

Dear Jack,

5/16/75

I read your letter of the 5th when it came but have been unable to answer it.

Time pressures are always great because of the scope of the work I've undertaken and because as a publisher I have all the books to send out. So, I can't reply in detail and I've already said most of what I can.

There are many mysteries about Hall, which is where we began. I'd like to know all I can, if only you leave a fuller archival record.

The way he actually got to New Orleans was through me. I interviewed him three times when he was in the LA vet's hospital. At the end, even though in court he had won the right not to go, he agreed to. He had few conditions. One was that I go with him and that in N.O. we have adjoining rooms. I then told him only that I would if I could but that I'd not have the money.

I think it was the third time that I met the younger man to whom he introduced me as his step-son. He was supposed to be a deputy. He and the woman I was told was his wife were tough-looking and clearly unfriendly.

The contradictions in the earlier story, if documented, would be worth having.

You remember the FBI reports I used in WW II. They were not complete fabrications.

Hall agreed to be taped and I have the tapes if my recollection of specific contents is no longer clear. There was in even his account indefiniteness about much of the story. It did not amount to a denial.

However, I can conceive of no need for any communications system and if the so-called umbrella man was one then there was only confusion and abominable planning because there were two of them and on how many different objects can a single man keep his eye on and be ready to shoot?

If it is no trouble, something new has come up on which you can help. There is a ^hJonny Meier lawsuit out there. Documents are being filed in it. I understand that only recently there was an affidavit attesting to such things as domestic spying on people ranging from Senator Kennedy to Hank Greenspun. His papers also may carry stories. I'd appreciate copies of all, especially the documents filed in court.

If it isn't too much trouble or cost for you.

My particular interest is not Meier but the domestic-spying part of it. This seems to allege that the Hughes operation was part of it.

Thanks and best regards,

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MR. HAROLD WEISBERG
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5 MAY 75

DEAR HAROLD,

RECEIVED YOUR LETTER THIS DATE AND WISH TO ASK SOME QUESTIONS AND ALSO GIVE YOU SOME ANSWERS.

RE: DUSTY RHOADES - YOUR APPRAISAL SEEMS JUSTIFIED, BUT ONE OF HIS VISUAL PRESENTATIONS WAS UNKNOWN TO ME PRIOR TO THE PROGRAM - OH, I KNEW THE "PHOTOS" OF OSWALD HOLDING THE RIFLE & IT WERE SUSPECT - BUT RHOADES HAD A SERIES OF SLIDES WITH A BLUE & RED 'OVERLAY' - I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH PHOTOGRAPHY - BUT THESE ILLUSTRATIONS OR RATHER SLIDES OF THE PHOTOS SEEM TO SHOW A DEFINITE CROP LINE JUST BELOW THE MOUTH. DID YOU HAVE THIS INFORMATION?

I'LL ATTEMPT A THEORY ON THE "UMBRELLA - MAN" AND SEE IF THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE. IN LAYING THE FINAL PLANS THE MORNING OF THE 22ND OR EVEN POSSIBLE THE NIGHT OF THE 21ST THE WEATHER HAD TO BE CONSIDERED (I BELIEVE JIM GARRISON THOUGHT THESE PLANS WERE FINALIZED AT THE YMCA - BUT PERHAPS YOU'RE CERTAIN OF A LOCATION) THE DESIGNATION WAS MADE FOR TRIANGULATION OF FIRE ^{AND}/OR A SIGNAL TO PARTIES INVOLVED TO "CEASE FIRE" - THE STEMMONS FREEWAY SIGN MAY BE DESIGNATED OR A PERSON WITH SOMETHING NOTICEABLE

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I.E.: THE UMBRELLA TO START OR CONCLUDE THE FIRE — STILLS AND MOVIES I'VE SEEN (ALL PUBLISHED MATERIAL — NOTHING PRIVATE) SHOW THE "UMBRELLA MAN" BY THE STEMMONS SIGN (NORTH SIDE) RAISE THIS UMBRELLA AND AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE "HEAD SHOTS" DROP THE UMBRELLA RATHER DRAMATICALLY. ALL OTHER WITNESSES IN FILM AND STILLS ACT AS WOULD BE EXPECTED — REACTIONS ARE EXPLAINABLE AND SO-CALLED NORMAL. HOWEVER, THIS ONE INDIVIDUAL VERY COOLLY REMAINS STATIONARY AND GATHERS IN THE UMBRELLA, A COMPLETE EXERCISE IN EXPECTATION. SEVERAL FACTORS — I HOPE NOT TOO FAR-FETCHED MUST BE CONSIDERED — HE WAS IN A PRIME LOCATION FOR VISUAL TO FIRING POINTS — AT THE APX. FRAME 2210 AND HE RAISES AND DEFINITELY LOWERS THE UMBRELLA AFTER THE KILL SHOTS — POSSIBLY TO SIGNAL SUCCESS. HE DOES NOT SHOW UP IN ANY AFTER PHOTOS TO MY KNOWLEDGE — WHEREAS, SCORES (STILL MANY UNACCOUNTED FOR) REMAINED IN THE VICINITY. I PERSONALLY FEEL THERE IS AN IDENTIFICATION PROCESS OF FILM THAT PUTS "HIM" CLOSE TO HALL'S DESCRIPTION AND FEATURES (HAIR STYLE AND STATURE PREDOMINATE)

