

Dear Jack,

6/24/77

The first of the letters of which you told me, the one dated 6/21, came this morning. I read it immediately and then had to return to other work. After that we had to go to the opening of a new place of business owned by a friend. This required of me what is not good for me, standing. It also made me more tired. So while I'm trying to rest a bit I'll respond off the top of the head.

At the time in 1967 I did know the name of your friend. Hall also does. However, when he cursed others, robustly as he loved to curse, he merely spoke disparagingly of the two of you. I have the other name on file. It would be a job to dig it out. If there is a chance I should know it tell me and save me all that work at a later date and under time pressures. I have no other interest in it.

In essence your account of those events is what I recall. I am wrong in believing Accca, the right name, hung around for three days. I have the recollection he was in general acting like a cross between Perry Mason and Sherlock Holmes.

Without knowing him I not Garrison was responsible for his being there. He was not, from the arrangements I made, to have had a photog with him. You have forgotten but when you got nowhere with Garrison you got in touch with me. Maybe it was the other way around. You did get in touch with both of us. I was unable to go out there so I think of Dick Billings, then an editor of LIFE and working on the story. They had a bureau in L.A. and all I asked is that they have someone ~~not~~ make a pickup. He then went wild. He had worked with Scoac in Miami for LIFE so he sent him. For this on the basis of what he knew about Accca's belief he could not have made a worse choice. When I heard who he'd sent I realized that he was sending someone who might get a story, not for the purpose agreed upon.

There are many sins that can be laid on Garrison but Accca is not one. At the same time, given his list for wasting money, there is no excuse for his not sending someone. He in fact had LA and SF people he could have sent.

If I told you that Hall and his lawyer told me the committee had me down as the engineer of a black bag job that is what they told me and I'm sure that is what they were told. Your guess on the source is probably the best that can be made. I don't know what I did with his card but as I remember the lawyer's name it is Bryson Mills. He is not from Calif. Wichita. Hall went there from Calif and spent several days with him. They reached Wash. together with a nice young woman who is just out of law school and working temporarily with Bryson. She has to be good to get what she has: a clerkship with a federal judge. Good or connected.

One of the ways those farouts could have obtained copies of Garrison's files is from Lane, who probably has all or most of them. There are other ways.

Hall never denied having been to Mrs. Odio's. He has denied any such conversation. His story was and is he could have been there, he does not know. My belief is that this is how he is avoiding an overt lie. A lady's many like Skip would not forget so attractive a woman. On the other hand, Hall is far right and for anti-Castro Cubans Odio was left. Politically it does not add up, not that he might not have tried to use any help he could get. But assume he was there. And assume he said something like what she says was said. Coming from a Hall except for the Oswald part that would mean nothing. With the passing of years I've come to believe that what is most likely is that if someone had said JFK should be killed Odio just ran that and what she'd heard about Oswald together. That there was a visit to her I do not doubt at all. Details of her story I do question. Not her honesty.

Kevin is a good friend and a good fellow. You can trust him. He tells me Hall and Howard have had a sort of reunion. This is to say, I would imagine, that despite mutual dislike they see they'll have less trouble now if they do not fight each other. Howard had aligned himself with Hemming. But friendly as Hall was three weeks ago he can turn around. He is his own kind of person.

If I wanted to, and I don't, I could not sue the Congresspeople for what they do in an official capacity. They are immune. If they abuse this immunity it nonetheless is necessary for the functioning of the Congress. I would not waste time in that kind of suit were it possible. And I doubt that except for non-official outbursts they'll have anything to say about me. The last thing they'll do is give me a forum to tee off on them more than I have. Without a single complaint of inaccuracy or unfairness.

There is something else to remember. They are limited to what serves their mandate

and their mandate is limited to what can serve a legislative purpose. Per se they cannot investigate a murder. They cannot call anybody off the street and demand that he or she testify. They can be challenged. They then have to establish relevance. They do not have a fishing license.

But they are irrational enough and desperate enough for almost anything because everything they have done has been worthless at its best.

