

4/28/68

Dear Helen,

Your letter of the 23rd arrived promptly but I've been too busy to answer. I've also had a mailing from Steffen in which he indicates he is bowing out. I hope not. What he sent is worthwhile. Please thank him.

Yes the investigation in New Orleans, meaning my own, is going too well. Garrison has no investigator competent in this kind of work, none with the requisite understand, and only one lawyer he can use that way, not quite full time. This is a considerable handicap that I cannot entirely offset, particularly because I must spend most of my time away from there. The work I leave behind is usually undone unless I can arrange for a few local friends to complete it. I have a rather exotic, too small but good little band working there.

And, unfortunately, none of the others working in the field who get or live there do any real work, for him or in the subject, now. Throughout the country - in fact, even in another one, I have a band doing excellent work. One of my major problems is getting enough time from the absolute minimum priority work that I alone can do to keep them going.

The problems of your woman friend, alas, are not unique and are not the hallmark of a free society. I have enjoyed them. Recently the neanderthals, as you know, took a fling at it, and I can see how it has quieted Bob. The CIA is now engaged in it. But, these awful people who so defame us all can do nothing else. It is a sign of their moral bankruptcy and our rightness.

Your friend who travels, who is an investigator and who reported what he knew to the FBI, can be helpful in several areas, particularly if he can do a little investigating for me as he gets around - and one at home in St. Pete. But first, I would like (and he should want this) to know all about his report to the FBI. I will then ask for copies of this report. If it is not in the archive, we will have another case of suppression. If it is we'll have another evaluation of the integrity - or lack of it - of the FBI "reporting". It will be enough to know his name and the proper names he mentioned. The date will also help but is not vital.

I haven't taken time to really examine the patch-cord situation. One that I'd like right now is a very short one, with a female Japanese on the open end of one to plug into the Norelco cassette recorder so I can use my earphones without buying a special Norelco one. My only other needs are for dubbing. I now have one for patching the Norelco into my large Wollensak but I find that when I use it in the prescribed way, through the phono plug on the back of the W, the volume is inadequate and cannot understand why. Do not make a special trip, but when you are at your suppliers, if the 3" cheap boxes are available separately I'll like a couple of dozen. I fear shipping them and the empty spools for the damage will be too great. I still need spools for filing and eventually will need a number. I improvise as I go along. When I can get empty 8mm movie spools, they are adequate and often free. Some photo stores have them where they haven't thrown them away. Hastily, and with thanks, sincerely,

4666 - 27th Ave. No.
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713
23 April 1968

Dear Harold:

Your letter of the 16th arrived in record time: postmarked the 17th, delivered the 18th! Perhaps we should discuss Post Office inefficiency more often.

If you have had a chance to look at that transcript you will understand why I did not try to do any more than I did. The most important part, the answers, was what I could not read. I know you were disappointed.

Thank you for the suggestion to write Paul Hoch. I have written to him and offered to send him whatever we have done that might be of aid. Anyone who tackles this job and carries out has my respect. I did not realize what a task it would be when I began it.

Within the next week or two I will have my own copying machine. It is paid for and had to be ordered for me. Naturally, I am impatient as all get-out. Anyway, when I do get it, then if Steffen and I get material from the Archives that you do not have, perhaps we could work out an exchange of some sort.

I sent Steffen a copy of your letter, marked for his classified files, "top secret" and all that kind of thing. No reply yet, although he may write to you directly.

Glad to know things in New Orleans are going well. It seems to me that all the recent disclosures of so many identities and multiples of them in the case of the assassination of Martin Luther King, it should not be so difficult to draw attention to the same kind of situation concerning Oswald as it has been in the past.

Probably, without all that has been written and said by the critics about this part of the Kennedy un-investigation, we would never have known about the conspiracy this time. Going by past performance, more than likely the FBI would have ignored it if they had even happened by chance to discover it on their own.

We now have one candidate for president who says he intends to do something about both the CIA and the FBI and Hoover in particular. Makes me wonder if he will ever make it and, if he does manage to be Democratic nominee and be elected, just what his life-expectancy might be.

There is a woman here in St. Pete I have known for some time who, after learning how seriously I regard this whole thing, disclosed her own experience with the FBI. In the late 40s and early 50s her husband was active in union organization. Among those with whom he had business contacts was a man they felt, privately, might be Communist but it was never discussed except between themselves. Their contact with the man was purely business, not social at all. McCarthy (Joe) began riding his broom and, among others, swept up the man they had suspected.

I do not recall whether her husband is dead now or if they are divorced but she is now alone except for a teen-age son. She has been hounded and truly persecuted ever since. Agents still show up to ask her if she is now ready to "come to the office and talk, tell us a few things". She has to be extremely careful in making friends, has had to discontinue reading many publications the rest of us read with no fear. In other words, her civil rights have been violated. She is under constant surveillance. I have never heard anything from her that I would question, nothing at all to cause me to question her loyalty to the United States. Probably I will now come under suspicion because of my friendship with her. This would create a problem for the FBI, though. I was cleared up through 1950 by all kinds of intelligence agencies for sensitive work: by the FBI, Naval Intelligence, Air Force Intelligence and CIC.

I have another friend who has asked for names of men who were in the Marines with Oswald. He wants to do some investigation and it might prove helpful. He travels through most of the southern states and runs into some rather interesting people now and then.

A while back, he told me recently, he got to talking with a man who gave him all kinds of details about the Kennedy assassination and seemed to have more knowledge than he should have had unless he had been involved. My friend said that, at that time, he felt it was his duty to report the incident and he believed the FBI was the proper agency to which he should report. Then he said, "What a damned fool I was. I didn't know then that that was the worst possible action to take. I was sure I was doing the right thing." He didn't go into any more detail but I will try to learn more from him when I can talk with him again. There just might be something there. I do know my friend is sincere and has been a very good investigator in other areas.

I'll let you know if and when there is more on this. The main problem is that his time at his home here in St. Petersburg is limited and this makes it difficult to talk at any length. Be patient as you can.

What kind of patch cord do you need for your recorders? What size plugs on the ends? We might have one here I could send you. Got a whole garage full of all kinds of electronics materials.

Send a tape for transcribing whenever you wish.

All my best to you and Lil.

Sincerely,

Helen