

11/26/69

Dear Paul, and Gary,

Enclosed are the very brief note I received from Orestes Pena this morning and my reply.

Orestes really was a good friend to me. He really did lead me to much of great value. I have little doubt he also did not tell me all he knows or suspects.

The last time he cooled off and invited me down I learned more than on any other trip.

I could only guess what he may have in mind. One of the things I think possible is an identification of a false Oswald, for the one who threw the drunk in his place could not have been the real one. Another is more about Ferrie and his associates. I suspect he knows much more about the camps than he has told me or let on he knows.

I am not inclined to interpret "Don't be late" as meaning anything social.

But, there is simply nothing I can do about it now. Unless he accepts my invitation and comes here.

I'll keep you posted.

Meanwhile, I think nothing is to be gained from any mention of this to anyone. He was leadpiped the first time he called me, and his tires were slashed when he was driving me around, and he was called in by a judge and given a pretty explicit warning. So please say nothing. But, if you or Jim have questions about New Orleans you want asked, get them to me. I can always file them. And he may just accept my invitation.

This also makes CD 1349, if I recall correctly, potentially more important, Paul. I have pages 1 and 2. If you can send me a list of the docs relating to him you have, when I have a chance I'll compare it with what I have. My recollection is that I used all I had in O in NO and gave them to you. This is part of my before-carding stuff, and I have no list prepared.

Sincerely,

11/26/69

Dear Orestes,

Thank you for your note of the 24th.

Since we last spoke I have written four books, and I have much material for others on which I work every day. I cannot afford to go further into debt, so I cannot print them myself, and the publishers are still afraid of the subject and the government.

None of these books deals directly with New Orleans. One has a small indirect reference, but not to anything you and I have ever discussed.

However, one of the books for which I have been collecting much evidence will deal with New Orleans again, in a special way, and at that time I will accept your kind invitation, if it is at all possible. I have to put it this way because I have had no income for all these years and am deep in debt. I am very broke. On my last several trips there I barely ate at all, but I felt I had to go. I just didn't have money for food. It helped, in a way, for I lost 15 pounds while in New-Orleans (and 15 since).

Once in a while you like to get away, and sometimes you can. If you would like to visit me, I do regard you as a friend and you would be welcome. We have a place for you to sleep. This area is altogether different than New Orleans. We are in the mountains. It gets cold here. Most nights now the water freezes, outside (our home is warm!). Should you like to, it is best to fly to Friendship Airport, which is between Baltimore and Washington, rather than to either of the two Washington only airports, because there are more non-stop flights there. Delta has a good one about noon and Eastern has a good one about 6:30 p.m. The flying time is two hours nonstop. We are a little over an hour away, and I would drive there to meet you. The earlier flight would be better because it would be close to midnight, with the change in time, by the time we got here. There also are other flights, and I can and will meet you at any airport. They are all the same distance from here. I just know the Friendship flights better.

Meanwhile, I think I have a trace of another, I think deBrueys report on you and I am trying to get it. I think it will explain why you were treated as you were, why there was no interest in what you wanted to say. If and when I get it, I'll send you a copy. If you know a Mrs. Bessie Fleckenstein, please tell me what you know about her. It may be in your interest if you do.

I am sorry I cannot now go to New Orleans. In addition to the work I am now completing on another book, I simply do not have the money. But when I can, I will accept your invitation. Good luck.

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg

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Nov. 24 1969.

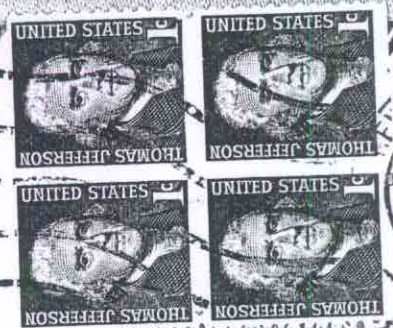
Dear Harold.

When you Start to write a New Book come see me.

Don't be late. ?

Orestes.

Orestes Pons
117 Decatur St.
New Orleans, La.
70130



Mr. HAROLD WEISBERG
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VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

