SAW A HANDSOME GENTLEMAN AT THE SAME PLACES SHE WAS AND ON ONE OCCASION SHE EVEN SPOKE TO HIM.

I'VE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH WILLIAM RYAN WHO IS SUPPOSED TO DO AN INTERVIEW WITH YOU. I TOLD HIM TO MENTION YOUR EFFORTS IN GETTING DOCUMENTS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AND ALSO SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT HE PARTICULARLY ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW YOU WENT ABOUT GETTING INTO COURT EVIDENCE AS PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD. I NOTED HOW YOU HAD OFFERED EVIDENCE SHOWING UP THE COMPLETE DISHONESTY OF THE FBI WHEN THEY HAD THEIR "DAY IN COURT".

I'M SURE YOU RECEIVED ONE ALSO BUT DAVE LIFTON SENT ME A BROCHURE ON HIS 23 MINUTE VIDEO ON HIS INTERVIEWS OF WITNESSES CONCERNING THE AUTOPSY. I HAD SEEN THIS VIDEO LAST YEAR WHEN I WAS IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA AND STOPPED OFF TO SEE HIM AT HIS APARTMENT. HE MOVED BACK TO THE SAME PLACE HE HAD ~~many~~ YEARS AGO. HAVE YOU SEEN THE VIDEO?

I MET PAUL HOCH RECENTLY (WE WERE BOTH AT A LECTURE IN BERKELEY NOT ON THE JFK THING BUT ON CUBA). PAUL ALSO SENT ME A COPY OF THE ARTICLE THAT APPEARED ON HIM IN A RECENT BOSTON PAPER BY BOB KATZ. I'M SURE YOU'VE SEEN IT BY NOW.

BY THE WAY I RECENTLY SAW A VERY GOOD MOVIE, "THE TRUE BELIEVER" WITH ACTOR JAMES WOODS WHOM I ADMIRE. THERE WAS A VERY BRIEF MENTION OF THE JFK ASSASSINATION BUT ONLY IN PASSING. THE REFERENCE CAME WHEN WOODS-PLAYING THE PART OF A LAWYER INVESTIGATING A FRAME-UP CONDUCTED BY THE LOCAL POLICE AND THE D.A.-USES A WITNESS WHO SAW A MURDER AND TESTIFIED THAT THE ALLEGED PERSON BEING FRAMED WAS NOT THE PERSON THE STATE SAYS IT IS. THE STATE'S CASE TRIES TO SHOW

THAT THIS WITNESSES CLAIM IS FLAWED BE CAUSE HE IS AN INMATE OF A MENTAL INSTITUTION AND WHILE THERE WAS CLAIMING THAT THE BELL TELEPHONE WAS REALLY BEHIND THE JFK ASSASSINATION AND THAT HE COULD "PROVE" IT UNDER THE COACHING OF WOODS THE MENTAL PATIENT WHEN ASKED ON THE STAND JUST WHO HE THOUGHT MURDERED JFK REPLIED WITHOUT HESITATION AND WITHOUT QUALIFICATION THAT IT WAS LEE HARVEY OSWALD. THIS OBVIOUSLY PUT THE STATE ON THE DEFENSIVE AND MADE THEM UNABLE TO COUNTER WOODS WITNESS. AFTER ALL, AND AS WOODS WELL KNEW, THE STATE WAS NOT ABOUT TO QUESTION THE WITNESS STATING THAT IT WAS OSWALD WHICH WAS THE OFFICIAL GOV'T POSITION. QUESTION THE STATE ON THIS AND ANY POSITION THE STATE TOOK WOULD BE OPEN TO DOUBT. NATURALLY THEY DIDN'T. IT TURNS OUT THAT THE WITNESS WAS CORRECT AND THAT THE STATE'S POSITION UPHOLDING THE FRAME-UP SLOWLY UNRAVELLED AND BECAME TOTALLY UNDEFENDABLE. THE ALLUSION TO THE JFK CASE BEING HELD UP AS ANOTHER STATE'S OFFICIAL POSITION ON ANOTHER MURDER CASE WAS NOT LOST, I THINK, UPON THE AUDIENCE.

I RECENTLY RECEIVED A MAGAZINE WHICH WAS ADVERTISED IN THE "MOTHER JONES" MAGAZINE. IT IS ENTITLED "REVELATIONS" AND COSTS \$5.00. IT IS PUBLISHED BY SOME COMPANY CALLED "INTO THE NIGHT NEWS" IN BROOKLYN. HAVE YOU SEEN IT? I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO GO THROUGH IT ALL. THE ORIGINAL PUBLISHING FIRM IS LISTED AS BEING IN LONDON UNDER THE NAME OF "CIRCUIT COMMUNICATIONS, LTD."

