

Dear friend Orrestes,

5/20/75

After receiving your letter of March 21 I answered on the 27th, explaining what was keeping me busy and that I could make out enough of your letter to tell me that I had better be careful and understand it clearly before answering it. Not to trust what I could make out with a dictionary.

Perhaps your papers carried the AP story Sunday on what I obtained from one of those suits. If the Sunday paper carried it (the date it was to have been published) I'd appreciate a copy.

I am due in court tomorrow on the second. The FBI is playing games with this evidence, the court and me and I have to get to work promptly to help my lawyer Jim expose them.

I have been sick. It was serious but really was not bad on me except that it left me weak. I had pneumonia and pleurisy. It happened when I was away from home, which was worse. And now that I am better the weakness is a real problem because things like grass and weeds are growing as well as flowers and I have to mow them down. I have two old riding mowers, both just repaired and neither working after repair! So, I have all this work to do with a worn-out push mower. It can be very hard and it is because I was not able to mow when the grass and weeds just started to grow. What I have to do is work perhaps 30 minutes and then stop and rest for an hour or more. So, with 5 acres, I'm pushed for time to push! And still do anything else.

Although I am supposed to get more sleep, I got up early to prepare some memos for my lawyer to use in court and to answer your letter because I now have a translation of it.

I do with you would use your tape recorder. You could tell me more and I could listen to it while I drive. For example, I'll have to drive for more than two hours tomorrow, to and from Washington. When I'm on the open road it is safe to listen. While I have a little trouble with your accent, I do make it out and I learn more from you this way, as in the past. Nobody ever writes all that is in his memory. When I take my wife to the grocery store, I can listen to tapes while she shops. Listening takes more time for me than reading but it gives me more information, which I want.

You told me things I did not know and about which I would like to know more. Maybe also I forgot some. I do not remember that I knew there were two different printing operations at 115 Decatur, Grad's and Melvin's. I thought it was all one as I now remember it. What was Grad in the Army and what do you think was done in his press that you cannot prove?

A man who was an informant told me of being inside that building. As I remember it he told me that at the back of the second floor there were things indicating work for the CIA, with big maps of Cuba on the walls or doors. He also told me that Grad was able to do printing other plants could not do. Can you tell me more of this?

You say "Mr. Melvin was also working for the CIA." What was Melvin's first name and what work did he do for the CIA? Can you tell me what kind of counterfeit money he printed? For what country?

Then you say that as soon as Garrison started up they closed the original Melvin plant. Is this the case you told me about, the truck in the alley all of a sudden? If you can tell me more it could be helpful. And the name of the second Melvin who then went to work for Grad? I take it that with this cover the same kind of work, more or less, continued under Grad? For the CIA?

I am aware that you now are not afraid, but I'd appreciate it if you would tell me what it is that you knew.

You are right about Garrison. I suppose it is when you realized this that you stopped seeing me for a while. I did not understand him when I first went there but later I came to know the truth. But when I did and told you in a certain way, I think you had doubts. Remember when I told you that I was independent, that I did not work for him? This was always true but by then I had come to understand that he was not doing good work and that even the good people he had working for him were without experience in this particular kind of work.



This is not personal criticism of them because I would be lost in their kind of work, regular police work.

With some of them I had a decent relationship and some did keep their words. Thus I could have protected you as I did others because we had a working relationship, some of these others and I. I regret that Jim's word was not good, as I learned. I can date this for you. It was the time I was there before that night your tires were slashed. (That woman was un poco loco but she also had good information for me.)

If when you say "Mr. Garrison did not desire that you should be in New Orleans" you have special reasons I would like to know them. I knew some. One he was jealous because I did things he and his people could or did not. Another is because I did not kiss his ass and tell him how great he was while he was making a mess of it. Another is that I stopped some of his messes and cleaned others up after he made them. Yet another is that he did not understand some things and stole some of my work when I explained it to him in confidence because he did not understand it and I did, expecting to use it ~~for~~ myself. Still another is that he had friends from out of New Orleans who did not like me. I could go on. I knew. But there also were dishonorable visits to you, including by that puto Lane. If you would take the time to explain these things it could be helpful to my understanding and to the work I am still doing. I will when I can return to the work I was doing then in New Orleans. I have that book partly written but have had to lay it aside. I really would like to be able to use all you know and have not told me in it when I can get back to it. You were very helpful in that work and I believe you knew more that you did not tell me. I do not know why but I think you had your own reasons. One perhaps was not trusting Garrison?

One thing I think I never asked you when we were talking about the pressures the FBI put on you: did you ever know or have anything to do with a former agent named Milton Kasck? Or one named Will Hayden Griffin or Griffen? The second one left New Orleans when he incurred Hoover's displeasure. I understand he covered the French Quarter.