I don't see how under the circumstances there could be any complaint about you destroying the pictures.

Acoca has been ghost writing for Bob Brown of Mercenary Magazine, before that of Panther Press. Also far right.

I do not recall Mrs. Odio's address. There were many Cu bans nearby. I think Magellan is in the name, like Magellan Courts. It was some kind of housing development.

Hall's illness of the time I was out there was a serious infection from some kind of scratch on his left shoulder. He thought it was done on purpose. He had something like blood-poisoning. He was in enough pain for them to give him morphine in my presence. He had one of those handguns in the hospital.

I have no idea what the notebook looks like, if it exists and if the committee has it. I would not want to embarrass the couple of friends I have there by asking them. Hall appeared to be unconcerned about this when he said it. Ditto for the lawyer.

Anyway, don't worry about any of this.

There may never be another word. I understand they had Mrs. Odio eyeball Hall and she said he is not the guy. If so what have they left on this? They merely extended the subpoena to save their own faces.

Hope your coming changes are in your benefit. Best to all,



21 JUNE 77

DEAR HAROLD,

RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF 17 JUNE THIS DATE AND WILL ATTEMPT TO CLEAR UP ALL MATTERS TO DATE. FIRST, IN ANSWER TO YOUR PREVIOUS LETTER DATED THE SEVENTH OF JUNE, TELLING OF MR. KEVIN'S PHONE NUMBER. I SPOKE TO HIM REGARDING YOUR PLANS AND HE IS VERY GRACIOUS AND PROMPT GENTLEMAN IN RETURNING MY CALL, PLUS CALLING AND TELLING OF YOUR CHANGE OF PLAN AND YOUR APPEARANCE ON THE TV PROGRAM. AT YOUR NEXT OPPORTUNITY PLEASE THANK HIM FOR ME. NOW, IN REGARD TO THE COMMITTEE STATING THAT YOU HAD ME STEAL ANY OF HALL'S NOTEBOOKS ETC., OF COURSE YOU KNOW THAT IS A COMPLETE LIE, AND IF IT WERE IN OPEN SESSION OF CONGRESS I FIND THE IRRESPONSIBILITY BEYOND UNDERSTANDING. I NEVER, REPEAT NEVER STOLE A DAMN THING IN MY LIFE! I CAN TELL YOU WHERE THE INFO CAME FROM, ONLY ONE POSSIBLE SOURCE. IF THIS KIND OF DISHONEST INFORMATION IS BEING PASSED I WOULD ONLY RESPOND TO ANY OF THE COMMITTEE'S INQUIRIES AT YOUR SUGGESTION. I HAVE NOT CONTACTED OR CORESPONDED WITH ANYONE BUT YOU (ALSO NOTHING EVEN WITH MR. KEVIN OTHER THAN YOUR TRAVEL PLANS), THAT IS WHY I ASKED YOU IN OUR LAST PHONE CONVERSATION IF IT WOULD BE ADVISED BY YOU TO SET FORTH ANY INFORMATION TO THE COMMITTEE, YOUR STATEMENT WAS THAT A