

9/23/71

Dear Js,

Glad I took a further look at your mailing, for I had already responded to a Mexico City correspondent who had asked me to collaborate on a book on Kaplan (Joel) I'd declined, but we've had further correspondence, including today. A copy of my request is enclosed. I'll send the clip if I get it. She can translate, but I didn't ask because it is probably an enormous job. We'll see. Fascinating piece in other ways. Buckley wears his own blinders, and with all the diamonds, platinum and oil they are still blinders, which makes it the more interesting.

Now, on his: he was and perhaps is a director of the Wohlberg Foundation (China lobby). In 1966, late, or early 1967, they were considering an investigation of the JFK assassination (I suspect they dropped it when they found no Reds). They asked Oscar Collier, a literary agent, the president of a small publishing house (he almost did WHITWASH) to get a staff together. I agreed to be chief investigator. Does this illuminate?

From what B quotes, Chous said nothing that surprises us, not even his candor and laying it on the line.

I know of nothing the Chinese have said earlier on the assassination(s). I have communicated my low opinion of the Aurora piece. No answer to my letter. Expect none.

I'll read the RIA clips before I file, but not now. And I have to listen to Frost tonight. He has Bishop and I'll be asking for equal time. By certified mail. Boy do I wish that Sony Mike had come, like the cords. But I'll use my large reel-to-reel, which is close to the TV. (Which reminds me, if the wires didn't carry it, there was an excellent interview on CBS-TV early a.m. today with a Puerto Rican just out of Attica after 10 years and, although his time was about up, one of those in revolt.) Again, not a hint. If I'd known, I'd have taped it for you. Caught it by accident, just before leaving for my morning walk, so I delayed it to view.)

Lil is wondering whether the fashioning (fashion?) clip is a challenge to see if she dare undertake the knitting of a Supergal costume for Jen Sr.?

Interestingly, your thoughtful gift of the two Sony cords came a day before the letter announcing it. But now that I know you are also sending the Mike, I'll see if my friend Sam can come up with a pair of Sony female plugs, for which I can use the other Sony cord for when I see JER. It might be worth it for this one use. Good idea to make the leads, for there is no Sony dealer here and it saves the time of the friend, as it would have in a shop where the minimum charge here is \$8.00, for anything.

I thought I remembered wrong when you told me about the heat. Hal had told me that it never gets real hot or real cold there. We had mild weather until yesterday. It is cooling now. I was in the pool day before yesterday, or almost three weeks later than before. Generally Labor Day marks the chilling of the water to discomfort. When you haven't chance to adjust to the heat it must be much worse. I'm wearing pants at home for the first time since the advent of warm weather. But this a.m., shorts only. Once I got used to them I've found them more comfortable and less confining. I'm less aware of wearing anything, less distracted in even this minor way.

Check on Dealey Plaza, San Q and Attica. I forecast this kind of thing in general terms in the early part of COUP, which makes it a bit more shocking when it happens. I can't and won't ask you to duplicate your clips on San Q, but I'd appreciate anything on the autopsy or autopsies from the local papers, the first official stories and any other, and the stories the lawyers told once they got in, but just for the completeness of the file and from the local papers only. Unless the Times had something of significance not in them that you haven't sent. One of the reasons is the slim chance one of my officers (to Bantam, publisher of the letters) is accepted. I have a friend there and suggested an effort to get all the autopsy stuff for me to

analyze for them and the mother, with no obligations to me. I have a hunch from the one-day story here that a competent examination of the autopsy material, were it available, would indicate that he had also been struck and was probably falling when shot. If the bullet was deflected by bone, which is not unusual, there would ordinarily be an indication at that bone. I suspect a pistol may have been the weapon, not the usual carbine or rifle, and that he was not shot while running across the yard. What you say of non-GI weapons is interesting. Exact parallel of Chicago/Panthers case.

You do not indicate among the possibilities one I think might be considered, that it is not alone the racist guards who are uptight at the uppity nigger, that someone may have indicated his death would not lead to an official period of mourning. I have seen no ref. to any prints on the 9mm pistol. The removal of the grips would not eliminate all sources, any if it were the typical rough kind. But the clip would have to show some, and silence?...Do you think anything may have happened to "ingham, or that he lamed after hearing the radio or TV accounts, knowing he'd be suspect and knowing something about modern "justice"? There was rather interesting and quite fair family treatment on TV at the time of the killings.

I did not know that there had been a series of killings at San Q. If you could prepare a list of them I've somebody in jail I think is not worried enough about what could happen there. It might make him think a bit.

