

6/14/68

Dear Steve,

Your letter of 6/10 postmarked 6/12 arrived today. We covered much of it by phone. Hurried response to what I recall of rest that I read several hours ago.

Do not apologize for ego. Just be satisfied it is justified. One of two of us want to depersonalize the others. You will readily identify one.

To JL it was work on Hall Foundation. I have good info you may be able to carry further. Scholarly credentials best, I think, on this.

I have tried to locate place for you to stay near archives. May have. Do not know yet. If you can stay in Baltimore and borrow car, you can make trip in little over hour. There is also hourly bus service. It costs \$1.50 to park car for day two blocks away. You might do better to use car to bus depot in Balt and cab in DC. Don't know.

You do not understand the materials I have in mind for you to work on. And you are only partly right about regular files. You forget we can from them learn more than what was done wrong. We can also learn what is true, what was not done, what was deceptive and misleading, and we can go in the right direction from there.

The only work for libraries I have already asked be done. We can get more that should be. We can talk about that.

Please remind Joel of the Alvea film for Sprague, who in a letter I received today says he never got it. I asked Joel to return it registered. I have slides you can see here. I've not had time to study them myself.

I think it important that you study the Z film. I'd like to see with you. You know, there is an alternative, going to N.O. first. But let me know your schedule as soon as possible for I feel I must go there as soon as I can.

I have and have seen none of the McCarthy statements. I partly agree with you on Sirhan, on conspiracy disagree...The JFK jobs seems more professional because there was a Warren Commission and an FBI to make it look that way.

Interested in Klamath Falls clippings. Do not have.

If you leave as late as 25th I may have left by then. Keep in touch. Please tell Jim L that I will not be able to give him list names until sometime next week. I've been slowed down by series of medical and dental patchings and tests and have work to do for someone else Sunday. I've become a professional interviewer. It was a ball. The medical and dental stuff does not seem to serious. Guess I'm wearing out. Everyone wants me to slow down but I cannot. When you get to N.O. in part you'll understand why.

Best to everyone,

Thanks for copy Open City. By now you have my letter. If you want, I can show you some of the KT file when you are here. He is not an man of peace! Violent guy, really. Louis has duplicate. Please arrange for someone (not Fred!) to keep me promptly posted in your absence. I should stay close to that one, and it is far away. KT has been silent in Tampa. I have that covered well. I've got transcripts of his appearances there.

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

BOX 150 • 308 WESTWOOD PLAZA
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

STEVEN J. BURTON, National Chairman

June 10, 1968

Dear Harold,

Thanks mucho for your letter of 5/30. It was encouraging after a week or two of nothing but discouragement. I appreciate it that you tell me of your respect for my work, but watch out. Periodically, I go on an ego trip and it is hell for me and everyone I'm in touch with. I'm learning to control it and they get scarcer and scarcer as I get older. But, I would be a liar if I didn't say that I appreciated your kind words.

In your letter, one graph is not clear. You said that you phoned Jim Lawrence to arrange for an assignment in New Orleans for me that would justify giving me credentials. Then you spoke of a school project. I don't see the connection or what you mean by credentials. Jim remembers something about academic credentials but he is not clear about it.

If you are speaking about press credentials, I already have L.A.P.D. press passes (second in stature to the White House Credential), and can get Sheriff and Highway Patrol without problems. If you are speaking of D.A. credentials, I already have them. If you speak of student credentials, I have them also. And, of course, I have CCI credentials. I guess that, if anything, I have a number of identities to employ in reaching the unreachable.

I have not yet heard from Ivon or anyone about the summer arrangements. He was out here a couple weeks ago and said that things would depend on if there is a trial. Finals are over two days from now and at that time, I'll call him to find out. If there is a trial, I'll be there for Liberation (if they are in business) and if not, I hope to work there. But I should hear from them before I go.

Since Jaffee has been out of town for a few weeks, there is some work to be finished up here. I do not have to do it all, of course, but there is some that credentials are essential for. Joel is amazing. He works like a horse, when he works. He'll take a lot of work off me. No one knows when Jaffe will return. My best guess is, without unduly hurrying, I can leave around the 25th. If necessary, earlier. There is a good chance that I can come to Washington and, hopefully, Minneapolis, before N.O., but my dad has not committed the funds. I think he will. As you know, I fly half-fare student rate and that helps. I certainly can't complain about my parents.

If you know of any work for college students in libraries, just forward it to me. Most of the guys in the CCI are a bit on the lazy side, but if there is more than a trickle of work, it will be done. Marc Grossman and Art Eckstein have offered (and are anxious) to go to NO with me to do whatever needs to be done. But they must find jobs. If they can't go, they and a few others will do work in the library. They are both scholars and perfectionists. I recommend them highly.

