

July August 1, 1967

Mr. J. T. Huston
Box 536
Lake Isabella, California 93240

Dear Mr. Huston:

Your letter of July 26 did not reach me until today. Naturally and frankly, I am not happy about its contents.

Spilt milk is for cats. Let us not relive the past but address ourselves to the immediate situation. I can neither explain nor understand why Mr. O'Coca did not do as expected.

However, all of this makes an additional problem, and it is that I address.

If there is any hazard, it is in silence and secrecy. It is only the witness whose story is unknown who need fear. Once what he can say is recorded, he has protection. It is thus also with your data. As long as you have not gotten it to me or to Garrison, it might endanger you. Those who might be worried about it will never believe it if you should say there is no additional copy anywhere. They would fear there might be.

On the other hand, once it is known that you have made available what you have, it can only hurt those involved for anything to happen to you; it can in no way benefit them.

I will maintain your confidence and follow your desires with this. I cannot now use it in my own writing, for I finished my book on that aspect of this case some time ago and it is now being printed. There will be public mention next week. I would go over your data and make it available to Garrison. Some of it may make sense to me that does not to you or to him. He may see things I do not. I will not use it for profit, and if it turns out to be of value to anyone, I assure you that value will accrue to you and your friend. I want nothing but the truth, as I hope you have seen in my writing. This is a matter that goes to the very viability of our society, the sanctity of our country, our honor, our self-respect, our security. It is a subject like no other in our history.

You are now part of that. I hope you will face your responsibilities squarely, and I rather think you will. This information must be made available to those of us who can know its meaning. I am certain you know what it means if a President has been murdered and we do not know who did it or why, or if there is evidence that was not considered by those who should have. Today that evidence should still be known, to someone like me or to an official like Jim Garrison.

Aside from silence, which is unmanly and which you may have trouble living with, there are several courses open. You can send me what you have. Garrison or I can send someone to you, or you can take it to him or to O'Connell or others whose names I can give you. I can meet you in New Orleans or I can meet you in California and take you to Garrison. I will do whatever you want, and in any responsible way you want.

If you send anything, use air and registered mail, which requires seal and lock and key. I recommend that you send me one copy and the other to Garrison. If you like, keep the negatives or send them separately, to either of us. You can get a postal receipt showing delivery.

You have my assurance that what you send me will go to Garrison. If there is any problem with your employment, that should be ended immediately when what you have and have done become part of an official proceeding. It is the responsibility of citizens to help with official proceedings, and it is hardly likely that any employer would retaliate in any way, for he would then be in an untenable position.

I hope your friend will understand things this way. If he does not, as I most sincerely hope he will, until he does, may I encourage you to put everything you can on paper and send it air registered as soon as possible? There are a few broad hints in your letter. I take them seriously. And every detail, whether or not it makes sense to you. If by this time you have been interviewed by the FBI, I encourage you to put that all on paper, and in detail. I do not know what proper business of theirs any of this is, or of any proper interest they can have in you. Their investigation was concluded with the end of the Commission. In fact, Mr. Hoover himself does not answer letters on this subject, as I know of my own personal knowledge.

I agree with you that you have no personal worry. If I felt otherwise, I would tell you. If you have anything to be concerned about, however, it is in being alone in knowing and having what you know and have. It is for this reason that I taped our conversation, for it is protection to you.

We have only one outgoing mail a day. I will try and phone you before this can leave. After getting your letter, I immediately phoned Billings and told him its contents. I tried to phone Garrison, who was not in the office. I left word for him to phone me when he returns. I will also get in touch with O'Connell and perhaps others with whom you might want to communicate, or who, if you desire, I might be able to send to you.

However, even if there were danger to you, I would urge the same course of action on you. Others of us may also have been in jeopardy, but we have done what we have done because it must be done. It is, in a society such as ours, every man's responsibility. This is something that deeply involves all of us, our children, our and their futures and that of our country.

I agree with the conclusion of your letter. No one has forced you to do anything, no one will try, and you did do what is right. I do hope you will continue to feel and behave that way, which means that you must make this data available immediately and rapidly. If your friend does not want to be identified, you need not tell me his name. I see no need for either of you to figure in this publicly unless you so desire, as in the future you may. On the other hand, if your associate takes a recalcitrant attitude, he may be forcing public attention on himself.

Please let me hear from you, by phone or air mail.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg