

9/25/68

Dear Paul,

I have sent Oreste a copy of CD 126, page 41.

Something happened that turned him off. I suspect I know what it is. After I started getting worthwhile information from him, Mark tried to cut in on me. He never did any work in N.O. and I suspect he may have been sent. Rena threw him out. No one but Rena mentioned this to me.

When Hall was there, which was just before my last trip, he also went to see Oreste. I think he also was sent. Oreste is an intelligent man. He is subject to moods, but he really was a very good friend to me and was very helpful. He would have seen through Hall.

Last time I was there, I went to see him as soon as I could, which was very soon. He cut me cold and gave me an impertinent message for Jim. By now I hope he knows this was unjustified.

If you have anything else that refers to him, I'd like to have it. Regardless of what he now thinks or does, he will eventually be helpful again because he will never stand for the pressures the other side applies. He also knows an amazing number of people in New Orleans and much about their private lives. I have never found him untruthful. He also is a man of courage.

Regardless of whether he answers or how, I will send him whatever I get that relates to him.

When I am out there, one of the things of which you must remind me to brief you is what he told me, what he led me to, what I learned that way. It is quite significant and is not isolated, does not stand alone.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

9/25/68

Dear Oreste,

The last time I saw you, as you will recall, you seemed less than happy to see me, were less than polite, so I have made no effort to communicate with you. Frankly, I am at a loss to understand why you behaved in this fashion, for it is entirely unlike what I have come to understand and expect of you. I have no doubt something caused it. I also have no doubt it was not anything I did. I then decided to leave it the way you seemed to want it, believing that should you ever feel otherwise, I would hear from you.

However, I have just obtained something I think it is to your interest to have, for several reasons I will explain. Therefore, I am sending it to you. The enclosed copy of an FBI report relating to you is smaller than actual size because it is enlarged from microfilm. Should you, for any reason, want a better copy, I can obtain one for you at very slight cost.

You told me you were annoyed by too many agents bothering you too often. You seemed not to know their names. This report gives the names of two. The second one is the man who was also translator for Evvie and Ruperto when they testified before the Warren Commission. I think it is possible you may have known him in other connections. He was somewhat like deBrueys in some ways. The first one wrote a report of his interview with Ricardo Davis that reads like a fairy tale.

It seems interesting that the name of neither the piano player nor his boy friend is given and makes me wonder why.

Should you have any other interest, let me know. I will do for you what I can.

By now you perhaps realize that I did not deliver the message you gave me. First of all, as I thought you understood, I am independent, responsible to no one but myself and my own conscience. I help others when I think it appropriate but I do not do this work for anyone else. Second of all, it would not have made you look good in his eyes. Also, I see him but little when I am in New Orleans, for I go there to work, not socialize.

Please give my best regards to Evvie and his wife and Ophelia.

At the time you thought I was wasting my time, I was not. I have developed much information that backs up some of the things you told me. I think it is only fair to you to tell you this. I also believe it is quite important. I acknowledge my debt to you for it and express my thanks for your valuable help. I look forward to the day you better understand whatever it is that bothered you and you again want to do what I think is in everyone's interest. In the course of getting the enclosed I also obtained other reports that may relate to people you may know. If you want copies I'll send them.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg

CD 126-44