

2/29/67

Dear John,

Ethel Waters signed a book entitled, "His Eye Is On The Sparrow". It should be. The Sparrow appeared on the Today Show this morning to sell a book that cannot be bought, whose publisher was not identified, in an apparent two punch, I think to Thompson's one. Perhaps soon there will be the third. Meanwhile, there is official leaking that is close to libellous of inaccurate and corrupted misrepresentation of something alleged to be in my past, which is quite innocent and entirely non-political and in no way culpable or wrong.

Friends tried to locate the publisher and get the book in New York. They failed. Publishers' Weekly knew nothing about it (and those who examine it carefully and are alert to this subject recall seeing nothing. Now it is also very unusual that the London Times Literary Supplement publish a 20,000 word article on a subject allegedly dead in England, and it would seem to be more unusual that in so doing they do not indicate either that it is the entire text of a forthcoming book or is a contraction of it. There is, in fact, no indication in either that article or in my subsequent correspondence that the eminent warden of All Saints, John Sparrow, had any such mercenary motive as publicizing his own book. It is strange, further, that the article bears the same title as the book, "After The Assassination".

As with Charles Roberts' book, it looks as though the promotion cannot possibly be paid for by the expectable sale, particularly if the bolt is shot before the sale is possible. From the first, Sparrow has been a vocal lickspittle, listened to because of the esteem in which he seems to be held. That he should wait so long to do a book is additionally fascinating. I believe it is subsidized.

If this is the campaign I expect, he'll be getting out that way. I'd like to prepare some of our friends for him. A few well-turned questions may also turn a prostituted ass, kearned as all hell.

I'll be writing again, as I learn more. I'll be writing the editor of the Times LitSup as soon as I can.

When I was out there, I pulled a rather exception play. Recall that Hall and Howard went to court to avoid honoring Garrison's subpoena, and they won. Hall was in the hospital. Howard had been interviewed by a number of our friends and the press. I then interviewed him. You may recall, mine are prosyletizing interviews. It hadn't gone too far when he offered to go to New Orleans with me. I couldn't go but asked him if he would not be willing to go with Steve Burton. He said he would and he did, Saturday. Now that is one for the books! The man who goes to court not to go is persuaded he should go voluntarily and does. On his return he says he found Garrison a "nice man"! Our friends have been carefully not to offend my modesty, so they have not embarrassed me with praise, or even credit. But would this not make a column item? Do you think Dolan would be interested in such an unusual turn?

How about finding time to answer my questions--and send the money. I've got overdue fuel oil and electrician's bills.

Sincerely,

2/27/68

Dear Jonn,

Yesterday and today I got three letters from Rye, who is now in New York. With enclosures, they total more than 20 pages, I guess. I just glanced at them. I am satisfied the guy is nuts. He says in one that he has had analysis and therefore understands insanity. His candidate is Tom.

He also says that when Ron told him the story, he was actually looking for you when he got to Harv. Can you tell me why? He also knew of your interest in me. Do you know how?

I have been waiting anxiously for details of what you said had turned up after I left on the s-m bit. I have recently come into some new leads, not indicated elsewhere and possibly not really connected. But they make me much more interested in that. This is something I will not tell you except in person, save to indicate that it was official and involves an official operation.

Strangely, I got little mail from my appearances there. I got more from LA. But neither place did I get as much response as from a single by-phone broadcast to Texas after my return. I take this as an indication of what could be done with Texas interest and how certain Texas interests could profit from what I have printed and say.

Hal has had surprisingly little pain. Her biggest problem is that she is uncomfortable and inhibited. She has begun to walk a bit with crutches-but very little. My biggest problem is keeping an eye on her, tending her needs, and trying to do what she used to besides what I must do myself.

Indications are that the New York contact I tried will not be able to get pictures of +oungblond from Coward-Mosena or Avon. When you speak to Hal, ask if one of his boys can check this out in the library, particularly the NYTimes. There is also a chance some of the TV stations might have kept some of the advance publicity stuff. Would you mind, please, asking Lee?

Hurriedly,

2/26/68

Dear Jonn,

A new contact has sent me a copy of Robin Moore's earlier book, "The Devil To Pay", suggesting its central character, Jack Youngblood (Walter A.) may be the man of that name in the Nancy Ferrin Rich story. I stayed up last night and read the book. The parallels are remarkable. This is a mercenary who worked for Castro running guns, etc, turned against him, then declares himself interested in any plot to assassinate Castro, concludes by saying he'll do anything he can to hurt him, and after his defection is active as a pilot for the anti-Castro groups. He is from Texas. He was indicted and convicted in San Francisco. I had written Hal briefly about this before reading the book, thinking my contact had sent him a copy. It turns out he hadn't. But I think it would be worthwhile for all of you to get it (Avon) and read it. The book was originally published in 1961, and Nancy could have known about it. It is also possible that this is a real link, for the character could not be more perfectly drawn for that part of her testimony. What a think that would be if it were true! The picture the man (and Moore, who becomes interesting in his own right) draws of himself is not a very flattering one at all.

Perhaps from or through Phoebe you can get a set of pictures of him. There are a number of people I'd like to see what he looks like. Do try. After you read it, you may think it should be offered to Jonn.

I have two long letters in today's mail from Rye. Haven't read them yet. They are in New York. Linda is still with him. I now think he really is nuts.

How about doing something about that money bit. The need is urgent.

Sincerely,

Hal
2/26/68