

3/30/67

Dear Shirley,

The clippings with your letter jointly to LA arrived today. I copied what I wanted of the clippings and returned them in the de luxe service return envelope. Many thanks. Inadvertently, in cutting off a ragged edge to assure that the paper didn't catch in the ~~new~~ old Thermofax I cut off part, and a small part, of another story. I got it out of the trash and it said nothing so I did not tape it back on.

In my last batch of James Hickey's, supposedly going from the 16th thru the 26th, the issues of 22 and 24 were missing. Do not send them unless you think there is something significant....The story on Oswald's neatness arrived just in time for appropriate use

I have been using scotch tape only where I thought the envelope might come open. In the case of the clips that was true. If you are concerned about this, I suggest you use the more expensive masking tape. I do not give any thought to intrusions. I assume them and go my way. If I worried about that I'd be crippled. My resentment comes when I've had my services interfered with. One of these cost hardback publications of WITNESS in England almost a year ago. My agent never did get the entire ms to II, and I can tell from his letters that he still doesn't get all of mine, all of which have return addresses.

I have not changed the opinion of Oswald I expressed on page 138, line 4ff. I recall this reference because refusal to change my beliefs caused me hardback publication by a major house. I am convinced he killed no one, as I have said from the beginning. I am likewise convinced he was involved. Of the nature of his involvement I am not sure. I think he was a "patsy". Can I be more specific? I also think, as I understand his mother told, that he had an intelligence-agency involvement, perhaps through the Cuban groups. I am convinced he was connected with them.

He will with this mail a copy of each to your sister, but not by air.

I'm getting a little closer to the end of the N.O. book. It is now about 75,000 words. It will run about 100,000 plus the documents and pictures.

I did not see the Bohovan article on Harrison. I believe not what the yellow press says but what I have seen in direct quotes and heard him say on TV, that he has no reason to believe Oswald killed anyone. I gather he believes in my false Oswald, and that he has the same interest I found in Hall and the others. When I see otherwise I'll believe it. I do not think I would have been invited down, as I have been, if there was a radical disagreement with what I have published. I think Russo was an improvisation. Let us wait until he presents his case before judging. He certainly grabbed a hot one in tackling the Attorney General and the DJ and the Commission. I think when he is finished there will be more eyes on Texas. I also think that if Russo was not a plant it was not necessary to have known JFK would be in Dallas in November. It could have been planned for anywhere and executed there....I think Oswald knew nothing about what happened until he saw it, then panicked for a while....Speaking of Vince, he has not answered several letters. The last, several weeks ago, proposed that he file a suit for which I have prepared....Check on Striso....I think you are right about Ruth Faine. There is one thing I would like, when you write or speak to her. I am going to (and in rough draft have already) answered Manchester's libel. If she has no reluctance, I'd like her to write an answer, documented as she can from the published letters and anything else. I will not quote her by

name if she has objection or reluctance. I do not look down my nose if there was a homosexual relationship, just do not believe it. I believe the letters and Marina's testimony are to the contrary....I would like to be able to prove Aynesworth is the source. He has been evil...I agree with you that it is important for the Paine children for her to refute this. It is also important for her and Michael....It is not idle curiosity, but I do not want to know what I shouldn't, either. What is the blackmail being held over her....Do you know anything about these two New Orleans addresses 117 Camp and 1032 Canal....Just say these odd deaths are unlike any others...Please excuse mailing this without checking for typos. Wanted to write but lost too much time today. Got little writing done. I'm in my new and entirely different False Oswald chapter now....One of the characters in my first book has written me and said he can give me another book and confirms the accuracy of what I said of him...Odd. I do not know what he knows, but I imagine he could know a lot....Nothing new from the Colonel, whose regular employment keeps him busy and travelling. He said three months ago he'd like to talk to me and I replied anytime. I do not bug people. If he does not talk to me before I finish this book he'll be sorrier. He was, apparently, engaged in gun running and apparently for pay. He is Welker's friend.

Sincerely,

March 22, 1967

Just a note. Have you seen article in "L'Humanite" (French Communist paper) that says Clay Shaw used to work for CIA in Italy. I am supposed to receive Xeroxed-copy this week. If I get, I will send to you, if you don't have. Perhaps you can pick this paper up out of NY.

Ahohq,  
S.

Have not received my New Orleans papers at all this week. Probably just accidental, but it is irritating. Sometimes I think there are pixies operating out of New Orleans! I have heard no news at all out of Garrison this week.

March 26, 1967

Dear Harold (and L.A.):

You are quite right, Harold, about marking the clippings with dates, origin, etc. I am absolutely incorrigible on this. My most agonizing moment was early in '64 when I read in one of my clippings that Ruby had been seen inside Fritz's office while that gentleman was interviewing Oswald. I sent the information to Deirdre (who at that time was handling all the mail for the Citizens' Committee); she wrote back of course asking for the name of the paper and the date. Not only didn't I have those pieces of information, but I had LOST the clipping, which I haven't seen from that day to this. What embarrassment. Deirdre took it graciously, but I wonder to this day if she thought I made up the whole incident. (The nearest I have come to justification is Victor Robertson's deposition in which he describes seeing Ruby with his hand on Fritz's doorknob about to enter the office.)