COUPLE OF THEM WERE RESPONSIBLE. THUS, ONLY THROUGH YOU WOULD I PUT ANYTHING FORWARD. THIS YOU CAN BE ASSURED OF REGARDLESS OF ANY FUTURE INVOLVEMENT WHATSOEVER. I REALIZE THAT AS A PERSON YOU KNOW LITTLE ABOUT ME, HOWEVER THIS IS CERTAIN, I WILL AND HAVE ALWAYS DONE MY VERY BEST TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST, NOT ONLY WITH YOU BUT WITH MY BUSINESS DEALINGS, ASSOCIATES, FRIENDS, ETC. I DO NOT TRADE MY INTEGRITY OF PERSON FOR ANYTHING, AND WHEN WE MEET PERSONALLY I'M CERTAIN YOU WILL AGREE THIS IS MY STRONGEST CHARACTER. SOME THINGS I'VE DONE IN MY LIFE I'M NOT PROUD OF, BUT IN OUR RELATIONSHIP AND WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF ENTRY INTO HALL'S HOUSE WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION NOTHING WITHIN THIS ENTIRE CASE HAS BEEN A SHAME OR REGRET. YES, I DID ENTER HIS HOUSE, ALONE, WITH NO ONE'S ASSISTANCE OR KNOWLEDGE. PERIOD. NOTHING WAS TAKEN OR DISTURBED ( THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN FOOLISH, BECAUSE HALL WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY CONTACTS IN NEW ORLEANS, AND WHAT ADVANTAGE WOULD THERE BE IN ALERTING HALL, ESPECIALLY AT THAT TIME?) THE FULL CIRCUMSTANCES I WILL SET DOWN FOR YOU AT THIS TIME, AS THERE IS A MISUNDERSTANDING OF SORTS. ONE NOTE FIRST IS THAT IF THE COMMITTEE DID SOME WAY RECORD THAT YOU HAD ME STEAL, THEN THERE IS RECOURSE IN A LAW SUIT IN MY OPINION, HOWEVER ONLY IF YOU WISHED TOO, I WOULDN'T HONOR THE SLANDER MYSELF, BUT IF YOU NEED A DEPOSITION OR ANY HELP, I WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO ASSIST. SURE THE BASTARDS. IF ONE OF THE COMMITTEE ( YVONNE BURKE ) CAN CALL YOU AN SOB, I'M SURE THEY QUALIFY FOR MY NAME CALLING. ON TO MY CLARIFICATION OF THE SUBJECT AT HAND. I DID, AS I STATED ENTER HALL'S HOME, THE DATE WAS THE FOURTH OF JULY '67. I DETERMINED THAT THERE WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY MINIMUM RISK. I TOOK A LUNCH TO MRS. HALL AT WILSON'S REAL ESTATE OFFICE IN WOODFORD HEIGHTS, CALIF. HALL WAS WORKING BARTENDER DAY SHIFT. I WAS IN AND OUT IN ABOUT ONE HOUR AT HIS HOME IN KERNVILLE, SOME EIGHT MILES AWAY. I WANTED TO BE CERTAIN THAT IF I WAS TO BE INVOLVED THAT HALL WAS INDIVIDUAL THAT HAD FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE ASSASSINATION. I WAS NOT LOOKING FOR ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR, JUST CONFIRMATION. I'M NOT A WATERGATE PERSON, AND HAD NEVER DONE BEFORE OR SINCE ANYTHING OF THIS NATURE. NOON, IN MY



