

10/5/68

Dear George,

You send me a letter, regular mail, and it is delivered in two days. Paul Hock writes me air mail and it takes seven days. I write LA and send it special handling, and it takes 10. You are lucky, so far.

I'm sending a copy of this to Steve, so he will be aware of the contents. It seems to ~~amaze~~ me, with the possibilities you have, that I should stay in San Diego an extra day, for I can stay in and plan to stay in LA until the fifth. I cannot leave ~~before~~ after noon on the 4th without paying a heavy toll because in order to reduce the cost of travel, I'm ticketed under a special rate that precludes travel between noon on Friday and noon on Monday. What I've been able to do is get a round-trip ticket, coast to coast, good at either SF or LA, and I'm paying separately for the SF-LA fare. This is a very large saving. So, why don't I figure on the 30th in San Diego also? If it is necessary, I can stay in LA after 11/5. I do not anticipate it will be. From there I go to N.O. for a week, for private investigations.

My chief interest in this trip is to be able to speak with those with whom I work, as I can not by mail or phone. I do not have enough books on sale to justify the time, leave alone other costs. I have done much work of which they have no knowledge, and they may have knowledge that fits with mine. It usually happens, when I am <sup>on</sup> radio in California, that I turn up new witnesses. Incidentally, on the call-in shows in particular, I hope someone can be with me, in the event it is necessary to speak to a caller off the air. We can then put him on "hold" in the studio and he can be spoken to from elsewhere. Some of the more significant information has come to us this way.

So, I will want all the time possible to speak to you all. At the same time, I want to use all the time possible to reach others. As Steve can tell you, don't worry about overloading me. The only real problem is if I am too, too tired and face a tough one, where I may then lose my cool, as, alas, I have in the past.

Jim Lawrence phoned me two days ago, so I know of your call to him. I am very fond of him and Kevin. They are great, dedicated guys. I briefed him for a press conference that has gotten no press here. I hope it did there.

It is not necessary to give credit to BOOKS. Without their asking me, I'd not have written it. But they didn't use it, only two paragraphs....On Sylvia, why not tell her that you intend constructive work, that you'd prefer fact on the case rather than distribe - or even publish it? I will be very interested in anything you have on Thornley, whether or not from her. I doubt she has any first-hand knowledge of him at all, and I do think it possible she has been imposed upon, although I also know this could be her own emotions. We have had correspondence on this. She was not responsive, only emotional. I reminded her of the 500 pages of Commission evidence we could have had and do not had she found that \$100 when she knew I alone was working in the Archives and she knew I was without funds. Her reply was to say, quite rightly, that how she spent her money was her own business. My response was that in giving it to Thornley, she was spending it against me, because I knew what it was financing for him, a campaign against me.

On your newsletter, why do I not go over the list with you, there?

making a fire in the fireplace (we had a ~~snake~~ snake. I thought they'd gone for the gear. So, I jump around.

By my staying there the extra day, we can do ETV, if they want, and if they begin by not wanting, after hearing and seeing the other stuff, they may get interested. None of you have responded to my suggestions about what I talk about. I will be prepared to give the TV stations different visual material, and I will be prepared to go into the New Orleans evidence in depth, with copies of the evidence. You need have no apprehension about the Shaw trial. This will be my own evidence. I want to be reminded, by both of you, to tell you some of my unpublished N.O. stuff, what is new and connected seemingly disconnected parts of the case.

If you ETV station wants to tape in advance, we can do, with no trouble, more than a single show. I think I can give them stuff that may be of interest to other ETV stations, once they learn I have but a single head and neither is in an alcohol jar.

Be happy to stay with you. That's what I'd hoped. I leave it to you and Steve to decide how I get there. I plan to leave my clothes in LA and carry just a little with me to San Diego.

As Steve can tell you, we can depend on no financial help from LA or Frisco. LA has never been able to produce it, and I am still owed for the cost of two trips by Frisco!

You repeat your concern about loading me too much. You cannot. If there is more interest, if the cost of the LA-San Diego trip is not great, I can go down again if there is a lull in the LA schedule. Many of the shows are off the air that would have had me. I'll enclose a copy of my letter to Steve which will give you some ideas about this.

By the way, let me know what size sweater you wear, if you wear sweaters there. You may be too large, but I've lost lots of weight, and I have a number of nice sweaters Lil has knit for me, new and almost. If you can wear any, I'll bring them.

Saw your dad briefly Wednesday, will again Monday. He's great, as always. He'd just finished reading the draft of one of my unpublished books, COUP D'ETAT, but we had no time for discussing it. I have four written or almost done and unpublished. I'd like sometime to talk to you and those you can trust to maintain strictest confidence on my unpublished medical stuff. That book is called POST MORTEM. Those few who have read it, like Vince Salandria, Hal Verb and Gary Schoener and Dr. John Nichols, who you should have on your list, say it is the hottest and most important yet. I've had it done 14 months and cannot afford to publish. I'll now be making significant additions.