I HAVE NOT YET HAD A CHANCE TO CONTACT JIM WHITE. THIS WEEK-END IS A PRETTY BUSY ONE FOR ME. PERHAPS NEXT WEEK-END.

ONE FINAL THING BEFORE I FORGET. IN HIS LETTER TO ME ABOUT EHJ WILLIAM RYAN MENTIONED ELMER GERTZ WHO DEFENDED RUBY, OF COURSE, AT HIS TRIAL. RYAN MENTIONED GERTZ BECAUSE GERTZ HAD ONCE WRITTEN SEVERAL ARTICLES FOR EHJ'S PUBLICATIONS. I HAD KNOWN THAT ABOUT GERTZ PRIOR TO RYAN WRITING ME. RYAN SAYS HE HAS A "CLOSE FRIENDSHIP" WITH GERTZ. ANOTHER INTERESTING THING ABOUT GERTZ IS THAT HE HELPED DEFEND HENRY MILLER IN "THE TROPIC OF CANCER" BOOK CENSORSHIP CASE. I POINTED OUT TO RYAN IN MY LETTER THAT MILLER WAS A BIG ADMIRER OF EHJ AND WROTE LETTERS OF APPROVAL WHICH EHJ PRINTED IN HIS PAPER, "THE AMERICAN FREEMAN".

WELL, BETTER CLOSE NOW SO I CAN GET THIS IN THE MAIL TODAY,

BEST,
Hal
HAL

Hal Verb
P. O. Box 1815
San Francisco, CA 94101

FEBRUARY 21, 1989

DAER HAL,

WITH ALL THE DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN, I FINALLY HAVE SOME TIME TO ANSWER YOUR LAST LETTER.

I'M OFF TODAY FROM WORK BECAUSE OF THE "PRESIDENTS' HOLIDAY" AND AM TYPING THIS WHILE LISTENING TO KPFA RADIO. THEY BROADCAST A TALK THAT EX-CIA MAN, JOHN STOCKWELL, GAVE RECENTLY. HE'S A MAN I HAVE A LOT OF RESPECT FOR AND IS AN EXCELLENT SPOKESMAN FOR BARING THE COLD WAR MYTHS THAT PERVADE OUR SOCIETY. AFTER THE STOCKWELL TALK THEY GAVE A DOCUMENTARY ON "THE KENNEDY LEGACY" AND IN A SHORT WHILE THEY'LL BE OFFERING JFK'S JUNE, 1963 "AMERICAN UNIVERSITY SPEECH". BY THE WAY, I SAW YOUR LETTER AND THE REPLY TO IT IN A RECENT ISSUE OF THE NATION. I THINK THE READER'S LETTERS AND REPLIES ARE ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF "THE NATION". IT WOULD BE TOO LONG AT THIS POINT FOR ME TO GO INTO WHAT MY VIEWS ARE ON THIS SUBJECT BUT IT IS MY FIRM BELIEF THAT THE LAST WORD ON THIS MATTER HAS NOT YET BEEN WRITTEN.

THANKS FOR SENDING ME JIM WHITE'S ADDRESS - I KNEW HE HAD MOVED BUT HAVE HAD NO CONTACT WITH HIM FOR A VERY LONG TIME. I INTEND TO CALL HIM VERY SOON.