I believe I knew that you got your passport in the Customs building. What I do not remember knowing is that they could be obtained elsewhere in New Orleans. I also know you thought strange things were being done in that building but not what strange things.

If I never told you, one of my problems with Garrison was his nutty idea that because you needed vacations from the hard work you did and travelled you had to be some kind of agent! He actually believed this and had people working on it. I finally got him to drop it. This is the kind of foolishness on which they wasted time and ruined themselves. But none dared stand up to him. This made me more unwelcome when I did. (Some of them asked me to do this when they were afraid to.)

What do you mean when you say "It seems that things have changed a ~~bit~~ little" and base this on a meeting you had with one I take to be Louis Ivon. I suppose Louis is back in the regular police now. He is the one in Jim's office for whom I had most respect. If this conversation was not confidential, I would like to know what it is so that I could understand this change. I liked Louis and he tried to help me. He is by far the most competent Garrison had only Garrison kept him too busy with crazy things. Louis is not a lawyer but alone, with help he could boss, he could and would have done a better job than was done. I don't see how he got out with what he did.

You are right, truth does reign over all things, but the question is how to bring truth out. It now cannot be done in court in New Orleans. However, it can in other ways. For example, and please keep this confidential, there are Members of Congress in touch with me. I'd like to know these things you have in mind so that if and when there is the opportunity I can use them. There are other indications that this false story is coming apart. I am, I think, doing much to this end in court in Washington. (I've now won five suits on this alone against the government.) So, while there is no way of knowing, if you would tell me these things perhaps I could



use the information this way, in court up here. Without knowing it, naturally, I cannot. And I do think the only practical way is for you to talk it, on tape.

Was not John the lawyer who you had when the FBI was giving you trouble, when you were before the Warren Commission? (Remember I sent you their files on you, even showing the time they spent on you?) If you can not get this data back from him, can you tell me in detail what it was? If he gave it to them I may be able to get it or help you get it. This is not impossible.

It is not now possible for my friend Jim to leave and will not be for a while because of earlier and extensive commitments he has made as a lawyer. He has to do his work in court here because he has no choice. I have long wanted him to file some collection cases for me in New York but it simply has not been possible, much as I need the money out of which I've been cheated. So, the only way is for me to know and go over with him and then we try to do it in court here. So, let me know about those two bureau chiefs. I do not believe you ever mentioned them. If you did, not in detail or I've forgotten and I do not think I would. I knew only that one was behind the dirty things being done to you, the one there at the end of 1963 and into 1964.

Really the only practical way is for you to let me know these things because I can't go down there now. And not only because I do not have the money. You have been my friend, you have trusted me, so I think you know that we are still friends, that I value the help you give, and that you can still trust me.

I know that you are not afraid as I know when you were (and had reason to be) and as I know when you reached your decision (after that first auto accident, when you got the Cadillac). Am I not right? You were also afraid when your wife was pregnant and there was that other accident, but what man would not be afraid for a pregnant wife and the unborn baby?

All the tapes of our previous interviews are safe and secure for when I can return to that writing. This is the one way what you know can be preserved. Please do it this way again, only without me there to ask questions. I can write you questions afterward if I have any.

Orestes, I have taken this time beginning before daylight when I should not be getting so little rest while I am recovering and in preference to the work I've postponed that I need for court tomorrow because I know you can be helpful and because you have been and because you may not only know what you say but can also give me information that may fit with work I have done that you do not know. One little fact that may mean nothing to you may fit with what I have done or with records I have obtained from the government.

I do hope you will take the time to do this.

If you see Louis again please remember me to him.

My best wishes to you. You have been a good friend and I prize it.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg



Dear Orestes,

3/27/75

Your valuable letter of the 21st came here promptly and I read as much as I could without a dictionary while a new tire was being put on and balanced. I also read the very helpful clipping. (I'm glad you left the date on because that also is important.) I understood enough of the letter to know that unless I am careful I may get the wrong impression so I'll let it wait until I can get together with my trustworthy ~~friend~~ friend Jim, who studied Spanish in college.

This particular newspaper story illustrates the importance of getting stories from local papers and from papers other than are available around here. The story itself was not new to me. I knew about it prior to the developments to which it refers. What makes it important is one particular set of facts that did not appear anywhere else. Not the story itself. These separate few details. So, I thank you and I do hope you will continue to take the time to send those things you think can be of interest or value to me. I fully expect to be able to use that little part of the long story in court at the right time.

I am sorry to stay so much too busy. The regular work, if there had been nothing else, would be too much for one man. But recently there has been more. First I have to send out all the orders for the books. This time of the year is the only time we have a regular income. My wife is a tax consultant. And then work that I started years ago is coming to a head and with success. You saw one example in the new book. Two other suits have turned out well. In one I obtained what I was suing for before going to court. I have it and making the proper use takes time. In that case between not having the money to pay the printer or the time to do the writing I have had to give up even thinking of writing a book about it although that could be a very important book. I want the information to appear in honest form, however, not just as another sensation. So, it takes some time. In the second after I filed the suit the government initiated negotiations for settlement out of court. They say they will give me what I've been asking for. We'll see. But again, friend, the time it takes! And the cost when there is no reserve and no real income. God knows what kind of bill they will give me for this.

