

11/28/68

Dear Ross,

Your 11/25 6-page letter on legal pager arrived as I was leaving yesterday. I do not now have time to reread it, for I am another day behind. I write you to assure you that you are not alone in blowing them, that those for whom there is less excuse do it more often (including me), and that you may as well, when you are 21, learn this is an inevitability of life. So, do not take it too seriously. You did the right thing in sending me your clearest recollection immediately, and that is quite helpful.

When the tape arrives, probably not until after I return from the coming trip, I'll listen to it and see what we have.

I am interested in everything I can get about Bringuier.

These are strange people. In Coup d'Etat I call them the "dedicated wrong. They actually believe all that irrational and illogical stuff, actually come to believe what they invent themselves.

Questioning these people is a very good idea and often elicits information from them. However, what they think of Garrison really means nothing, regardless of what they think. Better to keep them to a meaningful point.

For reasons you cannot anticipate, what you report of Fensbez-Hunt is of special interest. If he mentions HEB again, please let me know what he says.

I'd be interested in knowing if Alan is related to Kent Courtney. Can you get someone else to ask him? Do not finger yourself if you'll get cut off before you get to say a word. Kent is editor and publisher of what he calls, with profound disrespect for the dictionary, "The Independent American". He is in New Orleans.

Again my thanks, and loose no sleep over the go ofs.

Sincerely,

Nov. 24, 1968

(1)

Dear Harold,

I regret to inform you that the tape recorder didn't function correctly because when I shut it off to omit the news (after the 15th hour), I turned it on incorrectly and made the one mistake you can make on this recorder which allows you to believe you are still recording. I should really say I didn't function correctly. If I had a playback system I could have checked it out as it was happening. I am going to send the hr. that did come out. There is important information on it. In fact, the format of the show is such that the 15 hr is for closed conversation between Courtney and Penobay. The rest is left open to callers. Unfortunately, the part of the tape where I asked the questions did not come out. And even worse, with all the excitement, I placed my full faith in the recorder and did not quite abort

2
what he was saying to me
My wife was listening also,
but also had her attention
focused on the machine and
the fact that I had gotten
air time. As a result, I will
try to approximate what he
said: →

I asked Penabaz what
his feelings were about all the
controversy over the past 5 years
dealing with the ^{J.F.K.} Kennedy assassination.
I was able to ask this because
previously on the show (about
midway) he commented in passing
that Lee Harvey Oswald killed
J.F.K. and was a member of the
F.P.C.C. and chapter head.

When I called, I said that there
seems to be disagreement about
whether or not L.H. Oswald was
affiliated with F.P.C.C. at all.
He said well its common knowledge
that he was, and referred to the
leaflets and the W.C.R. I then
said, but didn't the Chairman in
N.Y. deny any association with Oswald
and he said, That the Chairman
one _____ (don't remember name

but it wasn't Vincent Theodore Lee
who I thought was chairman at time)
didn't really deny it, but rather said
they don't keep records or membership
etc etc. ^{Penabaz} implying Cop-out on Chairman's
part.

He dropped that ⁽³⁾ and started to relate about the Bringuier Oswald Debate (I played Bunt)
He said that they were both arrested, brought before a Judge [He mentioned name (don't remember)] and that it was obvious Oswald was a Member. He did not mention that Carlos actually started the fight but that Oswald pleaded guilty and Bringuier got off (as I remember the incident from your books) I did not press that point because I did not want to antagonize the situation and get cut off. He implied or said that he knew Bringuier and that this incident was all confirmable as a result of some direct knowledge on his part (It's vague in my memory and he wasn't very explicit) He did, however, seem to be trying to project some kind of a) believe me I'm an expert in this particular incident, attitude. That's all I can piece together on that question.

I then asked his opinion about the Garrison case and related conspiracy theories. Courtney didn't cut me off and allowed him to answer.

He said that first of all we never hear anything about it in the papers. ~~New Orleans doesn't~~ (OVER)

and that no news comes out from New Orleans. I asked him if Garrison got anything. He said he didn't know but offered as an opinion a commentary on Garrison's tactics those being to call various people conspirators without proof and to imply conspiracy in various groups (Cubans, oil interests etc) without ever naming anybody. He implied that there is no way of knowing whether or not Garrison is on the level but that there is good reason to doubt him for example Mark Lane who worked with Garrison was running for Vice Pres on the Peace and Freedom Party with Dick Gregory. He said everything Gregory says reeks of Communism and that the Communist Newspapers (Daily Worker and some others) have endorsed these Peace and Freedom Party. therefore Mark Lane is bad can't trust etc etc and either implied or directly stated that Mark Lane is a Marxist. At that pt. Courtney thanked me for calling and hung up.

That's the best I can remember.

(4)

There were some other things of interest on the show that I remember: Someone called up and asked if it's true that H. J. Hunt gave him \$15,000. He laughed and denied it, and said that he wished Hunt had given to him. He did admit that Hunt financed his trip in ~~Arkansas~~ ^{Arkansas} which is the subject matter of the 15th hr of the tape and relates to an investigation by Penabaz of the tactics and Back (Arrogance of Power) in Arkansas of William Talbott. Concluding, of course, that Talbott is a commie. You'll hear that for yourself. #

He defended his Mag to callers as the only Mag that brings out the true point of view. Courtney commented that everything else is Fablem.

Penabaz denounced Time, Newsweek, Ramparts, Evergreen, New Republic and Student newspapers in the colleges.

Courtney got into his S.D.S. kick, denouncing them etc.

(c)

I can't remember much else except for a lot of screaming and tension with dissident callers, some of whom were criticising 'Insight' for its polarisation technique. An Old woman called and said if everything is bad, what is good? They both babbled and hung up on her.

It seems that I mistakenly pushed ^{the} record ~~button~~ button for Channel 2 but had the mike in Channel 1. Evidently the indicator registered that I was recording but actually wasn't. The tape might still have the recording somewhere but at a low frequency. I don't know much about electronics. If you do maybe you can find a method of picking it up, but I doubt whether it's possible or whether the recording actually does exist.

I feel very bad that this happened. The next time, I can assure you (I hope) that I won't make the same mistake. Unfortunately, I got access to another recorder with a playback system too late, which is why I know it didn't come out.

Ross

I'm sorry I blew it.