2.

OPINION WAS THE MOST LOGICAL TIME. THUS, DURING THE ENTRY I TOOK A VERY INEXPENSIVE CAMERA WITH ME, BUT NOT REALLY KNOWING WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR, I ASSUMED IF SOMETHING OF IMPORTANCE (COORRESPONDANCE, ETC.) WAS AVAILABLE I WOULD PHOTOGRAPH IT, AND LEAVE EVERYTHING IN ORDER. THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT OCCURRED. I TOOK EIGHT EXPOSURES, NOT OF GOOD QUALITY, BUT READABLE IN NATURAL DAYLIGHT OF A NOTEBOOK FOUND WITHIN HIS HOME. THERE WERE NAMES, NUMEROUS PHONE AND WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN PO BOX NUMBERS. MANY OF SPANISH VARIETY. AGAIN I WILL REPEAT, NOTHING WAS TAKEN. HALL HAD AT LEAST TWO HANDGUNS AND A 30-06 SPRINGFIELD SPORTERIZED RIFLE ON THE PREMISES. ALSO, THERE WAS SOME SMALL BILLS AND CHANGE ON WHAT SEEMINGLY SERVED AS A DRESSER. I HAD THIS FILM PROCESSED IN LAKE ISABELLA THE NEXT DAY. (IT TOOK NEARLY ONE WEEK TO RETURN AS FILM WAS SENT ON TO BAKERSFIELD) NOW DURING THIS TIME I HAD CONTACT WITH GARRISON AND THIS IS HOW THE EXIBITS WERE LOST. I HAVE STILL A FIREND (SP) I ASKED TO BE WITNESS WITH ME WHEN GARRISON SENT A LIFE REPORTER BY THE NAME OF OCHALA (I'M NOT CERTAIN OF THE SPELLING, BUT I STILL HAVE THE INTRODUCTION LETTER IN FILES, NOT AVAILABLE AT PRESENT) THIS MAN AND AN PHOTO ASSISTANT CAME TO THE LAKE ISABELLA AREA AND CONTACTED ME IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON ( I DO NOT HAVE THE EXACT DATE WITH ME EITHER, BUT IT WAS MOST LIKELY MID JULY) THIS IS WHEN I CONTACTED IN TURN MY FRIEND, NOT ASKING FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN BEING A WITNESS FOR ME. THE FULL MEETING WITH THESE TWO WAS SET FOR SEVEN PM THAT EVENING AT THE MOTEL IN LAKE ISABELLA WERE THEY WERE STAYING. I DIDN'T CARE FOR THEIR APPROACH, NOR WERE QUESTIONS ANSWERED ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE MEETING, THEY SEEMED ON A HILLBILLY EXCURSION. THEY WENT FROM LAKE ISABELLA DIRECTLY TO HALL IN WOFFORD HTS., TO A PRE-PLANNED APPOINTMENT WITH HALL. THIS REALLY WAS AN EXPIERANCE (SP) I WAS DUMB FOUNDED TO UNDERSTAND THIS. (LATER, OCHALA EXPLAINED IT OFF AS "HE PERSONALLY KNEW HALL AND HE DIDN'T WISH TO TAKE MY WORD FOR CERTAIN". NEEDLESS TO SAY AT THIS POINT MY FRIEND WAS GETTING APPREHENSIVE, AND I HAD NO EXPLANATION TO OFFER, I COULDN'T IMAGINE DOING SUCH A THING. HALL WAS GREATLY SUSPICIOUS OF HOW HE WAS SO EASILY "FOUND", AND THIS BECAME A CALAMITY OF ERRORS, BUT TO THIS DAY HAROLD I FEEL THAT THIS CHARACTER FROM FROM "LIFE" WAS SETTING EVERYONE INCLUDING GARRISON, HALL, MYSELF UP FOR SOME TYPE EXPOSURE. HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO STUPID, IT SIMPLY HAD TO BE DEVISIOUS (SP) IN MY OPINION. ANYWAY, I WAITED TILL TEN O'CLOCK THAT NETH NIGHT, AND THESE TWO WERE STILL INTERVIEWING HALL. WHEN THEY FINALLY CAME FROM KERNVILLE TO LAKE ISABELLA THE PHOTOGRAPHER WAS STRICKLY "SMART-ASSED", AND THEY COULD CARED LESS WHAT THIS ENTIRE MEETING WAS ABOUT. A MEETING WAS RESET FOR THE NEXT DAY, AND THIS POINT, I WAS DETERMINED NOT TO GET INVOLVE WITH ANYONE SO STUPID, THAT'S ALL I CAN SKY, IT WAS INCONCIEVEABLE TO ME THAT THESE MEN COULD BE CONSIDERED INVESTIGATORS OR EVEN HALF INTELLIGENT REPORTERS. I CAN'T CONVEY MY DISAPPOINTMENT, THESE IDIOTS WERE DEALING WITH PEOPLE THAT WOULD JUST AS SOON WIPE YOU OUT AS LOOK AT YOU AND THEY DIDN'T CARE IN THE LEAST FOR ANYONE'S PERSONAL SAFETY. LATER THAT SAME NIGHT OR EARLY AM (BARS CLOSE AT TWO AM) MY FRIEND ( I WILL GIVE YOU ONLY HIS NAME UPON REQUEST, BECAUSE OF WHAT OCCURRED) STATED HE DIDN'T WISH TO BE INVOLVED AND



