

CONFIDENTIAL TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN HAL VERB AND JOHN CHRISTIAN, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1969

(Conversation had started before taped) *(Taped by Fred Newcomb)*

JC: I've been instructed to meet with this man...who's hiding at the time, and tape record, get all of their statements and so on for the Sheriff's department. The FBI is out of the question, they won't respond to anything.

Okay? Now let me tell you who they did not arrest, who are the policy makers they were unable to go after and so on... for off record. Col. Gale and Edgar Eugene Bradley.

HV: Gee whiz, that is something.

JC: I didn't go looking for this one but they...after I came down and made my, established my relationship down here. I don't know what they are going to do about it, it depends what Garrison does. What they are concerned about here is whether Garrison will re-institute the extradition procedures, then if so, they will put the pressure on themselves, apparently, but separately over this incident.

HV: Do you think Owens is legitimate?

JC: What do you mean legitimate?

HV: Well, what's his game if he's lying?

JC: Decoy. Distraction. He's lying, you see, in all but the modus operandi is probably a lie, okay? I have the Jim White tape you know (reporter who got tape of Owens, FBI)

HV: Oh, you do?

JC: Oh, yes, and its structurally the same except, you know, he lets it hang out even more.

HV: Yeah, I wanted to make a comparison between the two.

JC: Well, but, I did a comparison and there isn't any thing structurally different except that he expands and opens up and new names fall into it.

HV: And you know who the new names are?

JC: We have an oil guy who's into it now and some other things that are most relevant and they come up under one identity and I found out another, now I have, now I had a chat with Jerry Owens himself on the phone about 4 or 5 days ago...

HV: Did you tape it?

JC: Of course I did.

HV: Oh boy

JC: And the interesting part is that I finally had a session with the LAPD about three weeks ago, at their request, and they lured me down there and ah,

HV: Who? Compton? (Assistant D.A. - FBI)

JC: No, someone on the LAPD.

HV: Dewyen and Keith?

JC: Led me down there on the idea that I'd get to hear that tape that Owen made on June 5th and give ~~kw~~ a statement to them.

We have a three hour session that got to be almost a screening session. It was rough. I thought they were going to throw me in the can right there.

Hal Verber

JC: But I brought somebody with me, you see, and the next morning at 9:30 because Charlie O'Brian, the Chief Deputy Attorney General and Reddin and Brown, this had been scheduled for five weeks because O'Brian wanted to see those files and hear that tape as soon as possible. Cause he has most of my stuff. Well, after my session with them ostensibly they tried to tell me that I was full of shit just like the preacher. That they checked this guy out backwards and forwards, they spent 4,300 hours investigating him...

HV: 4,300 hours?

JC: Listen, they are so full of shit it's ridiculous. The point is that 4,300 hours, its an incredible conversation, and they know the whereabouts of this guy they've got him tracked for every day they said, you know for, they said six months. Well, that's bullshit.

HV: The next morning at 9:15 O'Brian, who is down here actually for that meeting, well, some secretary said the appointment was cancelled and Boutin and Reddin are busy and they can't make it right now. Okay. Oh, now I'll probably destroy you, they tried to confiscate some of my tape that I had there, and I told them that I had to go across the street right afterwards, to meet O'Brian, that was my cop-out. They said what's O'Brian doing in this? And I said (laugh) well he's interested. Gentlemen. Okay, there's the alarm situation, okay? 'Your talking to who?' Now in talking to Owens you see, he's got this blithering blithering manner where he can't control himself. He tells me that he's returned to Southern California about an...ah, he's returned to Southern California two weeks ago and some strange things are going on and that one of the strange things is that, ah, he went back into the Colosseum Hotel and to see his old friend Herb White, right? And they said the cops had just been there about two days before re questioning everybody. Smitty the shoe shine boy said they'd questioned him. Slappsie Tax said they'd questioned him. So I don't know what's going on. Now you see Owens doesn't really know what's going on. Yet he knows something's going on, he was very suspicious on the phone...and he said he wouldn't like to talk... 'I'd like to speak with you in person'. (laugh)

HV: Say, John, do you know anything about this whole Hepburn affair?

JC: Which Hepburn affair?

HV: This film Farewell America.

JC: Yeah.

HV: You do?

JC: Well, I don't know anything about the background about how they got the film. I've heard but I don't know.