I DO NOT KNOW IF I RELAYED THE INFORMATION TO YOU YEARS AGO — BUT HALL HAD MANY, MANY TIES TO

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THIS ENTIRE INCIDENT OF ASSASSINATION TO BE WHAT SOME CONSIDER "INCAPABLE" OF BEING A PARTY. I'LL RELATE SOME OF MY NOTES (KEPT AT YOUR SUGGESTION) OF INFORMATION I PASSED TO GARRISON. A ROBERT HUDSON, TESTIFIED IN BAKERS-FIELD, CALIF., THAT HE WAS WITH HALL ON 22 NOV. HUDSON CLAIMED AT THE EXTRADITION THAT HE AND HALL WERE TRANSACTING ON AN AUTO AND WENT TO LUNCH TOGETHER WHERE THEY HEARD THE NEWS OF THE ASSASSINATION. OF COURSE, THIS WAS A TIME I COULD NOT INTERJECT OR CAUSE LOSS OF CREDIT-ABILITY WITH HALL. NO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS WERE ASKED HUDSON — BUT CONSIDER THESE. IT WAS 9AM PST IN CALIF., WHEN THEY WENT TO "LUNCH" — WAS IT THE FIRST REPORTS? THE CAR I WAS TOLD BY HALL WAS AN "WHITE OLDS" (A DESCRIPTION THAT KIND OF RINGS A BELL WITH BOWERS' TESTIMONY) — THE TRANSACTION AS I WAS ABLE TO FIND OUT LATER DID NOT TAKE PLACE UNTILL EARLY DEC. — HUDSON LATER STATED IT WASN'T THE 22ND OF NOV, BUT WITHIN A "WEEK OR TWO." (ANOTHER PARTY WHO DIDN'T KNOW WHERE OR WITH WHOM HE WAS WITH)

I WAS WITH HALL THE NIGHT GARRISON CHARGES ON SHAW WERE MADE PUBLIC. HE RECAPTED NUMEROUS

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STATEMENTS REGARDING SHAW'S SEXUAL PECULARITIES SUCH AS "THAT FRUIT", "HOW'D HE (GARRISON) FIND THAT QUEER S.O.B." "THAT BIG WHITE-HAIR @ _ _ _ _ _ R." NO PICTURES APPEARED THAT NIGHT ON TV OF SHAW. NOTHING I SAW REGARDING SHAW'S SEX HABITS CAME OUT. I DIDN'T KNOW THIS SIDE UNTILL I READ "OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS" BY YOU UPON MY RETURN FROM NEW ORLEANS A YEAR LATER. I BOUGHT YOUR PAPERBACK IN DALLAS AND I'M SURE I WROTE YOU A CONGRADULATIONS. I MAY STATE WITH WHAT HALL CHARACTERIZED THAT NIGHT OF THE FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT ON TV, INFO I IMMEDIATELY SENT GARRISON, AND WHAT GARRISON EXPLAINED TO ME OF HALL'S N.O. TRIP I ASSUMED IT A CONCLUSION THAT THEY "KNEW" EACH OTHER.

HALL WAS SCARED — NO DOUBT IN MY MIND ALSO — HE KEPT TWO HAND-GUNS ON THE BACK BAR CONSTANTLY AND A LOADED SHOTGUN IN HIS PICKUP AT ALL TIMES.

LET ME (BEING THIS IS LONG ANYWAY) RELATE THE END OF MY ASSOCIATION WITH HALL. GARRISON'S MATERIAL WITNESS EXTRADITION BROKE DOWN IN CALIF. COURTS. HE PERSONALLY ASKED ME TO DELIEVER A LETTER TO HALL STATING NO CHARGES WOULD BE BROUGHT AGAINST HALL FOR TESTIMONY. I DID AS HE

