

October 7, 1967

Dear Hal:

I have received the manuscript from Washington - untampered with - that I can tell - but, then again, who can be sure?

I have since been holed-up in my San Francisco apartment reading it with great intensity. I've reached page 206 now, but have read the last two chapters first, like most of the illiterati in this society do anyway; my cop-out is that I am so conditioned to your pulse rate, e.g. Epilogue in WW II, that I like to know how to pace my own thirst. Let me be modest and say that you've topped yourself once again in my eyes; this is going to be the most explosive of the first four, I'm sure, assuming it coincides with the Garrison trial(s).

I will write further in-depth comment on the manuscript when I have completed some and contemplated the mixture.

I've made my move toward ABC; perhaps I will have finished some written overtures in time to include in the letter. (If not, within days, then.) My friend, and significant endorser, Lee Rashall, feels now is the time for he and I to make our move - and he's tossing his bag in with the cause. With proper legal clearances and assurances, I am putting together a package for review by ABC's most influential operative (profits-wise), Dave Sacks, VP of ABC's operation out here. Inclusive will be your books, a copy of this manuscript, some relevant correspondence you've had with NBC & CBS, and the 73-page critique on the CBS series. PLEASE NOTE: O'Garra, McGuire & Nestel will ensure that proper protection is gained before they get one sliver of paper from me. (So, how would you like to own your own TV and radio networks??!!)

Generally, I will propose two approaches: A one hour or half-hour series of "specials"; and, during the course of the Garrison trial(s), your participation in "orientation" inserts in their network news shows, as the authority of background data, et al. I am equally convinced that we should invite the other side on the theory that "turning the other cheek" (their prior denials of same) will or should knock down some barriers. I have a draft done now, want to tighten it up before I let fly.

I must tell you that this cancer thing with my wife has me terrified; that a grown man can but sit and cry is a fact I can tell no one; she goes into the hospital on the 16th for a cone biopsy, which will tell the doctors the degree of her condition; she is such an incredible mother and wife that words come out flat now; that our little ones might be denied the vibrance and affection of this woman is something that is sapping my soul; it goes far beyond my own selfishness this time.

I'm so goddamned depressed at this stage I must close and have a blast of vodka; I think I'll shampoo with the crap and get two jobs done at the same time.

My best to your little lady.

Best Personal Regards,

John

A Sunday postscript:

My strength returned, having spoken to my lovely wife this afternoon on the phone.

I just now finished the manuscript; what can I say about your work that I have not already said in spades? This has to be the greatest platform-prelude any district attorney ever had at his disposal; if Garrison doesn't make a specific frame of reference to this book as the background vehicle for the news media, then he is a Jolly Green Goon.

If Liebeler doesn't sue you on this one he never will; oh, would I love to develop the logistics to sink that bastard in his own rotting flab; if he ever does write his "both sides" book, we will have the kind of mechanism necessary to drag his bungling butt into court; I will virtually guarantee he'll never see a penny's profit from anything he writes on this subject. With governmental immunity gone, he's deadlier than Hoover's honor.

Let me make several preliminary conjectures on the NO book: You (logically) continue to press the second Oswald theory all the way, while Garrison has him an integral participant to some vague point, then a patsy; Is there any way that Garrison can get trapped should he not be able to verify Oswald's involvement in the actual Shaw-Ferrie (Russo) meeting? This conscious versus unconscious involvement bothers me, only in so much as it leaves hearsay evidence the hallmark of Oswald's position. I smell Seymour all the way and have for some time.

The de Buveys intrigue is shattering revelation; it harks toward something that will stink-up the Bureau forever; the inter-relationships of this managerie of misfits is so damned obvious that your blueprint (rather, that of their own) will make for some real fairy (?) tale telling somewhere down the pike. Wouldn't you know it would take a mangy moulter like Ferrie to burn those phoney feds with their own ignorance.

