

KCBS

4/17/67

Dear Jim,

Your delayed letter postmarked 4/10 arrived this morning in time to take my nose from the grindstone from which I'd been wanting to remove it - an excuse to stop working for a minute.

Roberts is dishonest and inaccurate but to a large degree right about Lane. Note that he makes no pretense of quoting me directly and then answering what he quotes. He says "Lane and Weisberg say" and then addresses himself to "me" and about things I do not say the things he says I do. I've been challenging him to debate, most recently through his publisher. For a while longer he can get away with ignoring it. Then I'll open up on him because I'll have time to. I do not now.

You people do not understand Mark. He has, as I said in the epilogue to II, the taste of money and he likes it. He will not address Roberts if he can go around picking up chips, as he just did with some of mine in N.O. Lane is so wrong on that he called Clay Bertrand a lawyer and deprecated the entire File 1583 rather than take the time and analyze it. It is perhaps the most important single one in The False Oswald (which is the N.O. story). Recall chapter 7 of II: This is what he said was nothing. So, beginning in Europe, where he has the money to take him (and he now is out of the fight, which I welcome, if he'll only stay out and not do the kind of bad things he does - like what he said in N.O. that brought contempt from the judges and may yet lay the foundation for a mistrial (stipia appeal) He has been sounding off about Garrison and his material, just as though he had some. Meanwhile, I'm working hard and have my New Orleans book, all 150,000 words of it, done. I'm making a few hasty additions that I'll finish today and get it in the mail. I have an agent and a tentative deal on it.

This leads to an answer to your Garrison question. What he is doing stems from that part of my work. He'll go much further with it, has many things of which I do not know or could not prove. But it begins with my False Oswald chapter. I think he's serious. His investigators have asked me to go down, and his legal assistants. Intold them both I would when I finished the ms. Not only did I want to get it done, but it is entirely mine. I've gotten nothing from him. And I'm leaving him in the clear, so there can be no complaint against him. Thursday, when I heard from some of his staff that they were returning some of my materials (that in six days has not arrived) I was told there is with it a personal letter from Garrison, to whom I've never spoken or written, that includes an personal invitation to visit and confer with him. I may by the end of this week. I have a Friday night-all day Saturday thing in Milwaukee. I may go to N.O. on the way there or on the way back. I will, that is, if I get this ms off tomorrow, as I hope.

I think the content of Oswald In New Orleans: CIA Whitewash, is good, important and on any other subject would be totally shocking. It is a rough draft written much too fast - in seven weeks during which I had so many other things to do that I did do. The deal calls for the publisher

to edit it so I can immediately get on other work. Which reminds me of your doubt about the heat staying on. Well, that is writing too fast. But I had no choice. I've got about 1,500 orders for Whitewash III that I laid aside to do Manchester Machiavelli: The Unintended Unofficial Whitewash. I have known of the Garrison investigation since January 1, when I was approached. I did not expect it to become public when it did. So I made a contract with a small publisher for the Manchester book. But when the Garrison thing did become public, I decided, as you will understand, that I should say what I knew. I took the appropriate parts out of Whitewash III and expected to do a short book, 35,000 words plus a hell of a lot of documents. In order to get it done, which I had expected to do three weeks ago, I planned it in my mind and then got to writing. I did the whole thing without an outline, without a note, for there is little planning I could do, writing a book about an unfolding thing. I think that except for the beginning it will not need much work. And I've got it all on paper.

Meanwhile I've probably lost my Manchester contract, but will be back on that as soon as I finish the immediate. I can finish that book in less than a month, if my wife holds up. Then Whitewash III, which I think will really be something. The delay is my own and possibly wrong sense of timing, not a reflection of the contents. But My New Orleans book will be a kind of insurance against what can eventuate there. But I also think Garrison is serious and has a case of conspiracy, which is not the same as murder. I think he'll also have some accessory prosecutions. I do not think Russo is his main case. I know there is a story to the training camp, because I have it. His problem is really the magnitude of what he can say (and I have on paper) about the federal government. I have some pretty hot stuff on the FBI and have one agent embroiled with some of the main characters. Enough.

Anyway, do not be afraid. We are going to do this thing. It is essential to our society that it be done. There are those better than Lane already taking his place (and all more honest). And in about two months I'll be in the hustings. I'm getting some good invitations now. I'll be the main speaker at the Ohio News Directors Convention in June. Manchester will be an unintended help - as will Roberts before I'm finished. And I have the fact to back it up if no one else does. Random House is doing Meggie Fields' penoplies, and they may promote. If the deal goes through on my New Orleans book, the advance is large enough so they'll have to do some promoting, and I'll be able to get around then. I've got outstanding challenges now that, if accepted or if I needle on them, can keep me going for a while. I've dared Lucky Pierre to moderate a debate he is challenged to arrange between Roberts and me on Roberts book at the National Press Club. If he turns it down, when I'm free I'm loaded. Roberts is silent, as is Merriman Smith. If I decide to do it, I've got some solid libel actions I can file. I do not want or intend to, but I may if I think I must. And there are many other things. One of these is the position Bobby is and will be in. Another is the Philadelphia election in which Specter is running for mayor. He is the guy I said is a liar, that is this isn't true it is actionable, and I'm waiting to hear. His opponents just might do something with it. If he is forced to face me, I have stuff on him that has never seen the light of day and so much in print he is silent. So, chin up, Jim, all of them. We will do it. Hell is to do Whitewash II. I hope they promote and advertise it as they did not with I. It will thus reach more people. And now I've got to get back to work. Hope you can interpret the typos, for I'll not have time to read this. Best to Harve. Brief him with what I've said please. Best,

1356 Plymouth Ave.
San Francisco, Ca.
94112

Dear Harold:

Just a note to let you know I quit my job at KCBS, so if you ever have occasion to write me (and I hope you will!), do it to the above address. I'm currently trying to get another radio-type job locally, but I'll be on Plymouth Ave. for a while, I guess.

First, how about Charles Roberts' book? I've been looking it over, and he made a couple of "hits" on Mark Lane, I think. (IT DOES NOT, OF COURSE, EXONERATE THE WARREN REPORT, BUT I DO THINK LANE HAD BETTER SPEAK UP SOON)

And, how about Garrison's case? Is it going to degenerate into a homosexual, Cuban, drug-addict, informer, - ridden case which will be disregarded by respectable citizens, or is he going to actually do something? God, I hope SOMEBODY, SOMEWHERE, SOMETIME "blows the case" in a court or with a new investigation.

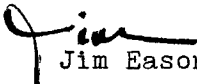
Well, the heat was on between last Spring and last Winter, so much so that Bobby turned over the "missing" x-rays & photos, so much so that Arlen Specter crawled out into the open, and even some of the "defenders" were publicly examined (to their obvious detriment and discomfort), and several "defenders" even went so far as to write books, articles, and so forth.

BUT.....

I'm afraid, deathly afraid, that the LBJ-syndrome of "wait out the storm" is taking its toll. Official Washington and the Warren Commission members have apparently decided that if they wait long enough, it will all blow over.

Let's don't let it!

Let me know what's new, and for God's sake, keep the heat on.


Jim Eason