Thanks for the check. I hope the fees are at least enough to pay for the other costs. One new addition to our small band wants me to go to N.O. on the way back and has provided that extra fare when he found out I wasn't. There is much, undone, significant work there, so, unless I am snowed under by legal technicalities- and it can cost me several thousand dollars just to set foot there- I'll return to it for a week.

Looking forward to seeing all of you again!

Sincerely,

Assassination Inquiry Committee  
4718 Saratoga Avenue  
San Diego, California 92107  
10/2/68

Harold Weisberg  
Rt. 8  
Frederick, Maryland

Dear Harold,

First, I want to apologize for not writing earlier. Points have been raised in your recent letters, and I'll respond to these in a rather disjointed fashion. Then I'll fill you in on the details regarding the San Diego part of your West Coast trip.

In your letter of 7/13 you suggested that we contact Art Kevin. This we did, in fact yesterday morning I called Jim Lawrence (KHJ radio news director), informing him of your coming trip, and in the process receiving his permission to reprint a letter he sent us in our upcoming newsletter. This should be printed by Friday, and you should receive a copy by about 10/9. Lawrence is looking forward to meeting with you in LA, and he will contact Steve Burton regarding time arrangements.

In the next newsletter, we will finally give credit to Books for their interest in the matter. Also we are printing a letter from Sylvia Meagher (replying mainly to Popkin's comments on her position, but also attacking Garrison). We have had quite a lengthy correspondence with her, centering generally on her anti-Garrison posture; it is unfortunate for us that she has focused on a negative, counter-productive endeavor. I wish she would send us material for the newsletter shedding light on the case itself rather than her diatribes vs. the other critics. You will be interested in seeing her correspondence to us, especially as regards Thornley.

We will try to send you duplicate copies of the newsletter, and when you're here you can get all the copies of back issues you need. Enclosed with this letter you will find some material on Gonzalez. The sources are the Mexico City papers, Alarma and Alerta. These include nothing not recently printed in the Enquirer article; also I have no pictures of Gonzalez of better quality than the Enquirer pictures. Requests to our readers for information on Gonzalez have thus far been unproductive.

Harold, would it be possible for you to send us (or bring with you) names and addresses of interested people for our newsletter? We don't even have Hal Verb's address, and I'm certain there are dozens of other key people all over the country that we're missing.

Now, as regards your coming trip. I have called Steve Burton, and together we have divided the week of Oct. 28 through Nov. 2 as follows: Oct. 28 & 29 in San Diego. Oct. 30 through Nov. 2 in LA.

I have established the following schedule for San Diego:

Oct. 28 (Monday)- 3 PM BOB DALE SHOW on channel 8, the local CBS affiliate. This is an afternoon entertainment and discussion show, generally with non-controversial material. The show is popular here, with many thousands of viewers, and I'm sure you'll find Dale to be a congenial and reasonably intelligent host.

8 PM to 11PM Lecture at REVELLE COLLEGE, University of California, San Diego. Hall where you'll speak holds about 1000, and we hope to have it packed. There will be facilities for slides available. The three hours will be divided to include time for audience questions and comments.

11:30 PM to 12:30 (about) Radio show (live with listener call-in) on KPRI-FM, an avant-garde station specializing in hippie music almost entirely. Your appearance will be a "first" for this station, in terms of guest speakers and audience call-in, but it should be worth while since the station seems to have a very wide audience, especially among the young.

Oct. 29 (Tuesday)- 7:45 AM SUN UP SHOW, also on channel 8. Has many viewers, and the composition of the audience should differ from that of the Bob Dale program. *(and from KPRI's for sure!)*

8 PM to 10 PM Lecture at San Diego State College, as part of their "experimental college" series.

We hope here to have an audience in the neighborhood of 500. Also with some time for questions.

In addition, the local Educational Television Station (KEBS-TV) has expressed interest in a show with you, but details and arrangements are not final. I hesitate to pack too much more into your two days here, since I realize this is only one part of an exhausting trip. On the other hand, we want you to reach as many as possible, so I hope the above arrangements are satisfactory. If possible, you should arrive in San Diego on the evening of Oct. 27 (Sunday), or earlier if you wish. Jim, Malvina and I would be very happy to have you stay with us for the duration of your stay here; we will show San Diego to you, if time permits, and you should bring swimming suit since the ocean is very near our home and the water is warm this time of year.

I am enclosing a check for \$100 for partial travel expenses. There will be more available from San Diego, but I am presently unable to figure out how much. Part will depend on the magnitude of turnout at the two lectures, and the resultant donations therefrom. Also we are applying for (but have not yet received) money for an honorarium (or some toward travel expenses) from San Diego State College. The people in LA and SF should be able to contribute to your expenses, especially since you'll be spending the greater portion of your time in those places.

Let me know if the above is agreeable. We eagerly anticipate your visit. Also, let me know if the schedule is too full, or conversely if you could handle one or two more shows.

Sincerely,

*George*  
A. George Abbott, MD