I CAN TRUTHFULLY UNDERSTAND, BECAUSE I CAME VERY CLOSE MYSELF TO SAYING "TO HELL WITH IT", AND THE ORIGINAL PRINTS AND NEGATIVES WERE TORN TO SMALL PIECES AND FLUSHED DOWN THE TOILET. THUS, I DID GET HIM TO AGREE TO MEET THE NEXT DAY WITH THESE TWO "IDIOTS". THEY WANTED THE PHOTOS AND THE COMPLETE STORY. WHEN WE MET THEY WERE ~~ANSIO~~ ANXIOUS TO "GET ON THEIR WAY" AND FELT THEY HAD ALL THE INFORMATION THAT WAS AVAILABLE. THE FINAL MEETING WAS RECORDED AFTER THEY ASSURED ME THAT ONLY GARRISON WOULD HAVE THE MATERIAL AND INFORMATION. THE PHOTOGRAPHER WAS INSULTING AND CLAIMED I COULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THE TYPE OF PICTURE I DID UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. IN ALL I REFUSED MUCH MORE THAN THE BRIEF INFORMATION ON MYSELF PERSONALLY, AND I DIDN'T COOPERATE BEYOND THAT. I TELEPHONED TO NEW ORLEANS THE NEXT DAY TO INQUIRE AS TO WHY THESE TWO HAD BEEN EVEN BOTHERED WITH AND WHAT EXACTLY WAS THEIR PURPOSE. THE MEETING AS ORIGINALLY SET UP WITH GARRISON WAS TO PASS ALONG THE PHOTOS, AND SIMPLY TO REMAIN IN AN INFORMANT STATUS. I WAS FINALLY CONTACTED ( ON A SUNDAY ) BY GARRISON HIMSELF, AND HE APOLOGIZED THAT "SHORTAGE OF STAFF" ETC. THAT I SHOULD BRING THE PHOTOS TO NOLEANS MYSELF. GARRISON SAID HE DIDN'T TRUST THE MAIL AND OR HIS PHONE. CAN YOU UNDERSTAND MY THOUGHTS OF THE TIME? IT'S EVEN MORE INCREDIBLE LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW. I DON'T EVEN KNOW FOR CERTAIN IF THERE WERE HELPFUL INFO ON THE PHOTOS, I WROTE DOWN SEVERAL OF THE NAMES, BUT NOT NEARLY ALL THAT WAS CONTAINED, ESPECIALLY NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES. ONLY ONE THAT I RECALL HAS EVER COME OUT SINCE. A DALLAS ADDRESS MARKED "CASA VIEW", WHICH I BELIEVE NOW WAS MRS. ODIO'S ADDRESS. YES I'D LIKE TO BE POSITIVE. I'M CERTAIN HALL NEVER KNEW THIS HAPPEN. HOWEVER, AFTER GARRISON CHARGED HALL AT THE END OF THE YEAR (67) AND HIS NAME HIT THE NEWS HALL RELATED THAT "SOME OF GARRISON'S MEN HAD STOLEN HIS PERSONAL "PAPERS". HE MADE A DEFINITE POINT OF THIS TO ME PERSONALLY AND I BELIEVE HE WAS LOOKING FOR SOME TYPE OF RESPONSE, HOWEVER HE STILL TOOK ME AS A "BUDDY" AND HIS PARANOID COMPLEXES WERE BEING DRAWN OUT AT THIS TIME (CARRIED A GUN, EVEN TWO AT THE BAR, AND ALSO IN HIS ~~FEI~~ PICKUP) HALL'S NOT CERTAIN WHAT OR HOW MUCH HE TOLD ME PREVIOUS AND I BELIEVE TODAY HE CAN'T RECALL, THERE WERE TO MANY TIMES HE WAS JUST IN HIS "CUPS", BUT HIS STORIES, CONTRASTING TO WHAT HE MAY HAVE TOLD YOU IN '68 AND NOW, TO ME WOULD VARY, MOSTLY AS TO HIS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT. AT ONE TIME HE WAS, I FEEL, REALLY TRYING TO IMPRESS ME, WHY I DON'T KNOW, BUT POSSIBLY HE NEEDED TO UNLOAD TO A "FRIEND". HALL ALSO KNOWS "NOTHING WAS STOLE FROM HIM" OR ELSE I'M CERTAIN HE WOULD HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO FIND OUT WHO. IMPORTANTLY, ANY NOTEBOOKS OR MATERIALS HE OR HIS ATTORNEY PUTS FORTH WOULD BE GREATLY SUSPECT. I DON'T BELIEVE HE RETAINED ANYTHING AFTER GARRISON CHARGED HIM. HE WAS SCARED. OF EXACTLY WHO AND WHAT I DON'T REALLY KNOW, BUT I'M SURE IT HAD TO BE FORMER ASSOCIATES. HALL WAS REALLY "LOOKING OVER HIS SHOULDER" FOR THIS PERIOD, AND I STILL BELIEVE HIS HEALTH FAILURE SHORTLY THEREAFTER WAS CAUSED BY THE TENSION AND REAL FEAR HE WAS CARRYING WITH HIM. AGAIN, I COULD BE MISTAKEN, BUT YOU WOULD HAVE TO HAVE BEEN THERE AT THE TIME TO UNDERSTAND THE CHANGE, THUS I FEEL THAT ANY PERSONAL PAPERS, ETC. WOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. I'M INDEED CURIOUS AS TO HALL'S PRESENT LAWYER ( A COUSIN AS YOU WROTE ) THIS IS A NEW ONE. I'D BE CURIOUS ENOUGH TO RUN A CHECK ON HIM. ALSO, AS I STATED ABOVE I WOULD LIKE, IF POSSIBLE



