

4666 - 27th Ave. No.
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713
21 June 1968

Dear Harold:

Thank you for your letter of the 17th. I have written to Paul Hoch asking if he can help. You will be pleased to learn that everybody suggests writing to Paul Hoch, "a very brilliant young man, etc." Jim Schmitt is also recommended in the same glowing terms.

Thank you for returning the extra copy of the report. The postman sneaked up on me and I just grabbed things together and ran. When I came back in I discovered I had sent you both.

On re-reading what I had in mind when I wrote about Jenner's seeming to have reservations about Thornley, I am not at all sure. I will quote it here for you, however. This was merely an impression I got as I read it the first time.

XI/115 Mr. JENNER. All right. Now, Mr. Thornley, tell me something about Kerry Thornley. You obviously, to me, are not a doorman.

Mr. THORNLEY. Oh, yes; I am a doorman.

Mr. JENNER. You are at the moment performing that service. But that isn't your objective in life.

I think what gave me the notion that Jenner was entertaining a question in his own mind was Thornley's reply as much as anything else. This is not easy to explain but anyway the idea got stuck in my mind.

Enclosed are copies of what Thornley had to say about his reading the 26 volumes during two interviews. You also have copies of those interviews as well as the tapes.

At some time I had heard him say he had spent "about 30 minutes" only in looking through the 26 volumes and could not say much about the content since that time was too short for anyone to absorb it all - or words to that effect. This must have been on a regular news program when he first came to the attention of the press here.

In looking at the two pages I am enclosing, I notice that on the 14th of January he answered definitely that he did not feel Oswald was the assassin at all. By the 5th of February, he was saying, "I have no theories as to Oswald's innocence or guilt". He certainly covered both sides there, didn't he?

I have not had any contact with him at all other than on the "Open Mike" program. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the first page of my letter of the 15th relates only to my discussion with Bob Ruark and, in paragraph 6, my call to the radio program. Other than that one time, I have never talked or written to Kerry Thornley or had any contact with him at all. Sorry if I gave any other impression.

And in view of what you wrote, I think I will avoid any future contact since it would only confuse me. After all, the libraries have sets of the Warren Commission fantasy.

We have the same problem with worthwhile radio and TV here with one exception. We are fortunate in having WEDU, an educational TV channel, that has filled the gap. I watch much more of the usual variety programs, such as Carson, Bishop, Cavett, etc., than I would otherwise, but there is always the possibility that someone

will show up on one of these who will be a good guest for Bob Ruark's program. He has asked for such suggestions and so I keep the TV on low enough to make background noise and check with my eyeballs from time to time. For the most part it provides kind of a "white noise" that masks all the neighborhood sounds that are so annoying.

One thing is for certain: So long as the knobs on the TV work, there is not going to be anybody killed in a black box in my living room ever again except as it is incidental to a newscast.

We are still having a problem getting the majority of callers to the radio program to seriously consider anything might be amiss with the WCR. I don't have to tell you that, though. They are in unison about a conspiracy in the King case but refuse to entertain any thought that there are two almost identical murders, the same plan being used for both with a few variations. I just keep hoping that, by having guests who speak to the same end but have different personalities, we can get through their blind spots somehow.

At long last, when I had about given up on it, Bob Ruark has scheduled Sylvia Meagher for the 8th of July.

How do you think Mort Sahl would be for another guest? From what I saw of him on Dick Cavett's show the other day, he might at least be able to handle the dissenters without too much bloodshed. Of course, he might not be interested in a program of this type - even if I knew how to contact him.

Got to stop. I've taken too much of your time already. I am well aware that there have been more than three assassinations; I was only talking of those the misguided Mr. Capote mentioned. Also, around here, we first have to get people to take interest in the most well-known before we can begin to bring up the others.

Best wishes to you and, by all means, Jim Garrison. I had to get clippings from California to find out there was more to his latest delay than the mere request for a delay by Shaw's attorneys. That is all our paper reported. Without the five pages of copies of clippings a friend sent, I would never have known what is being contemplated by the federal courts. And I am horrified that they would even consider what has been asked of them. The clippings said something was to happen the 19th but there has not been a word in any of our news, on paper or on the air.

I wish you all the best and please give your wife my regards.

Sincerely,

Helmer