

Dear Jim,

2/10/74

Pursuant to your letter of 2/8 I have written Paul, carbon enclosed.

Pertinent to your comment on mail intrusion, which may report the accidental, I report that the stamps were not cancelled on your letter because the cancellation was on the wrong edge of the envelope.

However, I hope you are keeping what might be evidence, like that envelope. I keep a separate file of what I regard as the more probative examples. Including the opened.

If you have not replied to John, ask him if he is in the hole and why, including when possible correlation with appeal), because in the past he has been the victim of official abuse. I would also encourage him to ask the guy I told him about to write us about the Haynes matter.

You tick off the Hunt books you have. I would like a collection of them but they are not now to me worth the cost. Ed is leaving for a Mexican vacation and will be here after he returns. He may want to xerox them.

Offhand I am inclined to agree with your analysis of what can and probably is not of potential value. I thought you had the one other novel I think I'd like to read, Where Murder Waits, urban business. I thought you had said you have it.

Because our letters crossed you know I wrote Rafter. He does a weekend show from New York so even if he has the disposition to answer there has not been time. I did not know about the Singapore end, but if my recollection of the Fasnacht file I gave you is correct, there may be some correlation. I think he also had a Singapore address.

I have given Ed a couple of leads to follow circumspectly and confidentially. (If I did not send you a carbon, there was instant reaction from Lifton when I wrote Wakeford/Orloff and merely reported that one connected with them was engaged in trying to purloin my work. I did not identify Lifton, but he phoned Ed immediately, not to complain that Ed twisted what he had tried but that Ed had told me! Instead of saying he didn't know what Dave was talking about Ed said Dave had not asked him to keep it in confidence!)

What Golz says about Sheridan should be followed up. He should be asked for more specifics and details, how he knows, etc. Can this possibly refer to the zany thing James filed pro se? (I have filed this with the Hunt-bugging stuff.)

In your 1/23 you conjecture about a common Hunt-Shaw interest in Jazz. I caution you not to attribute too much to this. I also have the interest, if I rarely indulge it. It is common to the era in which we three were young.

It might be worth trying to follow the lead Paul gave you on the Arlington coven, it is old enough for Hunt to have checked with it in his writing. Where you talk about the Pentagon study, I suggest another alternative: that this was really a CIA project hidden in the Pentagon budget. Regardless, it is not at all unlikely that a) the CIA would have gotten the results and b) Hunt would have had access to them.

Enter/B ker: remember we have a Canadian who was connected with Baker through Don Reynolds. While he would be reluctant to get involved in anything, he would be anxious to do what might be necessary to avoid anything public. He has made a fresh start and wants to keep going. Unless there is something of which I do not know, I don't think the time you'd spend on reviewing the Baker -assassination stuff is best spent that way. The Park angle seems more interesting; if there is a choice between the two. No objection to Scott but objection to spelling out why or putting him in a position to guess. You know my respect for the writer about Vietnam and concern about the irresponsible confuser of conjecture and fact on the assassination and over the company he keeps, plus his unwillingness to learn or even consider what is incompatible with his preconceptions. These things are hurtful. And dangerous.

There were nuts in OSS who could have gone far attaching a gun to the CIA.

on assassinations and they could have assigned a fellow (political) believer to it, but there appears to be no logical reason for giving Hunt the assignment. I have updated you with what JW had to say about Tai "i.

Ed told me that Mae has her craziest yet in the current "ealist. It has a NYC address to which he plans to go.

In this you asked for Waldron's address. I don't have it. I have his phone.

As I was about to go to bed early last night I got a call from a wierdo I met at Georgetown, Judith Beck Stein. She had a tale about an apparent right-winger, Ed. J. Kelley, Jr., who had literature that from her description seems to have been "win-Circle stuff. I fear she is wanky. But if she reported accurately what she had seen, Kelley had some interest in the Georgetown meeting and opinions on participants because he annotated the program with OKs and crossings out, but former, me latter. But if she reported accurately, he would seem to be on her side of the thin line. She claims that he claimed CIA connection. His address, 3000 Conn., Ext 111. She lives at 2723 N, NW, wrote and published The Journal of Judith Beck Stein, distributed by RFDistributing, Rockville. (She says they destroyed copies.)

She has a thing against Chestnut Lodge, Rockville, a private mental hospital, alleging it to be a CIA operation. It is much older than CIA, which is not refutation. Her animosity is consistent with her having been a patient. She gave me her book at Georgetown but I don't recall what I ~~did~~ did with it. I recall the impression that she was disturbed.

A fast check of the pages of the city directory received yesterday shows Dorland's representation of the fifth floor at 1750 Penna NW to be close enough, perhaps entirely accurate, if the one listing other than the military group is a front. He said it was all a military floor.

If his former wife is still around, we should try to get together with her because from her days in CIA she should know some of those of current interest.

Best,

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February 8, 1974

Dear Harold,

As the enclosed letter from Golz indicates, he has sent me a number of clippings on the Hunt wiretapping case. Copies are on the way to you third class.

I've separated from the other Golz materials the wire story quoting Foreman. Seems like Percy again feels the need to publicly do in another ex-client. A pattern begins to emerge: whatever motive Foreman had, he attributes to his ex-client. In the Ray case the motive is publicity, in the Kelly case it is shake-down of the rich.

I note that Foreman says he once hired Kelly for private investigation work. Of course, in his deposition in the Ray civil suit he went on at some length about how he never hires private investigators. Could you find out from Rothermel what sort of investigative work Kelly did for Foreman on what case and with what result?

