

4/30/75

Dear Jack,

I'm gradually coming back from pneumonia and pleurisy so I can do much.

Articles are not the same as a book. If there were decent compensation of course I'd be happy to do some articles.

Rusty Rhodes is one of a new breed of exploiters of the assassinations. They pick up anything they can from any source, the crazier the better, sometimes say they are doing nothing but presenting a collection, and justify to themselves any kind of frightful nonsense they then present. Most don't even bother to justify. They know they are whoring but they like the pay.

They jazz it up with visuals. Nobody ever stops to ask if the visuals really mean and say what the lecturer attributes to them. Rarely have they any meaning or relevance. The actual films of the assassination speak for themselves but the one of these who trusts it to I've not heard of. They have to become experts and give special meanings rarely there.

Because there is no reason of which I know to take Rhodes' word for anything and because he knows how to get in touch with me I'll leave his Alice inventions entirely to him. But thanks.

The "umbrella man" is an example of this kind of ripoff. First of all there were two men with umbrellas, across the street from each other. And second there was no need for any kind of signal. But had there been the one they all talk about gave his a little late: after the shooting.

When I got Hall to agree to go to N.O. he did express fear. He asked me to fly out and go with him and that we have connecting rooms. This, of course, was impossible for me.

I'd be interested in why you are positive that Hall knew Shaw. I never had any real interest in Shaw and never did any work on him. My interest was Oswald.

Thanks and best,

MR. HAROLD WEISBERG,
FREDRICK, MARYLAND

DEAR HAROLD,

A NOTE OF SORTS TO EXPLAIN DELAYS
IN POSSIBILITIES OF FINDING FINANCIAL
AID FOR A BOOK.

I HAVE SUBMITTED A PROPOSAL AGAIN
TO MR. GREENSPUN, LAS VEGAS SUN, FOR
YOU TO DO A SERIES OF ARTICLES. IS
THIS WITHIN REASON TO YOU? IF
MR. GREENSPUN WILL AFFORD YOU PASSAGE,
EXPENSES, FACILITIES WHILE IN VEGAS,
AND A FEE AGREEABLE TO YOU, WOULD
YOU CONSIDER THIS AS AN ALTERNATIVE
TO A BOOK AT PRESENT? IF THE INFO
AND ARTICLES ARE WELL RECEIVED, IT
MAY BE THE NECESSARY STEP TO GETTING
YOUR BOOK PUBLISHED. DOES THIS SOUND
AGREEABLE WITH YOU?

LAST NIGHT, MR. "RUSTY" RHOADES
WAS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA,
LAS VEGAS, WITH AN ASSASSINATION SEMINAR,
ZAPRUDER & NIX FILM, ETC. REPRESENTING
A WEST COAST ORGANIZATION C.I.P.A. (COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING PRESIDENTIAL
ASSASSINATION) I ASSUME AN AUTHENTIC
ORGANIZATION. I SPOKE BRIEFLY
WITH MR. RHOADES AFTERWARDS, STATING
I KNEW YOU. HE SAID FOR YOU TO
CONTACT HIM AS HE HAD INFORMATION
"REGARDING ALICE, TEXAS." I ASSUME
YOU KNOW WHAT HE IS REFERRING
TOO, AND PASS THIS ALONG TO YOU.

Two

NO FURTHER STATEMENTS WERE MADE. HE DOESN'T KNOW MY NAME OR HAVE ANY INSIGHT INTO YOURS OR MY RELATIONSHIP.

HIS PROGRAM WAS WELL RECEIVED AND SEVERAL HUNDRED TURNED OUT WITH A VERY MINIMUM OF ADVANCE ADVERTISING. I WAS AMAZED AT THE NUMBER OF INTELLIGENT QUESTIONS ASKED AT THE CONCLUSION, ALSO AT THE KNOWLEDGE SOME OF THE PEOPLE POSSESSED.

I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO DEVULGE ANY INFORMATION YOU FEEL IS CONFIDENTIAL, HOWEVER, I WILL GRATEFULLY ASK YOU TO SEND ANY COPIES OF STILLS, CLOSE-UPS, PARTIALS, ETC. THAT DEAL WITH THE SO-CALLED "UMBRELLA MAN."

MY STATEMENT ON THE PHONE TO YOU IS BASED ON SEVERAL SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THIS CHARACTER AND LOREN HALL. THE DRESS, POSTURE, AND WALK ARE DISTINGUISHABLE, AND WHAT PICTURES I HAVE SEEN LEAD ME TO THE BELIEF THEY ARE ONE AND THE SAME. IT WAS A SINCERE DISAPPOINTMENT THAT MR. GARRISON WAS NOT ABLE TO EXTRACT INFORMATION OF SIGNIFICANT VALUE FROM HALL — JUST REMARKABLE, IN FACT. WHEN HALL LEFT CALIFORNIA HE WAS DRAMATIC TO THE POINT — HE DIDN'T THINK HE WOULD RETURN TO CALIF. — HE TOOK

THREE

SEVERAL DAYS GETTING HIS AFFAIRS IN "ORDER" - HE REPAID SOME SMALL DEBTS - HE WAS A RESIGNED, DEFLATED INDIVIDUAL FROM ALL APPEARANCES. HE SERVED NOTICE TO LEAVE HIS JOB, DROVE 46 MILES IN ONCE INSTANCE TO REPAY A \$10.00 DEBT TO A PARTY WHO HATED HALL AND STATED "HE WAS" WORTH THE TEN." I COULDN'T, AT THAT TIME, UNDERSTAND WHY GARRISON DIDN'T INVOLVE HALL IN THE SHAW TRIAL. HALL KNEW SHAW, POSITIVE. IT REMAINS A MYSTERY TO ME, AS GARRISON NOR HIS OFFICE FELT IT WORTHWHILE TO INFORM ME OF THEIR FINDINGS ON HALL. SO BE IT.

I OBTAINED THE ORIGINAL COPY TRANSCRIPT OF LEWIS M^cWILLIE'S TESTIMONY TO THE WARREN COMMISSION, AND SENT THAT TO GARRISON, PLUS THE ACTIVITIES OF M^cWILLIE IN THE LAS VEGAS AREA, HOWEVER, NO REPLIES OR WORD WAS RETURNED FROM HIS OFFICE, EVEN THOUGH I WAS GIVEN A "COVER" ADDRESS TO SEND INFO TO IN NEW ORLEANS. MY LAST TWO REPORTS WERE "RETURNED TO SENDER."

AGAIN I WILL ATTEMPT FURTHER SUPPORT FOR A BOOK.

NO WORD ON HALL TAPES.

WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED - WRITE ME IF AGREED.

SINCERELY, Winston -

J. T. HUSTON
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APR 28 1975



Mr. Harold Weisberg,
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