

5/24/00

Dear Joan,

Thanks for the addressed envelopes. I'm so frail that even so little now means much.

Matt phoned me after you left and what a joy that was! I doubt you'll ever meet any finer people anywhere.

I did not exaggerate how limited I now am when we spoke. And I am very far behind in correspondence that means much to us. You do your book your way but I'm telling you you will be sorry if you do not check all the sources out. Like your sources for that Oswald-Thornley business. ~~It~~ It is all wrong. It is also a Garrison/Boxley story. Both were involved as observers almost only in what I did. I think ~~the~~ ^{the} trust is better not only because the truth is always better but the millions of false and made-up stories can be used to hurt you and your book. Most of the people with and behind those many myths were, really, subject-matter ignoramuses and each embroiled on the other for the most part.

Matt can share that old correspondence with you but do remember that as I learned what I believed change. Please also, both of you, use your judgement on what should be disclosed about other people. I've no idea what is in any of it.

The Jones story is one ~~I~~ ^I wanted in fairly full detail, as I'd have used it if I had not learned it after I finished Oswald in New Orleans. It is one of the matters I told ~~you~~ ^{you} would come to mind as we talked, as you asked questions and as more returned to mind. Jones twice and his assistant, Myra Silver once, were my sources, I have a tape of the second interview because Boxley ~~stole~~ ^{stole} the first. Garrison knew about it and did nothing about it.

Hell ~~live~~ ^{Boxley} Boxley story, too, and Garrison. He had it and did not use it or authorize following it up.

If you do come make a list of those you interviewed and I'll tell you what I know of them. Of those I remember you can save yourself a disaster by checking.

cc: Matt Herron

Please check what you use ^{damn} with me.

Best,

Harold
Harold Weisberg

Joan Mellen

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New Jersey 08534

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May 21, 2000

Harold Weisberg
7623 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21702

Dear Harold,

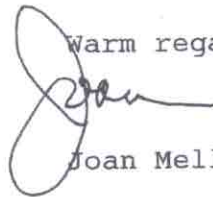
Matt Herron has some old correspondence with you which he would like to share with me ---letters of the period in question. Quite properly, he does not want to do so, however, without your permission.

I would be very grateful if you would drop him a note saying it's ok for me to see copies of what he has. He has been quite wonderful, by the way, and you know how short in supply such people are.

I hope that you are holding your own. I'm off shortly to Louisiana.

Envelope addressed to Matt enclosed, for your convenience.

Warm regards,



Joan Mellen

Post Office Box 359
Pennington, New Jersey 08534
May 21, 2000

Dear Harold,

Two letters from me in one mailing!

I had a long talk with our mutual friend Jim Lesar last night and so I know that only a month or so ago you had a birthday! Happy 87th birthday, which is what Jim figured it was. He told me how much he enjoyed seeing you.

Last night he suddenly introduced a piece of information, a discovery of yours, which I would like to mention.

He said that you had interviewed the proprietor and an employee (or the wife) of the proprietor of the Jones Printing Company who, confronted by several (?) photographs, among them Lee Harvey Oswald and Kerry Thornley, picked out, without question the person who picked up the "Hands Off Cuba" (?) leaflets as Thornley and NOT OSWALD. Can you clarify this?

Did you tell Jim Garrison about this? If so, did he use it effectively? (I confess to not yet having examined my own Thornley files which are copious). I'm trying to familiarize myself with the material before I see you.

More, what are the implications? Jim thought it meant: Oswald was not working alone, at minimum.

Among many things about which you are absolutely right: the integrity of Steve Bordelon. He has been a great help to me, and I wouldn't have been so persistent in approaching him had you not pointed this out.

Now I have to survive New Orleans and Louisiana, including Clinton-Jackson plus Mary Ferrell and Gary Shaw (Dallas).

I'd be grateful for a word about the Jones Printing detail. Envelope enclosed, of course.

Warmest regards,


Joan Mellen

P.S. Did you find the Isaac Don Levine book interesting? I hope it arrived safely. What could Salandria have had in mind by showing that to Garrison in December of 1968 amid all the Boxley-Perrin troubles!!!!