SHORTLY AFTER I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM YOU I ALSO RECEIVED A LETTER FROM WILLIAM RYAN OF ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA. I HAD WRITTEN HIM SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE BECAUSE IN DOING MY RESEARCH ON HALDEMAN-JULIUS I LEARNED THAT HE HAD BEEN WORKING ON AND POSSIBLY COMPLETED A BOOK ON EHJ. PROMETHEUS BOOKS ACTUALLY ANNOUNCED IN ONE OF ITS BROCHURES THAT THE BOOK WAS TO COME OUT BUT IT NEVER MATERIALIZED. APPARENTLY RYAN DEVELOPED MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS WHICH, I GUESS, PREVENTED HIM FROM COMING OUT WITH HIS BOOK. RYAN ACTUALLY REPLIED NOT TO MY LETTERS IN WHICH I HAD ASKED FOR WHAT HE HAD DONE ON EHJ BUT TO A LETTER I HAD SENT TO LYLE STUART IN WHICH I HAD PROSED A BOOK ON EHJ. STUART TURNED ME DOWN ON THE BASIS THAT NOBODY WOULD KNOW WHO HE WAS NOW ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS WELL KNOWN WHEN HE WAS PUBLISHING THE LITTLE BLUE BOOKS AND THE OTHER PUBLICATIONS HE DID DURING HIS LIFE-TIME. STUART SUGGESTED THAT I CONTACT A UNIVERSITY PRESS BUT MY FEELING IS THAT I'D LIKE TO GET A PUBLISHING COMPANY THAT IS BETTER KNOWN THAN A UNIVERSITY PRESS. UNIVERSITY PRESS BOOKS SUGGEST TO ME AT LEAST BOOKS THAT WIND UP ON DUSTY SHELVES OF LIBRARIES AND WHICH ONLY SCHLARS CONSULT OR READ. RYAN HAD SEEN MY LETTER TO STUART BECAUSE SOMEONE WORKING AT STUART'S FIRM SAW IT AND BROUGHT IT TO RYAN'S ATTENTION SINCE RYAN HAD DONE WORK ON THE EHJ BOOK. IT WAS ONLY THEN THAT RYAN REPLIED TO IT. IN HIS LETTER TO ME (HIS FIRST, THAT IS) HE SAID THAT HE HADN'T WISHED TO RESPOND TO MY FIRST TWO LETTERS (HE GAVE NO REASON WHY) BUT BECAUSE IN MY LETTER TO STUART I HAD MENTIONED THAT MY PROPOSED BOOK ON EHJ WOULD CORRECT CERTAIN ERRORS CERTAIN WRITERS HAD MADE ON EHJ AND I QUOTED FROM AN ENCYCLOPEDIA SOURCE WHICH CONTAINED SOME ERRORS AND I MENTIONED THEM. IT TURNS OUT THAT WHILE I DIDN'T MENTION THAT THE AUTHOR OF THE ENCYCLOPEDIA WAS RYAN, RYAN KNEW THAT IT WAS HE I WAS REFERRING TO AND THAT IT IS THE REASON WHY HE FINALLY WROTE ME. THE IRONY IS THAT WHAT I THOUGHT WERE ERRORS IN HIS ARTICLE TURN OUT TO BE (ACCORDING TO RYAN) NOT ERRORS AT ALL BUT WERE AREAS HE HAD EXAMINED AND FOUND TO BE IN ERROR (SUCH AS MY STATING THAT EHJ SOUGHT TO RUN FOR THE OFFICE OF SENATE AND NOT GOVERNOR AS RYAN'S ARTICLE STATED. RYAN'S LETTER TO ME CLAIMS THAT HE RAN FOR BOTH OFFICES. I HONESTLY THOUGHT RYAN WAS IN ERROR. ANOTHER IRONY IN RYAN'S REPLY IS THAT THERE WERE OTHER ERRORS IN RYAN'S ARTICLE WHICH I DID NOT MENTION TO STUART WHEN I WROTE HIM. THE OTHER ERRORS HAD TO DO WITH RYAN'S GIVING THE WRONG DATE OF J.A.

~~WILLIAM RYAN'S REPLY (SEE THE ENCYCLOPEDIA)~~

WAYLAND'S DEATH (HE WAS THE PUBLISHER OF "THE APPEAL TO REASON" WHICH EHJ EVENTUALLY TOOK OVER SEVERAL YEARS LATER) AND THE OTHER WAS THE WRONG DATE OF EHJ'S FIRST ARTICLE FOR WHICH HE WAS PAID (\$10) BY THE "INTERNATIONALIST SOCIALIST REVIEW". THE ARTICLE WAS ON MARK TWAIN AND WAS AN EXAMINATION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY THOUGHTS CONTAINED IN THE WRITINGS OF TWAIN. IT GREW OUT OF TWO DIFFERENT CONVERSATIONS EHJ HAD WITH TWAIN THE SECOND OF WHICH WAS SEVERAL HOURS WHEN TWAIN PAID A VISIT TO A SCHOOL FOR WOMAN IN UPPER NEW YORK STATE. EHJ WAS A BELL-BOY AT THAT SCHOOL AND HE LATER BOASTED THAT TWAIN SPENT MORE TIME WITH HIM THAN TWAIN HAD SPENT WITH RUDYARD KIPLING WHEN HE HAD VISITED THE U.S. BACK IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE 1900'S.

