

3/22/68

Dear Corky,

Your letter of 3/9 arrived promptly. I could not answer it earlier because I was working in New Orleans and since my return have been working with one of the assistant DAs. My wife gave me the essence of the letter. No one in N.O. to whom I spoke, including Jim, was aware of your letter. This sometimes happens when the letter is received. I suggest that if you do not consider it inappropriate you send me carbons so I can see to it that your messages are communicated and so that I'll be up to date.

Possibly Ivon's call was because I told him what I understood you to tell me, that Howard was employed there 9/17/64. That would be very interesting. By the way, the contents of your letter have been communicated, for the asst DA read it while he was here.

While you report accurately, no doubt, what you have seen and been told, Skip is retelling another story in LA. He says that as soon as the doctor says he can move around he'll go to N.O. If he can go to LA and go around trying to sell his tape, he can't take a plane and not walk and safely go to N.O. I've had infectious hepatitis, and while the current treatment is bed rest and no activity, I never spent a day in bed. If he is not going it is really because he doesn't want to, not because the doctor prevents it.

The step-son is the root of the trouble and his deep suspicions coming from his own activities and those he observes may hurt them all very much. I met him in LA, at the hospital. His name is John Pappas and he is an LA deputy sheriff. Unless Mrs. Hall is an awful liar, I imagine the distorted version of Jim's letter was from him and it would seem to be not accidental. He may not be serving the families interest at all. Pulling a gun on you was quite irresponsible. He has no authority up there anyway. I suppose this is the kind of man he is. The misrepresentation you cite is typical of what I observed. He's cutting the throats of all of them. Hall's only prospect is to accept the genuine offer he has, for it is an immunity both save for perjury, and it can be important to him and the others in the future. The existing record is not to his interest.

It is too bad you have had to run this risk and that you and your family ~~xxxx~~ have the present suffering as a consequence. I am, however, glad that you will still do what you can, for there may be the opportunity. At some point one of them may become rational, or they may begin to understand what John is doing, and it will then be particularly important that ~~xxxxxxx~~ someone be there and available. I understand it better than you think for I've been without income for four years. My debts mount steadily.

When you get a chance, one very desirable thing is to make a complete set of notes on everything, from the first and then try and keep them current. I am very interested in some of the details you haven't communicated. These also serve the interest of the future.

Shaw cannot be a very good businessman, for his course of conduct would have been different. Now his only chance to do something with whatever it is that Hall has taped (and without help he cannot do all of that, anyway) is with favorable publicity. The best chance for that is from going to N.O. The offers I made him and the requests I agreed to work very much this way. Did you learn the contents of the tape? Again, if you did, I emphasize the importance of noting in, in writing or on tape.

For the moment, save to keep you current and be available, I have no "instructions", not does Jim, to whom I mentioned this a week ago. When the time

comes, either or both of us will. We may learn from you when that time is here. Personally, I am more than pleased that you are there, and willing.

Separately I will send you PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH, at no charge. I return your dollar, with thanks for the meaning of the gesture. If you are missing any of my other books, please let me know. I'll send them.

As a parting comment, may I suggest that we are going to have to be patient, wait this out. Until there is willingness on their part, there is not too much that from here I can anticipate that we can do. I have already indicated some of the possibly interesting things. If you can send me proof or evidence of any of the , they'll be available when we need them. Otherwise, again from here it seems that we must await developments, particularly their realization that what we seek for them really serves their interests.

Many thanks, good luck, and please forgive the haste.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg