

5/5/68

Dear Jim,

After writing as long a letter as I did yesterday I did not expect to write you again before seeing you Friday night. However, I had a telephone call from a new friend during the course of which I was asked I'd spoken to you recently. I said I hadn't. Would I see you soon? I said yes. I was then asked if I knew anything about the motorcycle groups, particularly one known as the "Pagans" I had. They are pretty rough, denim-jacket wearing characters, I was told, and they work for "bounties". Their territory is between Washington and Chicago. There was a clear inference you should keep an eye peeled for motorcyclists. And this did not mean Hondas.

Another thing you should know about but I suggest you do nothing about is this: I started working on Bernie Goldsmith, making little progress but getting a promise last November, on Thornley. I met him outside the newsstand on Decatur across from the French Market and we chatted for a while. I then formed the impression that he is one of the younger men who figure they can in their own ways stop the world and depart it. He described himself as a non-political but sickened by Thornley's "political" talk. He stipulated that when they were together Thornley would have to abstain from such conversations. There is, in my limited experience, a problem with these departed souls. They know things and will not say them. It is different than the Kitty Cenovese non-involvement in degree. There is in my mind little doubt that he knows some things we might want to. Moo got something from him one night when we were together that he hadn't disclosed earlier. Well, he has, it now turns out, a relatively recent set of Thornley pictures. He will blow them up and have them for me when I am there. I spoke to Jack from his phone a few nights ago and asked certain things of him. If we can get these people back into organized society slowly that will be something. The pictures may turn up before then.

Please send word to Barbara to have those she can trust report the names of those she see wearing buttons reading "Oswald is alive and well in New Orleans" and then be leery of anyone who is until we speak. Please give me the name if you get one - or more.

Brenner has arranged for Diane's trial to be held behind closed doors, I understand. It is scheduled for Tuesday 5/21, 10 a.m. I can conceive of no reason consistent with looking out for her interest that would dictate this. Especially when I think of the incredibly small amount of the suit compared with the magnitude of the damages and medical costs as yet not completed.

When I was down there earlier this year I met a jolly hornblower of whom I had written and through him his niece who was working in a job in Washington so classified she could not tell me the agency. This limits it pretty much. I met her again two weeks ago at the East Coast Conference on American Civilization where I conducted four seminars. This was arranged for some of the more gifted high-school students. I asked her what she was doing there. She said observing. I take that literally and suggest it was the kind of observing that can be called recruiting. Her return to New Orleans when I was there, he uncle told me, was required by "family business". Recently I have come to wonder more and more if he made a deal, got a package offer. He and his friend-counselor seem unconcerned about the immediate future and I know he sees some people we thing not nice fairly often.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg