

9 March 68

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Received your letter this past week and wish to apologize for not writing you sooner, however I believe you will forgive me after reading the contents of this letter. Also, please excuse the stationery, as it was the only thing available this morning.

I will attempt to bring you to date as to any information I may have, please understand that the situation has been somewhat hectic, and I may have already stated some of the following things, however in complying with instructions from New Orleans, I in no way meant to keep anything of value from you regarding Skip, or relating information.

As per our last phone contact; Mr. Louis Ivon related to me that Larry Howard was at Johnsondale at one time, he did NOT say that he (Howard) was there at the particular time Hall was questioned by the FBI, Sept. 64, I believe was the date. I checked personally with the Mt. Whitney Lumber Co., as to employment of Howard, during '64, or any year. They do NOT have a record on Howard. However, the logging company does contract with "gyppo's" (independent truck drivers or owners of trucks that haul for the company), and the company would NOT have a record of employment on these men. Please note in was in this capacity that Hall was working when questioned. I checked with two of the contracting trucking firms, still in the area, and they do NOT show employment of either Hall or Howard. Also, the other two "gyppo's" that were in Johnsondale in '64, one is presently in Oregon, and the other has sold out and is residing on the Calif. coast. If this is of sufficient importance I will contact the two remaining contractors for information on the names of employees during the '64 season. Please advise on this matter.

Now, to date from our last conversation. Skip returned from the hospital the week of 19-25 February, seemingly in reasonable good condition, but had lost 20 some pounds. He was brought here by his wife and step-son. As I told you on the phone, I had contacted Mrs. Hall previously, and had, to the best of my ability, convinced her that Mr. Garrison was sincere in his concern and wish^{ed} to grant immunity to Skip for his cooperation. I visited her, with her permission prior, at 7:30 in the evening, my wife also being present (this as it turns out was at least one wise thing I did). She concurred on all points, and was completely agreeable. I gave her the letter stating Mr. Garrison's intentions, which was sealed and hand delivered, as per instructions. I read the letter in N.O. myself, and approved its contents completely. Indeed it was at my personal suggestion ~~that~~ this attempt be made, for I was convinced that I could explain to Skip and his wife, even his lawyer if necessary, that cooperation was the ONLY salvation. I did explain this to Mrs. Hall in detail, including arrangement for flight and passage, etc., all with their approval. I remained with Mrs. Hall for some 30 to 40 minutes.

two-

It was within a couple of days of your visit to L.A. Next, when Skip was home (after you had left) I attempted to contact him as to a desired time of convenience, to him, for further confirmation, so as to make arrangement with Mr. Garrison. At this time I had only the assurance of Mrs. Hall, but I was very confident that everything would go according to plans. On the 23rd, Skip's step-son (name unknown to me even presently) affronted me and told me in NO uncertain terms to lay off PERIOD. He stated publicly that I had "bothered" his mother "during the middle of the night", had indeed "threatened" her with Mr. Garrison's letter, pressured Skip, had induced you to "coerce" Skip during his confinement, etc. He stated also the possibility of my family receiving the "same treatment", and directly said my life was in danger, etc. At this time I offered to sit down and relate the actual facts, that I was only attempting to help Skip and his mother, but the son was, to put it mildly, in a rage. This occurred at about 7 in the evening at Duffy's Tavern, Skip's place of employment. A local deputy was informed of these statements, by me shortly thereafter, and was unconcerned unless I wished to file charges. I called my father and informed him so as if anything did happen of a serious nature I would be "covered" as to a defense. I perhaps foolishly returned, still wishing to appease his misinformation, however this proved to be the completely wrong thing to do at that time. The second occasion was some 2 hours later, when the son was armed with a pistol (he is a deputy in L.A. county), drew the gun and put it to my chest, making additional threats, etc. I did NOT confront him during this time, only requested to talk with him sometime later when he had "cooled" off. My only statement (between shakes, for I'm no longer the hero type) was that he was NOT going to "run" me off PERIOD. Let me go back and explain at this point. After my involvement with this matter and some soul searching, confiding with my wife and the possible concern for her and my children, also some long conversations with my father, who has my highest respect, I decided that the assistance to Mr. Garrison and your self was worth the possible risk. Everyone mentioned, especially my wife, agreed I was indeed right. That as far as I am concerned, was it, I would do the best I could to assist. I do NOT relate this for sympathy, please understand this to your utmost. Phone calls have been made to my employer (3 months ago) New York Life Insurance Co. regarding my involvement (by whom, I still do NOT know, but there were several). NYLIC have an exclusive contract with employees, and because of this I was suspended, my licence withheld for '68. (2 years seniority and study out the window) I sold some property to subsist, which my family has done with the greatest of understanding, and continued as best I could. Please understand this is the reason I couldn't come to L.A., or even expend to much on phone calls. Again this is between you and I, Mr. Garrison does NOT know and I feel he has enough problems without concern for myself. I gained employment at Johnsondale (of all places) this past week, so we will make out O.K. I did want to tell you, my personal commitment is to the truth of this matter, whatever the consequences, and I remain resolved to that purpose. Enough of that.

I have written to New Orleans for additional instructions, but have not heard from them as yet. I did talk to Mr. Garrison regarding the matter stated above. I can't write what he said

three

(censorship) but it amounted to "to hell with them". I don't feel at this time that the Hall's will go to N.O., however, it maybe possible for someone else to convince them. Perhaps, you at a later date, or even myself can do this, but they (both Halls) are liars, moody, and subject to change on a moments notice, so it is going to take patience.

The tape recording (some 3 hrs. long) I refered (lost r) to in our talk is in three copies, one here, one in a safety deposit box, and one at MGM studios. I hope this weekend to hear it, if at all possible. The info I related that is supposed to be on this tape, was told to me by the man who took the recording, for commercial reasons (he has a 10% agreement with the Hall's) This man (Richard Shaw); is a dollar hustler, and is strickly out to make a fast buck at Hall's expence. I told Shaw that he could be doing Hall a great deal of harm, but I'm certain he's not concerned, and is only attempting to get a film or magazine interested in the story.

I hope again you forgive the undue time involved in writing, also please convey my concern for your wife's recovery.

If I maybe of help to you please feel free to write any instructions you may have. I need direction from you or from N.O., I can't be of assistance without approval or interest. If this means traveling I am fully agreeable, I only aske for expense money. I sincerely hope you can convert this information to the benifit of both you and Mr. Garrison. If you have the opportunity to explain my full cooperation to him I would appreciate it very much.

Inclose are two items; the orginial copy of Hall signature, I did not have the chance to get it copied. Please forward a copy to Mr. Garrison at your convience. Second, enclose one dollar for a pocket book copy of your book "Photograph White-wash", please send to me, as I have been unable to obtain one in this locale.

I read "Oswald in New Orleans" on the way back from N.O., and only can say one thing; "BRILLIANT".

SINCERELY,

Jack T. HUSTON
"Corky"