Your comment on the informer is interesting. The Attica ex-con on TV this a.m., while saying he knew nothing about who killed the three prisoners slain before the police put it on the assembly line, also said they were stoolies. Did you note that the guards in NY are about to make a demonstration for a number of reasons, including better conditions for the inmates?

Skinned and will read other clips. Col. Herbert has gotten good and fair TV treatment, including straight interviews which make the Army look like what it is. Anderson is nuts if he says the DJ isn't out to nail emos. It is blatant here. They've even exculpated to nail bigger fish.... Marvin Lewis on same a.m. TV show today. I'd not known that the trial-lawyers were having this investigation until then. I'll read the others with more care....heard today that the Merv Griffin show actually censored an FCC commissioner, Johnson, when he teed off on aspirin and other commercials. They just left out that part of the tape.

Patience on my Mexico City correspondent. Although sent airmail, the last letter required 10 days in transit! The local P.O. is investigating what has happened to a small fraction of my mail, to a couple only of the known "buffs" and my publisher. Not really Buffs, one a young friend who is here often, and that didn't happen until he finished and made a submission to a publisher, one of Ray's lawyers, and my "publisher". No others. Although anything else seems unlikely, I don't believe it is done in the local P.O. They sort the mail in another building not attached, and with a few pieces it could happen there, where the job is contracted or done by minor clerks with little or no supervision. The local P.O. has always been very good to me in all ways. Helpful, too.

Again, thanks for all the many favors. Best,

19 September 1971

Dear Harold:

Herewith some enclosures, only one of which needs any comment ~~that~~ and that is attached to it.

This is partly to let you know that we sent the extra Sony mike to you Sept. 14 by parcel post. Let's hope it helps.

Also, under separate cover but mailed at the same time with this will be a first-class mailing of two Sony mike cords with plugs which your electronic friend should be able to connect with your Concord mike or mikes. I hope he won't feel insulted that I taped little tags to the various connections to indicate which was the sound circuit and which for the on-off switch. We asked the dealer which was which, in case someone less expert than your friend might try to connect them. No fingers pointed, of course.

We have your mailings postmarked Sept. 3, 10, 12, 13 and 16, all containing much interesting material and much ~~easy~~ susceptible to comment, but the way we have been living it has been impossible even to read some of it, much less find the time to answer. We ^{are} starting the last week of the graveyard shift tonight, and let's hope we can get back to something less alien to a normal life.

The hot weather has broken, apparently, so we're beginning to catch up a little on sleep. We rarely have more than a week of hot weather each year here, but for a population so spoiled that they think 85 in the shade is a heat wave, a real dose of heat like we had this past week really throws everyone. No one here has air conditioning because of the ~~brief~~ brevity of the heat when it does come, so everyone just has to get through it the best he can.

I'm sure you're aware that San Quentin was Dealey Plaza all over again, and that Attica follows the same pattern of improvisation, contradiction and general phoniness of the official story at San Quentin. Naturally, our files on both these dos are proliferating at an incredible rate. Very briefly we feel two key elements in these situations -- aside from the general inhumanity of the prison system and the society supporting it -- are the racism of the guards, the apparent fact that most of them carry concealed weapons when they aren't supposed to, and the probability that they have a good many of the administrators somewhat terrorized. The probability that Stephen Bingham could have smuggled the gun -- or that he would have -- to George Jackson is virtually nil. Jackson and the other two Soledad Brothers have said many times they expected to be killed, that the guards had threatened them many times, and the other two, Clutchette and Drumgo, still tell their attorneys these things if the attorneys can be believed. As you know, there has been a series of killings at San Quentin in the past several months, culminating in the stabbing murder of an unarmed guard at SQ two or three weeks before Jackson's incident occurred. Other cons and ex-cons have said several times someone was going to have to pay for the murder of that guard, who was stationed at the prison hospital to protect an inmate informer who was being kept there lest the other cons assassinate him.

Enough for now; we'll write more later.

 jdw

19 september 1971

Dear Harold:

The attached is extremely interesting in view of the great circumspection of the Chinese in the past on this matter. We haven't checked our files, but we felt their reaction to JFK's assassination might be of great importance at the time and so collected every scrap. But they said little, and that amounted no more than a totally non-committal implication that this is the sort of thing to be expected from barbarian capitalists.

If by any remote chance you have an opportunity to pick up a translation of the Excelsior article -- or even the original in Spanish -- We would be very grateful for a copy. A good deal could depend on whether Chou volunteered this reference or whether he replied to a question. I cannot recall his having mentioned it before, and am inclined to regard his doing so now as being in the same general category with Soviet Russia's sudden awakening of interest as shown in the Aurora series and translated in Sputnik.

