

26 JULY 67

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Maryland

Sir,

In answer to your letter dated 24 July. Please excuse me for not contacting you sooner, however I did attempt to place several calls to your number on this past Friday morning (21st).

I'll attempt to bring you to date, in sincere hope of not omitting or leaving doubt. As per our phone conversation, I believe you understood I had a friend of mine also involved in what had transpired over the past few weeks, this of course has since created problems, however please understand that whatever may have been accomplished, could not have been done without his assistance. Also, his involvement was more due to my request than a desire or interest on his part alone.

To continue, I was contacted after our call by Mr. Miguel O'Cocoa, with a letter of introduction from Mr. Jim Garrison, on this past Thursday (20th), after a short discussion, Mr. O'Cocoa and a photographer assistant, set an appointment for that very evening at six o'clock, requesting the photos we had taken and also to meet with my friend who had assisted in this. Both of us appeared on time and with what information we had available, apprehensive of course, however in complete accord that we were doing the right thing and willing to cooperate fully (tape recording also). Mr. O'Cocoa, nor his assistant, showed up, however a message was left to meet with them in Kernville, some 12 miles north, at eight o'clock. Naturally, we discussed this between us and only sought to get our information in the proper hands for expert evaluation. Neither did they show up at the appointed place and time, afterwards we waited in the vicinity for some two hours. Let me state here, as I informed you personally, we did NOT know if what we had was of value, but wished only to make it available to parties concerned.

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At this very time, i.e. the appointed meetings, Mr. O'Cocoa was with Loran Hall and wife, taking them to dinner. Again, I wish to tell you that at no time had any money been requested or was that our intent, further regardless of any ill feelings, I still maintain this (taking Hall & wife to dinner) open approach (O'Cocoa had known Hall previous in Cuban activities) was a foolish and irresponsible act, that only alerted Hall. From my understanding of this meeting on Thursday night, Hall submitted to a tape recording and complete account of his activities from Nov. 63 and previous. May I ask you, "is this intelligent/?" Again, excuse my believing that this man (Hall) is tie-up in the entire affair, and regardless of any professional opinion, I feel he is "sharp", calculating, and extremely aware of his surroundings. This in no sense means he doesn't qualify as others have described "loud-mouth, erratic, etc." Additionally, Mr. O'Cocoa and assistant, were NOT were they told us they were the next day, nor did they're times agree with the statements they made. Understand, I feel they were sincere and factual to an extent, also Mr. Garrison, personally contacted me in their behalf. Is this correctly understood? O'Cocoa, unknown previous to Hall, confronts him openly, asking questions, requesting tape recordings, spends 3 plus hours with him, and left us uninformed and seemingly meaningless while he revisits with Hall. Mr. Weisberg, I am NOT in this investigation, nor do I claim any experience in this field, but if this is a sample of methods now in use in investigations, I say God hel those involved. Was anyone of the idea that Hall, through the influence of wine and dine, going to confess envelope-ment???? I stated, "This information MAY be of value, it MAY tie-in with other known activities". NOT "Hall is ready to confess. I hope to remain intact, however, it will not be so, if I had blindly got involved with out considering a great deal of facts, also I have compounded my actions by involving another, but be as it may, I did find conclusive material that was NOT included in ANY book, nor known to any investigative force. Excuse again, but this is one reason I called you Friday, also I attempted to contact Mr. Garrison direct, and Mr. O'Connell's phone was busy from 9:15 am till 10:30am, Friday morning (this is a matter of record). I didn't, by Friday, know what the hell

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was happening. Furthermore, my friend in this matter was completely adamant in even maintaining any further contact with O'Cocoa or anyone else involved. However, I was contacted by Mr. O'Cocoa, whom I have a great deal of confidence in, to arranged delivery on Friday. I told him I would have to wait now, as I had informed the local Highway Patrolman, whom I have faith in, an also a local deputy sheriff. The negatives, and one set of prints were placed in a safe, unknown to others concerned, on Friday morning, thus I explained this to Mr. O'Cocoa and assistant. I met with them for a tape interview, lasting some 2 hours or so, freely explaining in detail what happen. This incidently, at the near sacrifice of my job. Does this sound to you as if I was Not cooperating fully? I did have the personal~~ly~~ feeling that the questions asked were an attempt to REFUTE my claim, but I also understand that care and caution must be used. (WHY NOT use this method of approach on Hall). After the interview, I left to secure my friend (he does NOT wish his name tied-up in this, nor can I freely say he is my friend to date, more later). I waited till he got off work (apX. 5pm), during this time I was informed someone wished to see me (from two sources). It turned out to be an agent from the FBI. Also, after meeting with my friend and returning to Mr. O'Coca's hotel, we both informed Mr. O'Cocoa of this fact, which did not seem to distrub him. After more interview we stated if the safe was available when the deputy returned we would still proceed. At this time Mr. O'Coca's assistant inferred "What did we expect to get out of this?" or words to that effect. "Also, you either got the photos or don't, and he wanted to get out of this damn country." (not a direct quote, but all the words were there.) He left in a curt manner, ~~went~~ directly to the office to obtain the photos and both agreed to have no more to do with "them", the intent was to provide all the possible cooperation; providing there will be no endangerment. I sincerely hope you have the opportunity to hear all the tapes made, then coorespond them with this letter, any additional facts, I will be happy to verify, however I feel Mr. O'Coca is an honest man and ^{will} explain his side honestly.

After contact with Mr. Garrison, I agreed to have the photos forwarded to Los Angeles, personally, even to the attempt to secure a private plane to L.A., for delivery to TIME-LIFE. No one, in-

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cluded in this letter, may state truthfully, that I did NOT cooperate to the best of my ability. Mr. Garrison has my highest respect, for I feel he has taken a great task aboard, and I also include your endeavors, however I am NOT in complete accord with you both at this time, my knowledge is limited.

After all this type, which I hope conclusively brings forth my intentions, I can NOT speak for my assistant. He has since Monday retained ALL copies of the material, furthermore, since a call yesterday (25th), has not answered my calls, not stated his position. We had a 6 hour discussion Sunday night (23rd), but he has requested (a poor choice of words) not to be envolved, nor to receive any more inquiries. I have given his phone number to Mr. O'Coca personally, and at this time awaiting some conformation.

Mr. O'Coca stated (from Miami) that at this time Mr. Garrison feels "We are some kind of kooks, or are putting him on."

Also, I have obtain Hall's signature and printing, again I don't know the value, but it may assist. My own opinion (no expert) the photos are NOT in Hall's handwriting nor printing.

Loran Hall, in my opinion, knows I or someone with me have "fingered" him. I feel this conclusive, and I'm also sure he will leave this area shortly. He is flighty, nervous person at best, but since the visit of this past Thursday, I feel, he's about to come 'apart'. I don't believe I have any personal worry, but I have received confirmation from my home office of FBI inquiries regarding me, also I expect a representative from San Francisco home office (NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE CO.) to meet with me on 7 Aug. 67, regarding this entire matter.

No one force me to carry this involvement this far, I sincerely felt I was doing the correct thing. If my integrity is questioned then so be it, but the intervention of people I feel are grossly incompetent, has made this much more serious than it need have been.

I wish to thank you for your letter and state that I will visit you in any possible way, bar this past week.

Sincerely,

Jack F. Huston