4.

A DESCRIPTION OF HALL'S NOTEBOOK, JUST TO SEE IF IT'S THE SAME ONE I FOUND AT HIS HOME TEN YEARS AGO. WOULD THIS BE POSSIBLE? I'M CERTAIN THAT I COULD IDENTIFY IT. IN FACT, IF YOU WISH I WILL SEND UPON YOUR REQUEST A DESCRIPTION SO AS TO VERIFY THAT THE NOTEBOOK COULD INDEED BE FROM THAT PERIOD.

MY PLANS ARE TO BE TRAVELING AFTER THE FIRST OF JULY FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST ONE AND POSSIBLY TWO MONTHS. I WILL INFORM YOU AS TO THE EXACT LOCATION.

AN AFTER THOUGHT ON THE COMMITTEE'S STATEMENT OF STEALING HALL PAPERS, ETC. HAROLD, THAT KIND OF STATEMENT CAN GET ME IN MORE TROUBLE FROM HALL AND OR HIS SO CALLED ~~FERN~~ ASSOCIATES. ANOTHER THING THAT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND.

THE SOURCE OF THE INFO TO THE COMMITTEE, AS YOU KNOW, HAD TO COME FROM GARRISON'S FILES OR SOMEONE WHO HAD ACCESS TO HIS FILES.

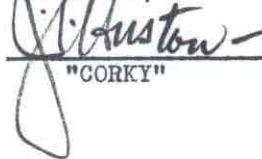
I HOPE THIS CLEARS UP HOW THIS CAME ABOUT, I SINCERELY WISH TO HELP IN ANYWAY POSSIBLE, BUT IF SOME COW-HEADED CONGRESSMAN/WOMAN IS STUPID ENOUGH TO PASS ALONG THAT KIND OF INFORMATION, I'M NOW REALIZING SOME OF WHAT YOU HAVE HAD TO GO THROUGH FOR SO LONG.

PROTECT YOUR HEALTH. I WISH IT WERE FINACIALLY POSSIBLE ON MY PART TO DO SOME TRAVEL, OR EVEN RESEARCH FOR YOU.

ANYTHING ELSE THAT CAN FILL THE GAPS I WILL FORWARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IF YOU STILL INTEND ON GOING TO L.A., I WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GET THERE FOR A PERSONAL MEETING.

SINCERELY,

  
"CORKY"

MY BEST TO YOUR WIFE.