

2/3/72

Dear Jim (PH only),

The timing of your letter of 1/19 could hardly have been better, for, unless I had known of it the day before yesterday as a reminder, I could not have done anything with it sooner. I have had problems with my thumb and had company until 1 p.m. yesterday. As soon as he got to work I phoned a Chicago reporter friend and he is carrying that part of the story further. As of the time of my call, he had seen nothing on the wire, he phoned me back to read the text of the Dallas AP story which, I suspect, originated with Mary. I told him to phone Mary and gave him her number.

As you know, as a general matter I believe we should seek no publicity on any of the substantial matters dealing with any of the assassinations until we have something of real significance, for the more trivialities and insanities the editors see, the more inclined they are to downgrade anything not supportive of the official fiction, and they have now even less interest in that. This, however, is typical of the kind of different angle that has possibilities, can be helpful, is not likely to be hurtful, if properly angled and used. I have proposed to my friend a collaboration on a story based on what I already have, in COUP, as you may recall, with this as no more than a peg, unless he finds the parenthood (the general father is in SAC, no less, or was, and had a long SEAsia career) important and Strangelovely relevant. Thus, I am interested in all citations and, if he is not too busy, as I presume he may well be, copies from PH (in this case two to the page being fine for I'd have to get the clearest copies from the Archives for ultimate use. The AP story, by the way, refers to 23 pages of documents on both RFK and JFK threats and the invention of an "Osvaldo".

By now it appears to be the same guy, as I'm suspected, beyond doubt.

I just thought of a file in which I might have this and can get into with my thumb requiring no use. I find that I do have CD394:1-6 only. I'll now skim it. It reminds me indefinitely of other files involving a woman, a place called or with a parrot, etc.

On the eczema, strongly recommend discussing with GRS. More and more, I think, this kind of thing is getting related to the emotions and nerves, and often we cannot detach ourselves to make our own diagnosis...34 column inches in the Oregonian seems like the full treatment. Is it more than the Times' story. Other papers carried what the Times did not in minor matters, like CBS giving him a press conference that could not help SBS. Lattimer has shot his and their bolt. Our best course for the time being is, in my opinion, total silence and letting them make more mistakes. Despite what you think of the play there and in the Times, all the reporters I know regard this as hurtful to them and the treatment by even a sycophant press as downplay. Even the Times had no second-day story and other things that I know were in the works have not yet happened. It has been four weeks now. Hurried best,

Jan. 29, 1972

Paul L. Hoch
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Hi Paul,

Received your note of 1/25 on 27th. With the enclosures, for which as always am grateful.

Also on Jan. 24th received quite a lot of material from Harold, which is being digested, weighed, etc (But, Ham-Ham, I just dunno!)

Just got home after a full week of work, after having missed two weeks from an onslaught of eczema (infected), which hasn't plagued me much since couple attacks in my teens and (bad time with it) in my infancy. I just don't know enough about the stuff to know what brings it on, but I suspect it's a total reaction (physical, psychological, psychosomatic etc) to the life I'm leading. Any experience anyone has had with this ailment should be related to me, so that I can felate it to myself and avoid losing two weeks' pay for a while.

Driving home this morning heard on the radio of the latest hijacking: by one G.B. TRAPNELL. Surely this is the one and only Garrett Brock Trapnell (Ref: CD 196, 394, 461 etc etc). If I remember, he is the black sheep son of an Army General /a Loran Hall type with Cuban exile contacts etc. If the Feebies try to blow his brains out, as is their wont, they better reckon he will shoot back! According to the broadcast, one of the conditions laid down by Trapnell is the release of a prisoner (name withheld) from the Dallas jail!!! Its a small world or a big jail.

I was able to use the two weeks illness to start working my way back into matters pertaining to the JFK assassination and think I have gotten restarted. Too much of my filing system was in my head; have had to re-read a lot of CD's to recharge the memory banks.

Ran into the LATTIMER thing in the Sunday OREGONIAN 1/9 that's Jan 9 about 34 column inches under the heading "Physician says JFK photos uphold single assassin finding". Enuf to gag a maggot! I hope Dr. Wecht will be (has been?) able to review the material. I gather he has the background in the assassination to appraise it intelligently. As you have pointed out, Lattimer's credentials are a bit tainted.

Paul, your experience re: CPUSA strange indeed; I am reminded of the recent revelations of former S/A Robert Wall (this is not on the ball Wall). Everybody is a provocateur nowadays! I hope you can run this down: would like to see your letter (I trust it was duly indignant!)

You should have the book and the two reels of m/film by now. Sorry to have kept them so long. The book is for the ashcan. The other book you asked about (America Burning or whatever it was) was returned to you. Also ashcan material. Hope you will bear with me, I'm trying to get it straightened out!

c/c HW/ Harold: Note my correct address!

Best,

Jim Schmitt