I don't know what you refer to as the "uncongenial" aspects of life in N.O., but it doesn't much bother me. I've always worked as a loner, pretty much, so what other people do doesn't bug me too much. I hope that you are referring to the Quarter and not the office, though,

it would pain me to see in-fighting there. Lack of coordination, as described in your other letters, is expected. As far as the sieve goes, it doesn't surprise me. I have long thought that the CIA would have infiltrated the D.A. and others in any city in which this thing could be blown. Probably long ago, before the investigation.

I will appreciate any word you can give on who to watch out for. Personality problems can cause a lot of trouble, so if you can give me some pointers there, it's great. On my last trip, Ivon and Waxley were very friendly. So was Jim. Bethell was more British than friendly. I just met Sanders in passing, but he's been friendly on the phone. Unfortunately, I didn't meet Alcock or Sciambra. Loisel was business there, but friendly when he was in L.A.

As far as the Archives go, I certainly want to visit them, but I'm not sure my time is best spent in them. I'm very little interested in finding more mistakes and nonfeasances on the part of the Warren Commission. I'm also losing interest in reconstructing the crime micro-second by micro-second. Since I've been doing what I describe as "live work" (tapping the untapped for new info on new areas), I've lost a lot of enthusiasm for "dead work", (documenting W.R. goofs, etc.) One is active, the other passive. One is progressive and gives us new knowledge; the other is regressive and helps prove what we already know. I would probably do dead work if I had to, but let's face it, we all want to do what we more enjoy.

If I do come to Washington, it would be to see you and compare notes, to visit the Archives and see the film, and to look up some contacts in the mass media that may be receptive. Through my media contacts here, I think I can reach them. Don't worry too much about housing because Liberation has a house. If they don't go bankrupt. If worse comes to worse, I can stay with a cousin (Dr. Neal Aronson head neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins) in Baltimore. He may lend me a car since he's loaded. (I gave him your book a few months ago, but haven't heard a word. He's hung up on his own work, only).

I'm sure you are interested in the Bobby mess. You had more respect for him than I did; which only affects the sorrow, not the significance. I was at McCarthy headqtrs when an announcement was made. I left a cute McCarthy girl I was culturing without getting her name (I could kick myself) and was at the Ambassador in 10 minutes (90 mph on the freeway.) The scene was pandemonium. I spoke to several people but none had seen anything. As you know, it happened in a small room behind the rostrum. I called Ivon and went to Police hqtrs to offer my assistance. Reddin was very little interested, as could be expected.

When the photo of the unidentified suspect was issued to the press, I got a few copies and gave them to Howard to show Patrick and others. He was id before anyone except Hargraves saw them. Several other leads panned out negative.

My initial impression was that this was not a professional murder, as King, Kennedy, and Malcolm had been. A x22 cal is not the way to kill. The police, of course, are not doing enough to follow out possible conspiracy. Except for the polka dot dress, there is really no evidence of conspiracy. If there was one, and I have in no way discounted the possibility, Sirhan was probably hired to do it alone. There were no accomplices, hence no evidence at the hotel. The only way to uncover it is to find the planning meeting. A needle in a haystack. If there was a girl who ran out shouting "We killed him",

then it certainly wasn't a professional job as JFK was. Of course, it could be a smokescreen.

At any rate, I'm preoccupied with JFK. I've spread myself thin by working as investigator, researcher, publicist, press relations, and public action on this one and it would be impossible to do much else. That is also the feeling of Ray Maggie and others.

Since I'm in the middle of finals, I've done very little over the last two weeks. Raised almost 500 dollars by collections after showings of Mark's film at a local theater for Jim. I know he needs it. But it's still a drop in the bucket. (The film suffers more faults than the book.)

When Drennan was subpoenaed, I talked to five of his patients. Nothing important. His hearing was a farce. He and his attorney, Bertrand Comparet (see Lynch Report) were willing to go but the judge talked them out of it. Literally, there was an inversion of roles between the judge and the defense.

I spoke to them myself. Before, Comparet said his only reservation was for Drennan's safety, so I introduced myself and assured him that all precautions would be taken. He was almost satisfied but wanted to state his reservation for the record. Then,...

Afterwards, he was friendly (as honored enemies were; he didn't know I was Jewish) and, at my suggestion, offered to see Jim when he is in town. I don't think he'll say anything. Drennan's attitude was, "You've been following me around for a long time, eh?" Comparet wished us the best of luck but thinks we are after a commie plot. He thinks we hit the nail with Bradley. I should try to talk to him later, but he lives in San Diego. When he finds out Jim named the NSRP at the American U., he'll be furious.

Wheat disappeared. I have Klamath Falls, Ore. clippings if you're interested.

That's about all for now. I'm also upset with Trent's news conf. He's on an ego trip and hasn't come down.

With luck, I'll see you in a few weeks.

Best wishes,

Steve
Steven J. Burton

Next time you send to mail drop, don't use your return address.