Maddeningly, Buckley gives no date for the article or the interview on which it was based.

The question arises as why Buckley himself mentioned it, even with the air of dismissing it. Is Buckley quite this desperate? Is he, for instance, going to discover at this late date that Nixon was in Dallas the night of Nov. 21, 1963 and took the occasion to tell a GOP gathering that JFK was going to dump LBJ in 1964? Strange things are going on. Normally one could dismiss this as the natural inclination of a rightwing propagandist to use anything that looked useful.

I see nothing abnormal in Scherer-Garcia getting the interview or with its publication by Excelsior. Neither represents leftwing influences, but on the other hand neither subscribes -- as no non-American element in the world subscribes -- to the official brainwashing version.

So if any of your contacts could come up with a copy, this might be an extremely valuable record of a signal of some kind from someone. I cannot believe that Chou tossed it off carelessly. He does not operate that way. If it were a question, he didn't have to answer.


jdw

William F. Buckley Jr.

Chou's Version of 'Facts'

IN LATIN AMERICA, particularly in Chile and Mexico, the rage is an interview, just published, between a Mexican journalist and Chou En-lai. Julio Scherer Garcia, the editor-manager of *Excelsior*, published in Mexico City, spent two and one-half hours with Chou, whose penetrating monologue, obviously delivered to a keen listener, cuts like a blowtorch through Western fatuity.

It is rich and long, full of interesting bits and pieces. Chou tells us, for instance, that "the truth of the assassination of President Kennedy has not yet been revealed."

THE CHINESE Communists did not desire to turn China into the center of world revolution, he says. On the other hand, he admits that China would help out national liberation movements. "Why not?" Chou commented, slipping into English vernacular.

And then elucidating, in a style that is vintage Oriental Paradox: "The destiny of every nation is the responsibility of its people. We oppose aggression, intervention, subversion and outrage. But we support national liberation movements."

There is even a flirtatious dalliance with the big lie. "Legal punishment in China is administered through work and re-education. Few are imprisoned, even fewer executed. We do not believe in the effectiveness of execution. We do not restrain power through killing."

This datum will unfortunately fail to revive several dozen million Chinese corpses.

Mr. Scherer asked, "Does China see any future for socialism through election?"

Chou: "We do not believe in the struggle by the parliamentary method. We do not conceal our views. We have not seen any cases in which any country has succeeded in expelling the forces of aggres-

sion from abroad or in attaining complete national independence and real, authentic democracy through parliamentary practice. The Latin American nations won their national independence through armed struggle. Unfortunately in the 20th century aggressive forces have again infiltrated these countries."

"The premier is looking at the clock," Mr. Scherer's notes disclose. "It is clear that the interview is coming to an end. He is almost standing..."

Scherer: "How is it possible for the champion of anti-capitalism, Chairman Mao Tse-tung, and the champion of anti-communism, President Richard Nixon, to meet? Why does China accept its mortal enemy in its own home?"

Chou: "Because the United States has imposed a blockade against China and has demonstrated hostility to it for 22 years. The Geneva and Warsaw talks at the ambassadorial level have lasted for 16 years without results. Now Nixon wants to raise the level of the negotiation, and he knocks at our door; why should we not open it?"

Scherer: "Do you believe Nixon would come to China if he felt the trip would not benefit him?"

Chou: "There are two possibilities about his visit to China. If the negotiations succeed, the people of the East and of the entire world will benefit. This is the main thing. Now then, if the trip is not successful, President Nixon will unmask himself. If he arrives in Peking without wanting to resolve problems the entire world will see this and comment on it. We can assert only this: China does not traffic in principles, nor do we sell out our comrade-in-arms, never."

Scherer: "But does the United States?"

Chou: "Draw your own conclusions. I think they are very clear." (Chou chuckles).

9/23/71

Dear Miss G.,

Also in mail I didn't get to until after writing you is a column of a week ago by the right-winger William F. Buckley in which he quotes an interview with Chou by Julio Scherer Garcia of Excelsior.

The friend who sent this to me and I would both appreciate a copy if this presents no serious problem to you. and if Excelsior had it translated into English or if another other English translation is available, that also would be of interest.

B quotes S as quoting Chou as saying "the truth of the assassination of President Kennedy has not yet been revealed".

The political comment on other matters, even as presented by Buckley, is quite provocative.

Thanks for anything you may be able to do.

Sincerely,