

10/4/68

Dear Steve,

Enclosed is an exchange of letters with George Abbott in which I suggest an extra day in San Diego to be able to use facilities it seems he can arrange and to reach a largely new audience. As usual, I leave these things to you. Whatever you work out is fine. However, I cannot fly east on a weekend, as the letter indicates.

Also enclosed, on a fragment of Thermofex paper, which I use as my supply dwindles, is a letter from Renner, from whom I finally heard today. If you do not have this wheat material, perhaps you may want to get it. I doubt I'll be able to add him to COUP now. It would be good if I could have a complete file on him, however, if only for eastern press briefings.

The end of your letter indicates one of the uses I had in mind for the picture that I didn't want to make specific. I think it would be an excellent idea for Gary to have it for that purpose. I was much earlier satisfied on the Steve Wilson bit but said nothing for the reason you now understand. If you cannot do this good, please send him a Wilson picture. He keeps asking me. There is the second side to security checks, which no one seems to think of, and that is to eliminate doubts. I'd much prefer that we satisfy ourselves that beyond doubt he is for real and the seemingly important work he is doing is dependable. The letter was to Jaffe, who had promised last February to get this picture and, as with most things, didn't. I think I may have no reference to anyone else save the KHI people.

I hadn't even thought of Pyne after the Butler bit, but I'm willing, if you recommend. However, if it is to be TV, I'd like to know to bring good, fresh stuff for him, photographic or visual, anyway. Haley I did, and he liked me very much. If you were not asleep at about 6 a.m., you heard the most incredible endorsement he gave me. This is how I spent the night before Butler.

On Allison: I know him and his assistant, Jean Simmons. He has a thing about not toughing this subject, on the alleged ground that he hasn't the time to learn what he should know to be responsible. If you try there, let me make this suggestion: he and I get together as soon as I go out there and I can show him the kind of thing he need have no background for. I did his Washington show three times or more. What I think may be in the back of his mind, on me rather than the subject, is what I did to Larry Schieler's record when he confronted me with it, after he had been telling his audience all night what he would be doing to me when I heard it (I was in Chicago or flying back and didn't know any of this until I got to the studio). Steve was very kind after I opened up. He refused to tangle with me once, unusual for him. He can be a very tough guy, and he is very astute. I think that was the disc's first airing, in early January 1967. I think part of his attitude is what he thinks of Warren, and of this, in particular, whether he does me or not, I'd like to talk to him.

On the picture subject again: do you realize the potential if he is not kosher? He is not the only one in this category. By the way, please let me know if there will be a washer-dryer combination available, so I can do or have done the permanent-press shirts I have gotten for travelling. If one is in LA, I can cut my load considerably. You know the size of the loads I have been carrying. Also, would there be a use for a duplicate of the Zapruder camera, which I have and can carry? I took it there once and we never used it. I can, again, and it can tell a story. Best,

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

BOX 150 • 308 WESTWOOD PLAZA
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

STEVEN J. BURTON, National Chairman

1 October 1968

Dear Harold,

Received today yours of 9/23 and 9/23!

I'll see what Al and I can do to arrange your visit. But I should caution you not to expect too much. As you observed, KLAC fired Crane and Shary, too good people (I have my personal animosities toward Shary). I don't know if you were here since they axed Arbogast and Margolis. That makes Sahl, Elwell, Arbogast, Margolis, Shary, and Crane -- all of whom were on our side. In addition to that, Crane lost his TV show. Stan Borman at Art's station quit when they tried to stop him from talking about Eldridge Cleaver. Elliot Mintz, Al's friend, collapsed from exhaustion and must not work for some time. It is possible that he'll be back before you arrive, but he may not return to the air at all.

That about leaves KLA -- the UCLA .6 milliwatt station as a fertile stomping ground. Problem: it won't reach Wilshire Blvd., 1 mile from campus. It has trouble reaching the fraternities and must go direct to the dorms!

Seriously, though, I think Steve Kane will do his best for us. Pyne may not buy it. Spivak, Haley, and/or Grant are likely. UCLA speech is, realistically, unlikely but possible. Allison is also possible.

Of course, we'll approach everyone in town, no matter how unlikely the prospects.

As far as security on Coup d'Etat is concerned, I hope that I was not the one who wrongly told Fred. I probably mentioned that you had another book in the works, and probably mentioned the title. I doubt strongly that I mentioned the contents to anyone with one exception. This one exception is what prompted me to ask you on the phone when it will be published and ask that it not be too soon. You do not know him but I assure you, his lips are sealed and quiet. He is thoroughly trustworthy, having done much excellent work for Jim.

I feel I must comment on your comments on Rose. Fred, of course, is the only one in a position to send you a photo of Wilson and there is really no reason not to. But beyond that, I am 98% certain that he is legit. I am ~~absolutely~~ certain that he is not Wilson. Why? First of all, when I had these same suspicions, I brought Rose out to see Howard. Howard did not know anyone was coming with me. When they saw each other, there was no look of recognition with either of them. As

you probably agree, I don't think Howard is brilliant enough to be that¹ sharp. I later asked Howard if Rose looked like, or was, Steve Wilson and he replied, quite believability, no. He then added that there was a similarity.

Secondly, Rose, another friend, and I sat around a coffee table one day with a photo of Wilson. The resemblance, of course, is fantastic. But after carefully tracing all features, we noticed that the ears are very different. Wilson has a virtually round ear while Rose has a sharp indentation. From no angle is Rose's ear so perfectly round. We noticed other differences that were not so pronounced.

Thirdly, the January '65 issue of Gun World magazine, which I no longer have, contains a group picture of Patrick, Brown, and Wilson. Wilson is shown in full face, as opposed to the half profile in the other photo. From this angle, he looks very little like Rose. Furthermore, 3/4 of his body is shown in this one and he appears to be 50 lbs. heavier. Another group shot in this magazine of Wilson getting into a boat, is yet similar but different in specific ways.

From these instances, I have concluded that Rose is not Wilson. None of them require that we take Rose's word that he is kosher, at least in this respect. More generally, I concur with Turner, Boxley, and Garrison that he is trustworthy. My only reluctance is to vouch for his discretion in certain specific instances, such as Gary's Mexico City deal.

I do not know who told him about your suspicions. I am certain that I did not. Shortly after you last left L.A., he mentioned to me that you were still suspicious of this. He said something about you writing letters to someone about it. I remember being surprised that he would know about it.

As far as taking a picture of him now, I think that it is near impossible. To my knowledge, he has been in Los Angeles once since April. Even so, how could we get his consent without arousing suspicion? A candid camera would probably be seen by him -- he's a professional paranoid -- and be worse.

From your letter, I did not get the impression that you had something cooking with regard to this. Gary Shoener wrote me similarly and did give me that impression. If you need a photo merely for identification, the Wilson photo is so close as to be sufficient. If it is for contrast purposes, which I really think is unnecessary, there is not much to do.

Hold it. I just re-read your letter. Hal showed me Gary's memo on the two girls in Mexico City. There is no question that that was Rose. Take my word for it. Turner, who works most closely with him, has been apprised I think. As I said, I will not vouch for his discretion.

I guess that about does it. Looking forward to seeing you.

Best,
J. Burton
Steven J. Burton