WHEN LYLE STUART WROTE THAT HE HAD TURNED DOWN MY PROPOSED BOOK HE WROTE THAT HE HAD INTENDED TO SELL HIS PUBLISHING FIRM ON JANUARY 9TH. I HAVE SINCE HEARD FROM HIM AND HE WROTE THAT HE HAD SOLD THE FIRM AND WAS PACKING HIS STUFF AND IN THE PROCESS OF MOVING. THERE IS ANOTHER IRONY HERE (LIFE IS FILLED WITH IRONIES, I ALWAYS SAY) AND THAT IS I HAD WRITTEN HIM A SECOND TIME TO REQUEST A BOOK HE HAD PUBLISHED BACK IN 1958 ENTITLED "THE STORY OF THE INDEPENDENT" (WHICH WAS LYLE'S FORMER NEWSPAPER). THE IRONY IS THAT THIS BOOK WAS A PAMPHLET SIZED ONE PUBLISHED BY THE HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY! (IT WAS PUBLISHED BY EHJ'S SON, HENRY, WHO TOOK OVER AFTER HIS FATHER DIED IN 1951 AND RAN THE COMPANY UNTIL 1978 WHEN THE PLANT "ACCIDENTALLY" BURNED DOWN ON JULY 4, 1978. I USE THIS WORD ACCIDENT IN QUOTES BECAUSE THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT THE FIRE WAS DELIBERATE, A POINT I HOPE TO TAKE UP IN MY BOOK. IT'S RATHER TOO INVOLVED TO GO INTO HERE BUT THE DETAILS AND CIRCUMSTANCES ARE HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS. TO ADD TO THE IRONY, IN ALL THIS IN LYLE'S LITTLE BLUE BOOK, "THE STORY OF THE INDEPENDENT" HE NOTES THAT WHEN HE AND TWO OTHERS HAD CONCEIVED THE IDEA TO PUBLISH HIS NEWSPAPER HE POINTS TO THE FACT THAT HE HAD BUILT UP A NAME LIST OF POSSIBLE READERS PARTLY BY GETTING THE SUBSCRIPTION LIST OF "THE AMERICAN FREEMAN", EHJ'S NEWSPAPER. THAT'S HOW I FIRST LEARNED OF THE EXISTENCE OF STUART'S PAPER AND EVENTUALLY SUBSCRIBED SINCE I HAD ONCE BEEN A SUBSCRIBER TO EHJ'S "AMERICAN FREEMAN". IT NOW SEEMS RATHER STRANGE THAT STUART WOULD THINK THAT MY BOOK ON EHJ WOULD NOT BE WORTHY OF BEING PUBLISHED BECAUSE OF HIS "OBSCURITY" WHEN IT WAS EHJ'S NAME LIST THAT ACTUALLY HELPED TO PUT STUART'S PUBLISHING COMPANY ON THE LITERARY LANDSCAPE. BUT I'M IN NO WAY DISCOURAGED BY ALL THIS. IN FACT, I FIND IT SOMEWHAT AMUSING. I KNOW YOU CAN DEFINITELY EMPATHIZE WITH MY "PLIGHT" BECAUSE I CAN RECALL THAT SOMEWHERE YOU HAD WRITTEN ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES THAT YOU HAD IN FIRST GETTING "WHITWASH 1" PUBLISHED AND ONE OF THE PUBLISHERS YOU CONTACTED SAID HE WASN'T INTERESTED IN A BOOK ON JFK BECAUSE THE MAN HAD HAD HIS DAY AND TIMES AND HE COULDN'T GET EXCITED ENOUGH BECAUSE HIS "PUBLIC" WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED IN A FIGURE "WHO HAD HAD HIS DAY" PASS.

YOU HAD ASKED ME IN YOUR LETTER IF I WOULD ALLOW PERMISSION FOR YOU TO SEND A COPY OF BENNETT'S FBI MAGAZINE ARTICLE TO EITHER JIM LESAR AND TONY SUMMERS AND, OF COURSE, YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION. THE MORE PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THIS THE BETTER, I SAY. EVEN THOUGH I INTEND TO MAKE USE OF IT IN MY BOOK MY PURPOSES AND SELECTIONS MOST LIKELY WILL BE DIFFERENT. IF THEY DO MAKE USE OF IT I'D LIKE TO KNOW, THOUGH SO I CAN GET AN IDEA FOR MY OWN PURPOSES.

I BELIEVE I HAD MENTIONED IN MY LAST LETTER THAT WINCHELL HAD ATTACKED BENNETT FOR HIS FBI MAGAZINE ARTICLE. I KNOW THAT EHJ HAD MENTIONED THIS IN HIS NEWSPAPER, "THE AMERICAN FREEMAN", ~~WHICH I COULDN'T FIND IT BUT I DID FIND ANOTHER REFERENCE TO THIS ATTACK IN ONE OF EHJ'S PUBLICATIONS. ON PAGE 10 OF "QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS" VOLUME 6, 1948 I FOUND THIS:~~

"RECENTLY WALTER WINCHELL WROTE IN HIS WIDELY SYNDICATED COLUMN: 'A MAG DEVOTED TO POLITICS CONTAINS A SOUR REPORT ON THE F.B.I. THE AUTHOR WAS ARRESTED BY G-MEN FOR DODGING THE DRAFT AND SENTENCED TO A 5-YEAR TERM IN FEDERAL PRISON. HE WAS RELEASED LESS THAN A YEAR AND A HALF IN THE CLINK. HMF.'