John Ray wrote me a letter from Marion dated February 2. The letter arrived yesterday. As usual, the envelope had no postage stamp, but this time it did not have the franking stamp either, although it had been cancelled and bore the postmark: "Richmond VA. FEB 6 PM". There seems to be no innocent explanation for this. If the letter had been given by John to someone leaving the prison to mail--and the contents of the letter would not provide a reason for this--the envelope would have a postage stamp. The letter is written in pencil, but if John has been put in the hole he gives not the slightest indication of it. It looks to me like a clear case of mail tampering.

I have the following Hunt books: Bimini Run (1949), The Judas Hour (1951), Lovers Are Losers (1953), I Came To Kill (1953), Whisper Her Name (1952), My Body (Robert Dietrich, 1962), On Hazardous Duty (David St. John, 1965), The Venus Probe (David St. John, 1966), The Towers Of Silence (David St. John, 1966), One of Our Agents Is Missing (David St. John, 1967), The Sorcerers (David St. John, 1969), Diabolus (David St. John, 1971), and The Coven (David St. John, 1972). Hasty glances at the earlier books indicates they are probably useless for our purposes, but the David St. John ones all seem to reveal something about Hunt and his politics.

Best regards,


Jim

P.S. On T.V. the night before last there was an item about the Mullen agency having had an office in Singapore with only one employee, a CIA agent. Neither the Times nor the Post nor the Star-News carried anything on it that I saw. I think you may have mentioned this to me a long time ago. If I can get a name or address (perhaps Mullen Co, is the name, I'll see what assistance I can get from Singapore.

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January 23, 1974

Dear Harold,

I've obtained copies of two David St. John books, Diabolus and The Sorcerers. Will mail them today or tomorrow. Have not been able to locate The Coven. You may have to pick one up for me.

This witchcraft trilogy and the Hunt estate, "Witches Island", has bewitched my free association mechanism, which, as you know, has always been subject to sudden spells. I believe I mentioned to you about a year ago that it had crossed my mind that Shaw and Hunt might know each other. However wild that may have seemed at the time, it seems less so now. Both men have an interest in witchcraft and contact with right-wing, Spanish-speaking persons, particularly Cubans. Both have literary aspirations. Hunt has an interest in jazz and is apparently something of a gourmand. I don't recall whether Shaw has an interest in jazz, but I would assume he is also a gourmand. This doesn't make it inevitable that they met, but it sure arouses my curiosity. Witchcraft has a long history in England, so it is in keeping with Hunt's patrician self-image. Witchcraft is also an elitist rite. "Coven" has a very precise dictionary definition: "an assembly or band of especially 13 witches". How many witches are there in the United States, and how many of them know each other? If The Coven has Louisiana references, as you say, Hunt must have been there. When? Where? With his interests and background, isn't it likely that his path and Shaw's crossed there?

While I'm on random musings, Senator Fullbright attacked the Pentagon several years back for an expensive study it made of witchcraft in Africa. Any chance that Hunt could have had some connection with that project, either as originator of the proposal or as a paid expert-on-witchcraft consultant?

Turning less speculative matters, I stopped by the Gourmetisserie on my way back from the dentist yesterday. I asked the proprietress if she knew anything about The Georgetown Club two blocks down the street. Our conversation was very brief, as new customers came in, but she did know a little. Paul Enten had tried to get her to move her shop into that building. She confirmed my initial suspicion that Enten was the interior decorator-con man who had been involved in the Bobby Baker burglary ring. At one time there had been a tea garden there. She thought the whole building was owned by the real estate firm next door.

I have your question as to why Norman Larsen would be mixed up with the Paul Enten-Bobby Baker crowd. Perhaps because this was just one of Enten's many "deals". But it raises in my mind a question as to whether I ought not take a little time and go over some of the allegations about Baker's possible involvement in the JFK assassination. I had pretty much dismissed them. I believe the mysterious Cabal manuscript we received had something on this.

I also want to spend some extra time on the history of the YAF and related right-wing groups in the early 60's. Peter Dale Scott has done some work on this, I think, particularly as related to the anti-komintern conventions and alliances. If you have no objection, I'd like to write Scott and ask whether General Park had a representative at any of these meetings, and if so, who.

On Szulc's book, I have not taken notes thus far. I have noted a few things in my mind. One is the inability to place Hunt with any particular OSS unit in the China-Burma theater. There is another possibility which Szulc does not mention. There was a Chinese School of Assassination and Sabotage in Chungking during the war. The Kuomintang head of it was General Tai Li (pronounced Die Lee). The OSS cooperated with it. Perhaps "subsidized" or "directed" might be better words. The OSS people know to be connected with this "school" were Admiral Milton ("Mary") Miles, who I believe directed it, and Dr. Cecil Coggins, a Navy Captain who taught there. Is it possible that Hunt was really attached to the Chinese School of Assassination and Sabotage, and that this accounts for his not being locatable elsewhere?

I've long been interested in General Tai Li, as has Peter Dale Scott. Tai Li was second only to Chiang-Kai-Shek in the Kuomintang, and there is some doubt as to just how much he was really second. The father of a friend of mine was assassinated by Tai Li's operatives. Tai Li and his followers were deeply involved in heroin trade and smuggling activities, which is one reason for Scott's interest in them. Tai Li's men were known as "The Blue Shirts".

I'll try to come up Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, mainly depending on your preference.

Best regards,


Jim

P.S. Send me Waldron's address.
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