I must tell you an interesting parallel: When I first (March, 1963) got on the trail of a food chain cartel that owned (clandestinely) the largest trading stamp company (Blue Chip) on the West Coast, I was one man (President of a fledgling stamp company) against all the money in the world (Safeway, etc. = \$10-Billion assets). Blue Chip had the market so (illegally) monopolized that my firm was destined to failure from the outset; so, we (the directorate) decided to see if our rights had been violated, then sue, to hell with going bankrupt in the marketplace.

My first move was toward the Justice Department, where I opened the can of worms about Blue Chip's operation and ownership; result: the JD envisioned per se antitrust violations; I "volunteered" my expertise gratis, whereby the JD would turn over to me all raw data gathered by the FBI for collation and interpretation; this data would have cost our firm \$500,000 to get, if we could get it at all; the result was a huge antitrust suit against Blue Chip and its owners by the JD (December, 1963); followthrough data via depositions, subpoenas, etc. developed incredible evidence against them; ULTIMATELY; instead of our firm suing Blue Chip, I found the State's service station operators had a better case, and with more damages coming; our firm then converted itself into a "Consultant" firm, rounded

up a group of greasy station operators, hired prestigious Counsel (of which O'Gara, McGuire and Nestel is one), and filed a "class action" suit requesting \$36-Million in damages; that original suit, filed in February, 1966, with 22 operators claiming to represent some 12,000 others, has now swollen to 3,000 operators claiming to represent 27,500 parties, with damage requests now standing at \$93-Million, to be raised to over \$300,000,000 by early next year. (My firm owns 10% of the gross settlement or recovery.)

The main point of this story (as it was with the "bank job" out here) is that one man can do little by himself; what I did was use the JD, the FBI, and the biggest smokers in the law profession to do for my group what we could never have done for ourselves, alone. The distasteful parallel is that Ferris-Shaw-Novel, etc. et al are doing precisely the same thing, only the FBI, etc. are not nearly so happy with the association, I'm teetotally sure.

Just finished the 10/17/67 LOOK article by Rbt. Oswald; while it coasts along in Manchesterese for most part, it nonetheless tosses forth some conjectural inferences that are pluckable; I can't really decide whether or not LOOK is trying to do the right thing in this piece, or whether it was a rhetorical mistake; there's an interesting slot from today's Sunday paper here for your looksee. The interspersing of the two stories has got to be funny.....hahahahaha -- exp.

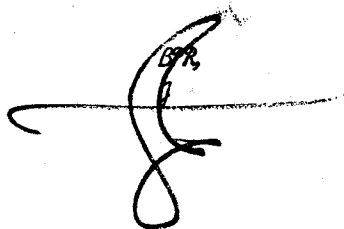
Jack Cooke has requested a copy of the manuscript for his wife, whose interest level is just short of fanatic at this point; let me assume that you won't mind them making a copy for their personal library - for I must reasonably assume that Phoebe's end response when this settles into her gizzard will be to demand the resignations of Messers Deems and Mayer. Now, you wouldn't ask me to deny these fine, honorable men a chance to sip soup with the other buns in New York, would you???!!!

I'm nearly finished with the draft agreement between our two interests; Counsel will look at it, then we'll finalize the matter to everyone's satisfaction. It will contain provisions we both need.

I've decided on the entire format for ABC; It will be just as I outlined in the 10/7 part; I will put the text together tonite before I collapse, will send you a copy tomorrow, with notations of which correspondence to CBS and NBC will be included. The best I can say at this juncture is that we have a chance; it does bother me, however, that ABC is in the throws of a nasty strike with NABET, which has management up to its shorthairs in doing what it is they think the NABET shouldn't be properly paid for. (Aside: I had to belong to that union when I went to work there; it's run by first-water idiot-boobs who are overpaid if they're paid off in ionized K-nations; some day I'll send you copy of my parting letter to both the union and management; it incorporates all the prognosticated inanities that led to this vicious strike, some 18 months later.) (Well, Christian, if you're so goddamed smart, why aren't you rich???!!!)(I have principles???)!!

I'd better have my fingers examined. When my postscripts start getting longer than my original letters, my thyroid must be haywire.

Best, again, to her....make that Her.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials "B.P." followed by a stylized flourish that loops back under the name.