This was a broken-up day parts of which I could not use for worhhwhile things, so
I read the first 47 pages. A Little more than half of this is Popkin's foreword, which
displays the limited state of his knowledge of 1966 but is not really bad, merely
inadequate and unoriginal.

Ed Williams had told me it was well done. It is trash, a not particularly good copy
of Hunt from the other side and to this point without swooning maidens. I think Ed must
have meant it could be commerical. Merely as a matter of record I'm making minor markings
as I read. Were it not the chance that this kind of rubbish might get attention I'd find
it amusing. Such jewels as Romero and Cafarakis taken seriously, the latter to "explain"
the Kennedy family silence. (Both the deep thought of that famous professor of philosophy.)

Characters are introduced for no purpose and without need, perhaps to provide more
excuse for the amateurish over-writing.

The Cuban stuff to this point is not Lane's or Garrison's and is in one book alone.
Actually, it doesn t bother me. I report to set the moral and ethical tone.

What really made me laugh is Lane's using my Valle stuff as the setting for the
first assassination attempt, I presume. I can hear Skolnick screaming Lane stole from him.
But the kicker is that I was tipped off to this aky by one Hank Ottinger, a Chicago
typesetter, whose letter said he had tried to interest Lane and Garrison innit but neither
would even answer! So here we have an ultimate in the ridiculous: Lane's rejection of a
tip that another carries as far as it can be only for Lane then to steal it.

The cheapskate tricks ar absurd, like footnotes (in a novel, mind you!) to what
is alleged to be spook jargon (and generally isn't, but is Garrison's). They even make
them up. Taking the WG Mexican money bit, they don't call it laundering, they call it
washing and footnote an explanation!

And carelessness, such as another of those footnotes, this time describing gusano
without saying it is a Castroitebdesignation.

From the beginning I presume they plot the dastardly deed with a 7.65 Mauser.
Well, that much is Mark! Not that a pro would even consider using one, under any conditions,
either Soldier's Field or Dealey Plaza. There is a nice touch here. The shooter times
himself, and his split-second timing becomes more accurate because he checks his own
stop-watch after firing.

So far, it is bad enough for me to enjoy it. I expect to be on a bus tomorrow, so
I may get to read more. As of this point, unless your collection includes a section on
horror stories, you'll not want it.

I was given an extra copy of The Invisible Government if either of you wants one.

You may remember I sent you a copy of an editorial from the local papers with some
interesting forecasts about Hunt. I then called, because of personal content, to learn
who on the editorial staff had met this person with that interesting info. At that time
I learned that it was not a local editorial for the editorial writer was sick. This evening
we were the guests of the editor and I asked him what he had learned. He had checked. It
was a column used as an editorial, either Biossat's or Ray Cromley's. Both right-wingers,
syndicated.

When I wrote O in NO I did not know that a fair amount of the Houma heist consisted
of shaping charges utterly useless in any guerrilla or other war. Lane is faithful to
my error. In the slight reference to it to this point, it is a serious and significant
cache. The truth is that those who heisted it did not take it where Lane says, to the
shack (he describes it as a resort area!) north of the lake. It went to Banister's office.
He knows so little of this stuff he mixed the two separate indidentd.

My previous guesses on sources were short. Add Guns of November.

If it weren't that this is terrible stuff to which I want to attract no attention,
I'd see to it that Skolnick got primed. He'll find out in time, I guess, but I won t help.
Ed knows the market for trash better than I, but my feeling is that this is a bomb. What
makes me fear it will not be is that it should be.