Other things are necessary to a writer. Two days of the past two weeks there have been interviews that took up most of those days. Today it lasted until after 2 p.m. But when that story appears, if it is an honest one, it can be very helpful.

Then there were two people here from a publication to discuss a story and to make an inquiry into whether they can get interested in some of the work I've done but can't pay to get printed. Whether or not it is successful, it is time that comes from too little time. And of course these kinds of efforts are essential if my work is to be available and if I am to merely survive.

I tell you these things so you will understand why I do not write. It is not lack of interest. I wish it were possible for us to spend more time together.

If I do not respond, do not for a minute think I have not paid close attention to what you tell me. You have been helpful and I appreciate it. It is my situation. I am a writer who has not been able to write for six months!

I am sorry you do not use your tape recorder. Then there would be no problem with translation because I do not speak Spanish. And I could listen to your tape while I drive. Now I spent four fifteen minute trips each day taking my wife to work, going home, going for her and bringing her back. When I go to Washington the round trip is two hours. If you used your recorder it would be much easier for me. There is another value. At some point all my files will wind up in a college as an archive. What you tell me then would not have to be translated and there would be a permanent record for history in your voice. (You can fix a cassette so it can't be erased by accident by breaking out the tabs on the back.)

I did make out the right initials in your letter and with whom they are connected. This is what makes me want to be absolutely certain of what you say and not to depend on what I can piece together with the help of a dictionary. But aside from my own time pressures that keep me away from Jim he has a deadline on filing an appeal in court. Much work for him. Thanks you again, good friend. Please keep telling me and sending what you can, for which sincere thanks. And my best wishes to you all! Sincerely,



New Orleans, La. 21 March 1975

Dear Harold.

Aquí le estoy enviando algo que salió en los periódicos de New Orleans, y que creo que a Usted le interese.

En su última carta me dice que le diga de la Señora de Mr. Grad, si ella ha sido la secretaria del Alcalde ( Mayor) Por mas de 20 años desde que Chip Morrison era Alcalde (Mayor). ( Mr. Grad Es el dueño de la imprenta que esta en el 115 Decatur St. Mr. Grad es un alto oficial del ejercito (Army) y aun se encuentra en la reserva activa. En su Imprenta se hacian muchas cosas que yo no puedo probar.....Pero la pequeña Imprenta que habia en el mismo edificio(115 Decatur) estaba el Sr. Melvin que trabajaba para la C.I.A.

Esté Sr. Melvin tenia compañía hasta altas horas de la noche, la C.I.A. le enseñó tanto que ahora esta en la cárcel por imprimir (Counterfit) dinero falso..... cuando Mr. GARRISON empezó a investigar el caso de la muerte del presidente cerraron la pequeña Imprenta .... y en la Imprenta de Mr. Grad empezó a trabajar otro Sr. que tambien se llama Melvin, (esto lo hicieron para tapar al verdadero MELVIN ).....

Como Usted Puede ver en esta carta yo conocia todas las cosas que ellos hacian.....pero si yo hablaba sabia que me iban a matar, ya no tengo miedo....en aquel tiempo le tenia miedo a Mr. GARRISON tambien pues el era un oportunista que lo que queria era hacerse grande a cuenta de lo que otros sabian..... Mr. GARRISON no queria que Usted estuviera en New Orleans,.

La F.B.I. dijo que yo habia sacado mi Pasaporte el mismo dia que Oswald..... pero no dieron la direccion correcta donde se saco el Pasaporte..... Yo saque mi Pasaporte en el Edificio que esta frente al Habana Bar ( Custom House ) ..... pero a ellos no les convenia poner esa direccion para que no se supiera la verdad de todo lo que ahí se hacia.....

Parece que las cosas han cambiado un poco, pues hace unos dias me encontré con el que era Primer asistente de GARRISON ( Mr. Louis ) y me estuvo hablando.....

Con alguien que tenga un poco de fuerza yo puedo resolver el caso de la muerte del Presidente.....pero tiene que ser alguien que no tenga miedo a lo que pueda sobrevenir.....la verdad impera sobre todas las cosas..... lo unico que yo quiero es que mi nombre no este tan sucio como la F.B.I. lo ha puesto. Yo quiero acusar al Abogado ( John ) hijo de un Policia.

Pues yo le di algunos datos importante....(los cuales dice no sabe donde los puso)..... pero me dijo que el queria ir a testiguar a la WERRER Comision y que no le cobraba nada por su trabajo.....