CLIFTON BENNETT, THE AUTHOR ~~WRITES~~ REFERRED TO, WRITES: "I WAS ONE OF 23 WORK STRIKERS WHO REFUSED PRISON ROUTINE, WORKED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY, AND WERE FINALLY BROKEN UP AND SHIPPED TO MAXIMUM CUSTODY PENITENTIARIES. THE STORY IS IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF HOLLEY CANTINE'S RETORT, BOX 1, BEARVILLE, N.Y., AND ALSO IN THE PRISON ANTHOLOGY BEING PREPARED BY HIM."

AS I'VE WRITTEN BEFORE, WINCHELL CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW ONE CAN ~~NOT~~ PAY ANY ATTENTION TO AN ARTICLE ON THE F.B.I. ONCE IT'S KNOWN THAT IT'S AUTHOR WAS A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR. THE ARTICLE, WHICH IS IN THE JULY ISSUE OF THE CRITIC AND GUIDE, SHOULD BE STUDIED BY ALL AMERICANS WHO WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE F.B.I. IS DOING IN THESE CRITICAL TIMES. BENNETT'S 15,000-WORD ARTICLE - IT FILLS THE ENTIRE ISSUE - IS STRICTLY FACTUAL. HE PRESENTS THE RECORD AND LETS THE READERS DRAW THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS. NAME-CALLING BY WINCHELL WON'T CHANGE BENNETT'S FACTS, AND IT'S ONLY FACTS THAT WE'RE ASKED TO CONSIDER."

THERE ARE A COUPLE OF THINGS I SHOULD NOTE ABOUT THIS EXCERPT ABOVE. THE "QUESTIONS & ANSWERS" SERIES WERE A SERIES OF 27 VOLUMES OF THE LARGER SIZED BOOKS EHJ PUBLISHED BETWEEN 1935 TO ~~1950~~. IT WAS CULLED FROM ARTICLES, COMMENTS THAT APPEARED IN HIS "AMERICAN FREEMAN". THIS SERIES WAS BASED ON QUESTIONS HE'D GET FROM READERS AND SUBSCRIBERS ON ALL SORTS OF TOPICS. SOMETIMES EHJ WOULD MAKE UP THE QUESTION AND GIVE A HUMOROUS REPLY. MY FAVORITE IS: "WHAT IS AMERICA'S GREATEST INDUSTRY?" ANSWER: "THE PRODUCTION OF BUNK".

AS FOR THE REFERENCE TO HOLLEY CANTINE'S "RETORT": I KNOW ~~NOTHING~~ NOTHING ABOUT THIS. DO YOU? NOR DO I KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE PRISON ANTHOLOGY WHICH MAY BE EASIER TO LOCATE. (I DON'T KNOW WHAT PRISON THIS IS BUT THERE MAY BE NEWSPAPER REFERENCES TO THIS IN THE NEW YORK PAPERS OF THE TIME, SUCH AS THE NY TIMES, PERHAPS).

WINCHELL WAS A TARGET OF EHJ'S FROM TIME TO TIME. HE'D QUOTE WESTBROOK PEGLER'S DESCRIPTION OF WINCHELL: "A LOUSE ON THE BLOUSE OF JOURNALISM". EHJ ALSO ATTACKED WINCHELL FOR HIS BOASTING THAT HE'D COIN NEW WORDS AS "PRESSITUTE". ACTUALLY, EHJ HAD USED IT FIRST IN AN AD FOR UPTON SINCLAIR'S BOOK, "THE BRASS CHECK" A MONUMENTAL WORK FIRST DONE BY EHJ. I'M SURE YOU KNOW OF THAT WORK.

ONE LAST NOTE: YOU HAD MENTIONED THAT LOWENTHAL HAD DONE A BOOK ON THE FBI IN THE 1950'S. YOU'RE RIGHT - EHJ MENTIONS IT IN A "FREEMAN" PIECE (PAGE 10, OCTOBER, 1951).

WELL, MUST GET GOING. DO KEEP IN TOUCH.

BEST,
Hal Verb
HAL VERB