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ASKED. AT THE TIME YOU WERE IN L.A. (HALL WAS HOSPITALIZE) I ATTEMPTED WITHOUT USE OF THE LETTER TO CONVINCE HIS WIFE THAT HALL SHOULD GO TO N.O. — SHE RESPONDED (AT THIS TIME I MAY HAVE BEEN SUSPECT — BUT SOMEONE FROM NBC CALLED HALL ABOUT THIS PERIOD OF TIME AND TOLD HALL I WAS WORKING FOR GARRISON) THUS A MEETING WAS SET TO GIVE THIS LETTER TO HALL PERSONALLY. IT WAS A SET-UP FOR HALL TO BRING IN A "HEAVY" TO DISCOURAGE ANY FURTHER PARTICIPATION. A WMA, APX. 33, 180, 5'10"-5'11", CONFRONTED ME WITH THREATS AGAINST WIFE, KIDS, ETC. HE CAME TO BE KNOWN AS "PAPPAS" OR "PAP" A REAL FIST-CITY (TO USE YOUR EXPRESSION) TYPE. HE CARRIED A SW 38 S&W. AND WAS IN HALL'S COMPANY ALL THE TIME. HE WAS ALSO SUPPOSE TO BE MRS. HALL'S SON (SKIP HALL'S STEP-SON) — TOO OLD FOR ONE — (UNLESS SHE HAD HER FIRST CHILD AT ABOUT TEN) I RELATED TO GARRISON I THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE ONE OF THE HEAVY CHARACTERS OUT OF YOUR BOOK. THE FBI HAD AN AGENT IN THE AREA CONSTANTLY AT THIS TIME — "BROWN" I BELIEVE WAS HIS NAME — MY FATHER (I'M SURE HE TALKED TO YOU VIA PHONE WHEN YOU WERE IN L.A.) WAS LT. USN, ONI., 16 YRS UNDERSHERIFF OF KERN CO., AND HE (MY DAD) ADVISED THROUGH POLICE SOURCES, TO ARM MYSELF AND/OR

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GET AWAY FROM THE SITUATION FOR AWHILE.
(I'D BEEN TERMINATED FROM A GOOD POSITION
WITH NY LIFE FOR NO REASON GIVEN)

I MADE ANOTHER EFFORT TO CON-
VINCE HALL TO GO TO N.O. — HE WAS
NOW CONSIDERING WRITING A BOOK OF
"WHAT HE KNEW" AND WAS STILL
CAUTIOUS, BUT BASKING IN THE LIME-
LIGHT SOMEWHAT. HIS LAST STATEMENT
TO ME WAS HE WOULD CONFER DIRECTLY
WITH GARRISON AND WOULD GO, BUT
DID WANT ASSURANCES — BEYOND
WHAT THE LETTER STATED. I PAID
FOR A CALL TO N.O. AND LEFT WHEN
TOLD "MR. GARRISON WOULD BE ON THE
LINE IN A MOMENT." TWO DAYS LATER
HALL LEFT THE KERNVILLE AREA FOR N.O.
THE "HEAVY" WAS WITH HIM AND ALSO
TWO WMA, MIDDLE AGED, WELL-DRESSED
(I'D SEEN THEM BOTH WITH HALL ON PRE-
VIOUS OCCASIONS) SO AFTER ALL OF
THAT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND MY DIS-
APPOINTMENT OF THE OUTCOME.

I'VE GIVEN YOUR "OSWALD IN N.O."
TO A PROSPECTIVE FINANCE MAN I
TOLD YOU ABOUT. I'LL CONTINUE ALL
EFFORTS TO GAIN THE BACKING FOR A
BOOK -

FROM YOUR KNOWLEDGE DOES IT
LOOK LIKE THE ROCKAFELLER COMMITTEE
IS GOING TO GET THE AUTOPSY PHOTOS?
— LOTS OF WARREN COMMISSION
CHARACTERS ALSO INVOLVED WITH THAT

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GROUP ISN'T THERE?

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT ZAPRUDER'S FILM CONTINUED LONG ENOUGH TO FILM BEHIND THE KNOLL FENCE? CHECKING ANGLES AND DRAWINGS IT SEEMS VERY POSSIBLE — IF ORIGINAL SLIDES COULD BE OBTAINED.

WELL, I HOPE YOU CAN SORT THIS OUT — FOLLOW THE NUMBERS. —

HOPE YOU'VE RECOVERED FROM YOUR ILLNESS AND ALL IS WELL.

ANY ADDITIONAL PUBLISHING NEWS OF IMPORTANCE — I'LL CALL YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

IF YOU'D CONSIDER ARTICLES WHAT FIGURE SHOULD I ATTEMPT PER ARTICLE — \$500⁰⁰ — \$1,000⁰⁰ OR WHATEVER — I DO BELIEVE IN WOULD BE THE INROAD NECESSARY THROUGH MR. GREENSPAN, L.V. SUN, HOWEVER I'LL CONTINUE ON THESE MEN I WROTE TO YOU ABOUT AND GAVE ~~IT~~ YOUR BOOK TO.

BEST TO ALL,

J. Huston —