Yo quiero que la F.B.I. y la C.I.A. me pongan cargos en la Corte y entonces vamos a ver quien es el que acusa y quien es el que dice la verdad..... de todo lo que paso concierne a la muerte del presidente. Los que nada hemos hecho mal, a nada tenemos que temerle.....

Si su amigo que es Abogado quiere poner el caso en la Corte yo le pago ..... Yo quiero acusar a los dos Jefes del F.B.I. que estuvieron en New Orleans Por los años 1960 hasta 1974....uno sabia todo lo que se hizo para matar al Presidente ....el otro vino a tapar (cover) lo que no querian que se supiera.....

Ellos no hablaban pero los que pusieron para hacer el trabajo tenían la boca muy grande.

DAVID WILLIAM FERRI fue mi profesor cuando yo estaba aprendiendo a manejar AVIONES..... You friend Orestes.



New Orleans, La  
21 March 1975

Dear Harold.

Here I am sending something that came out in the newspapers of New Orleans, and that I believe ~~that~~ may be of interest to you.

In your last letter you tell me that I should tell you about the Mrs. (wife) of Mr. Grad, if she had been the secretary of the Mayor. (Mr. Grad is the owner of the press that is at 115 Decatur St. Mr. Grad is a high official of the Army and still is to be found in the active reserve. In his Press we done many things which I can not prove so. But the small Press that there was in the same building (115 Decatur) was Mr. Melvin ~~that~~ who was working for the C.I.A.

This Mr. Melvin had company until the late hours of the night. The C.I.A. taught him so much that now he is in ~~the~~ prison for printing (counterfeit) false money. ... when Mr. Garrison began to investigate the case of the death of the president they closed (unspelled) the small Imprenta ... and in the Press of Mr. Grad began to work another Mr. who was also called Melvin, (~~that~~ this they did in order to cover the true MELVIN). ..



As you can see in this letter I knew all the things that they are doing too but if I were to talk I knew that they are going to kill me, now that I am not afraid too of that time I was afraid of Mr Garrison also ~~well~~ because he was an opportunist & who ~~was~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~time~~ ~~he~~ ~~desired~~ ~~was~~ ~~to~~ ~~make~~ ~~himself~~ ~~great~~ at the cost of what others ~~to~~ ~~know~~ ~~too~~. Mr. GARRISON did not desire that you should be in New Orleans,

The FBI said that I had taken out my Passport the same day as Oswald [sp] too but they did not correctly state ~~the~~ the address where the Passport was taken out too. I ~~to~~ took out my Passport ~~in~~ the Building ~~to~~ that is in front of the Habana Bar (Custom House) too but it was not convenient to them [did not ~~serve~~ their purpose] to put ~~the~~ that address in order that they might not be known the truth of ~~what~~ ~~the~~ all that ~~had~~ ~~been~~ ~~done~~ ~~there~~ too.

FB. It seems that things have ~~is~~ changed a little, since a few days ago I met with the one who was the First assistant of GARRISON (Mr. Louis) and he was speaking to me too.

With someone who has a little force  
 I can resolve the case of the death of  
 the President <sup>was</sup> but it has to be someone  
 who may not be afraid ~~to~~ about what  
 the truth <sup>may happen</sup> reveals over all  
 things <sup>was</sup> all that I want is that  
 my name may not be so dirty as the  
 F.B.I. has made it. I ~~to~~ want to accuse  
 the Lawyer (John) son of a Policeman.

Since I gave him some  
 important data <sup>was</sup> (which he says he does not  
 know where he put them) <sup>was</sup> but he  
 told me that he wanted to go to testify  
 to the WERRIN Commission ~~and~~ that  
 he ~~was~~ would not charge me anything  
 for his work <sup>was</sup>

I want the F.B.I. and the CIA  
 to enter charges in ~~the~~ Court and then  
 we shall see who ~~it is that~~ accuses ~~them~~  
 and who ~~it is that~~ is telling the truth <sup>was</sup>  
 of all that happened concerning the  
 death of the president. ~~the~~ Those who  
 have not done anything evil, we have  
 nothing to fear.

If your friend who is the lawyer  
 wants to ~~put~~ the case in Court I shall  
 pay him <sup>was</sup> I want to accuse the  
 two ~~the~~ Chiefs of the F.B.I. who were in  
 New Orleans For the years 1960 up to 1974 <sup>was</sup>  
 one knew everything that was done to  
 kill the President <sup>was</sup> the other came to  
 cover (cover) what they did not want  
 to be <sup>over</sup> known



They did not talk but those  
that they put to do the work had a  
very large ~~voice~~ [squeaked? - spoke out?]  
mouth [blatfed]

D. W. F. was my professor  
when I was learning to fly PLANES on.

You hand Overster