

12/1/67

Dear Art,

When Dick Billings could not get down yesterday (Washington airports closed-snowed in) I could not get the master of the Castor tape. Primitive as my facilities are, I have dubbed a copy from my copy. The tape I used was just a few feet too short. You can splice the little piece onto the end of the second side and you'll have one tape, with a leader on the first side that is a little longer. It is at 1 7/8. Sorry I had to use second-hand tapes.

By now you know the Castor story. He was radical right (and still is), with some conspirous disagreements with them on basic doctrine (as on China). He was G-1 to Vinegar Joe Stilwell in the CBI theater. I think the government treated him miserably and led to the kind of inference that everyone drew from the misrepresentative Connell-Mechann documents. He would likely ask the kind of questions Mechann would consider those of an intelligence officer to satisfy himself that these Cubans were what he would consider worthy of the help they were getting.

As I told you, he and I had had two earlier interviews, the first a three-hour lunch at the Army-Navy club, the second, the very next afternoon, when he and his wife Trudi visited us, staying until 1 a.m. I set this one up, with their agreement to tape it, for Dick Billings who, I believed, then had investigative facilities in Dallas that neither Jim nor I had. This interview does not cover 10% of what I had earlier learned, but it does cover most of it. You will note references to Dr. George Butler. Penn says Butler is the "inuteman leader in the Dallas police end, if I recall correctly, had once propositioned Penn to run a Klan paper.

The second feminine voice on the tape is that of Nancy Haskell, Dick's assistant.

I wonder if perhaps Maggie would like to hear this with you?

As soon as you can, would you please dub a copy for Jim?

There is some dead air when the Castors are examining pictures. These are the Hall-Howard-Seymour pictures LIFE had. The Castorra did not recognize them. They also looked at some stills from a TV movie of a fund-raising Cuban affair at White Rock Lake, also negatively.

Part of what was not duplicated in this interview dealt with one Schwille, a wealthy, extreme-rightist agriculturalist, like your California berry man. Schwille, now dead, close to the Castors, was put out when the Cuban student group people he invited to his home the day after the Walker-Cuban meeting were not interested in what he had gone to great lengths to collect, the books Castro had used in Mexico. He regarded it as some kind of Communism for them not to have this interest (the reference to the "right" people on the tape is both figurative and literal-these were the Cubans the radical-right regarded as leftist who held that meeting and the "right" people did not attend). The people who had that meeting and, strangely, if the Castors considered them leftist, were of Bringuier's group, DRE. Now Bringuier even considered the fascist Ferrie a "Communist" and appeared under the Hargis auspices.

While I ramble, another item not covered in this interview is one Larry or Lawrence Myer (Meyer) an elderly man, World War I veteran (navy, and I believe submarine), who had a gun-running business in Dallas. I think Bob Castorr told me Myer said he made \$5.00 per rifle. I have often wondered whether, on the occasion of their leaving the trailer of drugs and munitions in Dallas, Hall et al could have left them with either Logue or Myer.

If there are any blanks on the tape, it is simply that I was not expert on those occasions when I had to stop and start. Copy what you have, send the copy I am sending back, and I'll go over both and fill in what is missing. I hope I haven't done this, but I am a real amateur. I used a ~~Quantum~~ Concord 330 to play the tape and picked up the sound with the mike on a Wollensak 5740, using the right channel only.

There is reference to one wealthy Puerto Rican Ferre. There are two wealthy brothers, Maurice and Luis. I discussed this with Harold Lidten, news director of WVUE-TV, New Orleans. He knows them both and is quite fluent in Spanish and has done a little checking around on his own. Why do you and he not get together by phone? Tell him I suggested it and what you will be doing. He is going to call Sylvia, who he has spoken to, and ask her if Leopoldo could have been Lorenze, Angelo Alonso). Harold believes this reference is to Luis, who, he describes less delicately, as of a roving eye.

If the ice-cream man turns out to be of interest, the reference is to the Rowley letter quoting Machann. I gave you a copy.

Reference to the Farmers' Branch meeting is to the one of which I told you. I just haven't the time or funds to get a copy of that tape. Billings has it but cannot give me a copy. Here, about 10/1/63, in Dallas, Cuban-organization speakers said that Kennedy was coming to Dallas (before public announcement of it) and when he did they'd take care of him. The groups is a study group of the right. They tape all their speakers and sell tapes of the speeches to make a little money. This night the taping was by an Irving chiropractor whose name Trudi could not recall. She promised to try and get that and a copy of the tape for me. I doubt if she did either, and I very much doubt that any of that rightist group would want to give a tape that involved them in the assassination. Unless they were convinced it might help disassociate them from suspicion of involvement in the assassination. Some day soon I'll be in touch with the Castorrs again. I phoned them about a month ago. Bob was due home the weeked I left for New Orleans. The older ~~man~~ son was due back from Dallas. She thought he might have some data, I suspect that Bob decided it is better to be silent for a while. They have been supposed to come to our new place and haven't. If you have any questions you'd like asked of them, please send them to me.

Note that we agreed not to make any public use of what they gave us. I think this is important for the additional reason that I also think they know more and can open doors for us in Dallas.

The reference to Sylvia as divorced is in error, I believe. Her husband left her. They are now reunited, in Puerto Rico. She told Harold Lidten she prefers not to have anything to do with any of this but if called before an official inquiry will repeat her testimony before the Warren Commission. She insists it is true (and I believe her). I also suggest that you consider she may have made a slight mistake in the date of the visit to her apartment, that it might have been a little earlier, say as early as August.

In the second interview, Bob indicated his belief one of the male nurses mentioned could have been the one referred to by Machann. What I was trying here was to learn the names of those Cubans employed in the hospital (the only kind of personnel who the Secret Service would have allowed near anything) who might have planted the bullet. The Thompson account of this is entirely improbable. close to impossible.

It is getting close to the time our single mail of the day, both incoming and outgoing, is due to arrive. I do not know the condition of the secondary roads, which lead to the side road on which we are. Our road was close to impossible before the chill of the night. My lane was so drifted by the time I returned from the P.O. last evening, after going for your registered package, that I got only 25 feet into it before the car was hopelessly mired. What I now plan to do is mail this and last night's letters separately and make an air package of the tapes and leave them in the box with a couple of bucks and the request that the rural route man have that packaged mailed by air and registered. If that presents any kind of problem, I'll just air the package. I do not think you'll have the kind of problem I have-for a while!

Please excuse the haste. I hope you can decipher the inevitable typos without too much strain.

I plan to offer one of the ~~speech~~ speech tapes to EBC. I am having a friend offer the other to a New York station. I'll keep all I can in circulation where they may be played.

Best regards,