HV: Yeah, but you don't know too much of the details?

JC: About where it came from?

HV: Yeah, well, you know...

JC: I know it was shown on Channel 5 down here.

HV: Oh, yeah, that's right. That film on Channel 5.

JC: I'm responsible.
 HV: Your responsible?
 JC: For getting it on the air.
 HV: I kinda figured so.
 JC: ----- (unclear)
 HV: You know, I had a suspicion it was you and I said it's gotta be him.
 JC: That's true ----- (unclear) that there are no trials no supers on it, no nothing.
 HV: Who is he?
 JC: Oh, he's the guy that's been probably the leading film analyst in the country now. He has a tremendous laboratory with ABC?
 HV: No, no, no, he's independent. (FNN note: Dick Lubie?)
 JC: But he does work for CBS.
 HV: Oh really?
 JC: Yeah. The point is the ice has been cracked now kid. That's all I really wanted to put it on and Life Inc. called them (laugh) 'What is this interesting film you had on?'
 HV: Yeah, listen John, there's so much to discuss...
 JC: Well, the point is the Capruder film is no longer, it is, now, in a way in the public domain as to those who want a challenge.
 HV: Yeah.
 JC: Cause it's been aired man, and they had the greatest audience in the history of the station. Cause they were promoting it on their sister station KJH down here. (FNN note, KJH is not KTLA Channel 5's sister station).
 HV: Who says that?
 JC: Ah, their news director.
 HV: Really?
 JC: Hey! We had an audience in there man, when I saddled that film into the arm of an attorney, ah, that would blow your mind.
 HV: (laugh) I wish I could have been there.
 JC: Ah, and Hal Fishman who was the news tandem mate of George Putman down here, who ain't a left winger, as you know. Ah, Fishman has always been, you know, almost dead man cat on the Warren Report.
 HV: Yeah?
 JC: When we showed him the film, man, put it on the movieola for him about 5,6 times. He looked at it and he said 'Bullshit! That man's just been shot from the front!'
 HV: Jeez.
 JC: And I said, well you know that's what the name of the game is. And he said, well, that changes a lot of things. So the're talking to me now about...if I brought it in, you see, ostensibly brought it in, it didn't cost 'em a dime. Ah,
 HV: Hmmm, I kinda figured it was you.
 JC: Yeah, well I figured that should be shown. It was being shown in that courtroom in New Orleans and I was here with film, that I was still standing by. You know, as I say, you can see it in stop frame anytime you want, but man, when you see it in motion it's somethin else. You saw it in the archives?

HV: Oh yeah, but I saw a copy of a copy of a copy.
JC: Was it pretty bad?
HV: Well, it's been re-run so many times that it's practically worthless, unless you really know what your looking for.
JC: Yeah, but can you see the motion?
HV: Oh, of course.
JC: Yeah, well, that's all that really matters.
HV: Yeah.
JC: You know this was transferred to an Ektacrome process because Kodiac owning all the patten rights. You see (they) actually own the Zapruder film.
HV: Hmmm.
JC: Did you know that?
HV: Who?
JC: The Kodiac Company actually own the primary property called the Zapruder film.
HV: The Kodiac company actually owns...
JC: Actually they own any film that you've got that they've processed.
HV: Huh?
JC: Didn't know that, did you?
HV: No, I didn't.
JC: If any thing that they sell and process, they actually have the title...if you take a film of yours that is a Kodiac film into their ~~laboratory~~ laboratory and they decide to seize it, they'd seize it, they'd confiscate it right there.
HV: I wasn't aware of that...
JC: I know, not many people are. And what, and what NBC (or ABC) has, uh, excuse me, what Time Inc. has with Zapruder is a first option showing on it that Zapruder cannot show the film anywhere or authorize the showing with someone anywhere, that only they can, they keep renewing that option on the god damn thing every year.
HV: Hmmm.
JC: That's why they paid out an immense amount of money. I don't know how much they paid out...
HV: Well (sigh).
JC: Yeah, see how it adds up?
HV: Yeah
JC: See, it's probably \$25,000 a month! (laughs) to sit on it. Now let me tell you something else.
HV: Yeah
JC: I'll tell you something about the background of that Zapruder film.
HV: Yeah, what do you know about the X film?
JC: An...we're really talking about the, ah, what is his name? The Frenchman?
HV: LaMarre.
JC: Ah, yeah. Ah, who's a mystery to everybody, I guess.
HV: You think he's real?
JC: I don't know if he's real...he could be as fake as he wants, kid, but that film is real. All right? All we have is a third generation film, okay?
HV: Yeah.
JC: A master, then second generation, third generation, okay? That means three steps away.
HV: Right.
JC: In February, 1967, for a period of eight days the Zapruder film disappeared from the vault of Time Magazine.
HV: The Zapruder film...

