

Conversation with Hal Dorland late afternoon (to 6:30) 2/8/74 HW

Hal is about to leave Washington for Minnesota (near Minneapolis). Had it not been for the snowstorm he would have left today. He phoned because he had spoken to Jim Lesar, who told him I had wanted to get together with him. We spoke almost 1 1/2 hours, about too many things to remember or note.

He hopes to be coming back and will then look me up.

When he unpacks, he will send me stats of some of his memos, including those Bob Smith and Bud Fensterwald would not heed. He suspects both and cites some reasons.

He is also supposed to either tape record or write me further about some of what we discussed and to ask his former wife, who was a CIA secretary when they married, to do the same. She was in the Madrid station. He had been assigned to Portugal in the foreign service. (In 1965 he was in Rusk's office.) She knows some of the people involved in Hunt's writing and with him in other ways. Like Jim Noel, the Jim of Give Us This Day.

There were a number of things about which Hal did not want to speak by phone.

They were returning to the US because she was pregnant at the time of the JFK assassination. Had not yet reached DC.

Jim Crowley, State, now East-West Highway, the guy who handled the Oswald file in Otepka's office, lied in affidavit to WC. Admitted it to him and Bud. He and Otepka both at Bud's Georgetown meeting. Had Oswald file at moment of assassination.

Helms memo that is false: WPPost has. Appears from what he said not to have been in Ervin evidence. Post used month-month half ago.

(D.D.) Bldg at 1750 Penna NW he describes as a CIA bldg. Hunt's office. Entire fifth floor CIA. Supposedly many offices, operations there. Could not specify which publishing offices were Agency.

Thinks Crowley also CIA

Fortune post Bay Pigs article by C.D. Murphy, thinks Hunt involvement.

Not always possible to distinguish that he wants to believe or thinks reasonable from representation of fact. Example, says Hunt wrote 'Julius' The Craft of Intelligence. When I asked if perhaps Hunt had not done research and wasn't writing better than Hunt's, he agreed with latter and thought former possible.

Infers enmity former ambassador to Uruguay then in Madrid not only reason for rejection Hunt that station.

Hunt in disinformation first tour Mexico City. Buckely under him in this work.

Says Hunt met with LHO in Mexico City. (From what I've seen it seems that Hunt left just before LHO got there or there were only a few overlapping days.) One meeting only.

Earlier call he had told me that he was in Rusk's office when cablegrams on aborting of Second Naval Guerrilla came in.

I did not give him lead on 1750. He started with it. I then told him of Jim's and my suspicions of some offices in it.

Said both Otepka and Crowley at Georgetown meetings. Odd business of his "introducing" Crowley to Otepka as man who used to work for him and CIA.

Says Chester Cooper CIA.

Says Bud active in forming Committee for a Democratic Majority.

Knows nothing Hunt's OSS career in China.

Says Clarkson Potter CIA publisher. (Don't know source but reasonable. I had suspected.) Over Brenner's, Newman's books. He brought up Brenner, could not remember Newman's. There were reporters in N.O. who believed Brenner CIA. I believe he put his own passion into the book, but that does not mean there was not CIA interest. Some of Brenner's clients are those in whom there is reason to believe there was CIA interest, clients who had no visible ways of paying his fees. (Waif one of his clients, forgery charge on which she could have gotten off without him. Hartens also. Bethel represented by other lawyer in office. He also has no visible means of paying.)