I will try to do better in your regard. Well, you are being foolish after I especially asked you to not try to repay me in any way on the postage. If it will make your conscience feel better, send a copy of WW 1 to my sister (who is married to a History Professor at the University of Hawaii); this might get the controversy going in University circles over there. The address is:

Professor and Mrs. Charlie Hunter  
c/o University of Hawaii  
History Department  
Honolulu, Hawaii.

Did you see Donovan's article on Garrison in the Washinton papers? I can't say I disagree with him. Harold, let me be Cassandra and wail my fears of Garrison. After all, if he is right after all and I am wrong then all I have to do is apologize to you and Penn. But there is something wrong down there. I am not smart enough to put my finger on it but with the polls demanding from the American people a conviction of a conspiracy and with out national leader such a poll-reader, I am led to wonder if we are not being asked to accept a conspiracy involving Oswald, so that we will not only take our eyes off Texas, our beloved leader's home state) but off Oswald's government ties as well. You know, it is nearly impossible to imagine that in September, Shaw, Ferrie and Lee knew about the book bldg. job or about the route. It is possible of course that they discussed assassination; then on hearing of Kennedy's visit and route in early November they contacted Lee and the show was on the road. However, because I am so foolishly (I suppose) committed to the belief that Lee was innocent, I find the Garrison investigation serving only one purpose: He is satisfying national demand (as reflected in the polls) for a conspiracy, while at the same time throwing a sop to the egos (and these are b-i-g) of the investigators. A recent letter from Vince Salandria lyricized: "We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Garrison." Not yet. And not me. I will wait. Vince can dirty himself all he pleases. He has done that before. Too much enthusiasm is a fine thing in the very young; in the middle-aged, it shows lack of alternatives.

But as I told you, I will be the first to apologize when and if Garrison produces. L.A., you asked me if I had received any letters with tape

on the back. In the olden days, I received a great deal like this; in fact, almost every letter I got (and sent) was arranged this way. Lately this has nearly vanished, with the exception of a letter I got from Harold today. I am mentioning it here so that he can tell us if he did not tape. However, since he was returning some newspaper clippings, I thought the tape was useful. About two months ago I received a series of strange letters from a man by the name of "Striso." All his letters had tape on them. Since that time I have stopped corresponding with Striso on the advice (mutual advice) of Sylvia who had a rather strange and sinister experience with him. However, due to some sort of sixth sense I had not trusted him from the start and was reminded of this rather tartly by him in one letter in which he remarked: "Corresponding with you is a one-way street."

Harold, you know if there is any way I can help you, let me know. I am anxious to see this thing resolved, of course. Penn has asked me to write down my talks with Ruth Paine but I feel hesitant about this: Ruth remains a great source ~~of~~ in my opinion and I hate to alienate her. What I want to do is talk to her again, preferably in person. Is there any thing in particular you would like to know from her end? She is very approachable; how she will be now that the Manchester libel is out, I can't say. The Lesbian connotation is unfair; what may be in her subconscious, no one can definitively say, but in regard to her surface relations with Marina, they were not Lesbian-orientated, I can assure you. I am told that the source for these stories is Aynesworth who is alleged to have gotten them from Marina; but he did not. He got them from the FBI, which could explain the do-anything-for-you attitude of Ruth for Marina in no other way. Very well. We will wait on that one too. Actually I think Ruth is a fool to play their game. She has two lovely children who will bitterly resent Manchester's book for sure. Their age protects them now. But later on Ruth may be persuaded to sing another song. She is good woman, boring as that sounds. Foolish, of course, and I don't think I would have behaved as she did. On the other hand, they did not have on me what they have on her. Time may change that bit of blackmail too.

Did you see the item in the NY Times (3/23/67) about Youth House. It said that truancy cases were put in with homosexuals and narcotics addicts, etc. This brought to mind Lee's cry to Marguerite: "Mama, they've got me in with murders and thieves and people who smoke!" (Quote by memory.) I sent it to Marguerite as another proof of Lee's integrity. No; I don't talk to Mama, but I have enormous respect for her. She drives me mad, but she is brave and bold.

I will close. Let me know if you want me to say anything to Ruth. I will be in contact with her shortly if possible.

Love to you and your wife,  
And to L.A. and Penn,  
S.

L.A., have just learned that Grant Stockdale was a close personal friend of Batista too. Oh, boy.

*Harold, the news clippings, which came this morning, can be returned at your leisure with the enclosed envelope. I did not send Sunday items (Times-Picayune), as you say you are not clipping this. Was interested in statements (over)*

about Oswald's physical appearance as reflected by Mrs. Garner & Alva. (enclosed)

Penn called a few minutes ago. He heard that Mrs. Wm. Shelley had died yesterday in Oklahoma City. I called a reporter friend who called the Okla. City police on it. According to police, she "scalded herself to death" in the

Shower at 3 AM. Easter morning. <sup>Neither</sup> Penn nor I have been able to get Mrs. Shelley's initial. Is it the <sup>same</sup> <sup>&</sup> <sup>word?</sup> Jim Standard (reporter) also said two friends (Clay Roberts) death (sliding car into side of train) was unexplainable. According to Standard, visibility was excellent - no explanation.