JC: ...it disappeared for a period of eight days. The FBI, the New York State Police, everybody was called in and it was returned on the eighth day and nobody to this day knows where...who took it or what. Everybody at Lime Inc. was suspect.

HV: Everybody at Lime...

JC: Everybody.

HV: Isn't that the time that Pink Thompson was working at...

JC: I don't know. But the film disappeared and then returned and it was untouched. Okay? The story about Lassarre is that you know that, ah, a package of evidence was slipped to him along with some money from the Kennedy group and that, ah...

HV: Oh, you've heard that rumor too?

JC: Oh, yeah. Oh, I heard the story. Ah...that he ostensibly, then one would conclude that within that packet of evidence was the Zap...or a print therein.

HV: Hummm.

JC: Which they then took to a laboratory in Paris, ah, which is one of the best laboratories in the world...

HV: Film lab in Paris?

JC: Huh?

HV: A film lab in Paris?

JC: The, the, the Frontier Film is, has been processed in Paris.

HV: Yeah, I think I heard that.

JC: Yeah. Well, I've seen the credit...the running edge on it. It's from Paris. And they said who ever put ~~xxxxxx~~ this film in sure did through a special process without damaging the print they have.

HV: Hummm.

JC: He said they could make 15,000 prints off this in this process.

HV: Yeah, I see.

JC: Now, when the film came over here, ah, where ever it came from. Ah, the only thing that I saw was the Naprunder segment.

HV: Say, there's a rumor going around that Alfie is connected with this...

JC: With what?

HV: With the showing of the film.

JC: (Laugh) What Alfie is?

HV: Yeah.

JC: Well, Alfie isn't connected with it, John Christian is.

HV: Oh, I see. But Alfie was used as a name for the film?

JC: No (reaction startled) Who proves that?

HV: I had heard that there was something with the name Alfie on something to do with the film?

JC: No, not at all.

HV: No?

JC: No sir.

HV: Hummm.

JC: Alfie is my cover front. You know, my corporation.

HV: Yeah.

JC: I have no idea where the name Alfie

HV: You have no idea? Well, it's one of those...

JC: It doesn't make any difference, you know (laugh), what the hell's the difference (laughs), (clears throat). As far as the showing of the film it has nothing to do what-so-ever to do with the representative of the people who have the film.

HV: Yeah, well that could be Jaffe.
JC: Huh?
HV: That could have been Jaffe.
JC: No, it wasn't. Jaffe and it wasn't Burton.
HV: Could it have been LaFarre?
JC: No, no, no, no (emphatically). They took it to one of the major law firms in the country here in Southern California had the print.
HV: Who's the law firm?
JC: I can't tell you because it's one of the biggest, man.
HV: Not the one that you know.
JC: No, no, this firm has nothing to do with me. I can tell you that it's...it's, it's a corporate law firm, okay?
HV: Yeah.
JC: And it represents, ah, many of the biggest corporations in this country.
HV: Hmm, well.
JC: And the, all the senior partners looked at this and said (whistles)
HV: Gee. Did they know what they had?
JC: Oh yeah. Well, they, they...they know what they saw.
HV: Well, look John, is a , a heck of a lot to discuss and I really would like to get together with you and I think I'm definitively ~~going~~ going to have to come back in two weeks.
JC: All you have to do is give me a jingle and we'll get together.

My address: P.O. Drawer, Postal Drawer 24455 Westwood Village and the zip on it is 90024.

Now, if you have any poop that you think might be...that you don't want to talk about on the phone that might be applicable to what I'm doing here, anyway personally, put it down and send it to me.

HV: Yeah.
JC: Put it down and send it to me.
HV: Yeah, by all means I will.
JC: And, ah, I'll keep you posted...

END 6-6-6