

Dear Steve,

2/21/68

Spoke to Jim by phone for about an hour and a half last night, and froze while doing it—from an outdoor booth, in zero weather. I then worked through the night trying to catch up on the accumulation, so I'm kind of foggy. I think I mailed you a letter early this a.m. If I did I forgot what to me is significant.

When I mentioned the name Wiley Yates, Jim's reaction was, "Oh, yes; he's been very cooperative." It turns out that on his own, Yates got in touch with Jim to give him good information on his good friend Skip Hall. He did give many details, the least likely thing a genuine friend of the same political persuasion would do—unless...

I suggested to Jim that Wiley may be a cunning one, and that in going to Jim on his own initiative and volunteering information about Hall he deflected attention from himself. Jim now agrees this is a possibility. He also confirms what I got from Hall on Yates' employment and acknowledges it could be significant.

What I would like to ask is this: have Al Schwartz phone Skip and tell him only that I asked him to call and inquiry about how he is getting along. Nothing else, unless the conversation goes in a way that Al might use to remind him that I said I'd like to hear from him if he has anything to say and is up to it. I think his number is 479-9375(5). I'd appreciate it if Al could tape it for me. If he can further, can phone the Hustons, father and son, and tell them I'd appreciate hearing from them, that would help. He could tell them I spoke to Garrison last night and he would like to see Mrs. H if she brings the files and tape with her. The Hustons agree with me, as Jim does also, that he can be Skip's salvation unless he actually fired a bullet, which we think he did not, of course. He is in accord with my belief and Hall's request that, if Hall goes there, I be with him and that we have connecting rooms. Huston Sr. in Bakersfield ~~479~~ 323-4187. The number at which I got the son is 714:379-8339. He spends time at McCaffrey's Bar, 714/376-2483. Messages any of these places would reach him. I'd also like it if, when he has time, he writes all the recent developments out for me not only so I'd now know but as an historical record. I think the Bakersfield area code is 905.

I forgot to ask Jim last night if he'd phoned you from a clear phone, through Art, as he'd promised. In discussing it with him he agreed that it would be worth trying out the wings, if not the voice, of the fat swallow (good name!) Even if he is a player, it would be worth seeing what he does. And I have written for the Miami pictures Hall spoke of. I am very anxious that you get and copy all the files as soon as possible and to see them, especially the pictures. You can tell Fred that my description really excited him. I may be able to place a magazine story on the Willis 5 thing alone, if he'd like. In any event, as soon as I heard from you day before yesterday, I was on the phone with my affirmative recommendation. If you have heard nothing, hold the swallows primaries, south him and start phoning Jim at 504/525-2375, the NOAC, until you learn, one way or the other. However, never phone him there unless it is urgent. He has a phobia about phones and goes there to get away from them. The switchboard cuts all all calls. I got him yesterday only because Alcock went down the hall and took him by the hand, so to speak.

I know you all stay busy, too, but I hope you get time to bring me up to date on developments since my departure. Tell Steve I gave Jim a grief rundown on the Collis affair and he is interested. I'm anxious to see his report. Best to all,

1/1/20