

April 23, 1970

6735 Thomas Boulevard
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15208

Dear Sherman Skolnik:

In the conversation we had on February 7, 1970, I told you of the work Harold Weisberg and I had done on a case involving a man named Thomas Vallee, who was apparently planning to assassinate President John F. Kennedy. At that time, before three witnesses who had accompanied me and two who were there at your invitation, I told you of the relationship between the Vallee case and the assassination of Fred Hampton. You indicated that you would be interested in following further this investigation, and I suggested that we needed to know the complete background of one Daniel Groth, Chicago Police Officer, and any new facts that could be developed on the background of Thomas Vallee, as well as the identification of the license plate of the car Vallee was driving. You indicated that if I sent you some of the material we had developed on Vallee you would be able to pursue this matter. Also at that time I told you this material was contained in a manuscript, written by Harold Weisberg, entitled "Coup D'Etat."

On March 10 you telephoned me, to urge that I send to you the complete file on Thomas Vallee. In a telephone conversation that was monitored on an extension phone here you stated: you needed the material on Vallee as quickly as possible because you wanted to get your class started on it the next week; you felt that it might be possible to take some meaningful court action in the case and you said you might do that; I explained to you that Weisberg and I had never made any public use of this material because we felt it was a highly important case and should not be frittered away for mere publicity; I told you to check with Weisberg or me before you made any public use of this material; you said that you would call Weisberg to discuss these matters with him, you asked me if you should call him right then, and I suggested you call him the following evening at around ten PM; I told you that any use of this material should credit Weisberg and myself; you assured me that you would be in touch with me before you made any public use of this material, which you indicated might be a court suit.

In spite of the lateness of the hour, after I spoke with you I called Harold at his home and told him of the conversation I'd just had with you. I had previously written to him and told him of the meeting I'd had with you in February. He expressed some skepticism, but agreed that I should send the material to you if you were going to be able to carry the investigation further than we had, but that the material was to be sent to you solely for that purpose. He reminded me how often we had refrained from publicizing this case, because we didn't want to just set it off in a vacuum, he said that there were many important aspects of this case that would be further clarified and defined in coming weeks, and that to give the material to someone who lacked judgement would be throwing it away. I assured him that I

trusted your judgement in this case, and that anyway you were going to call him and he could make these things clear to you personally.

On March 12, then, I sent you copies of the following:

Letters from me to:

Harold Weisberg	7/7/68
Bill Corley	3/5/69
Henry DeZutter	3/16/69
Harold Weisberg	3/16/69
Harold Weisberg	5/29/69
Harold Weisberg	11/13/69

A letter from Bill Corley to me, dated 3/10/69

Court, Police, & FBI documents

Original arrest report
 Court record sheet
 Information to court sheet
 Motion to suppress
 3 pages from Chicago Police Department files
 1 sheet giving probation information
 FBI report on Luke Hester 12/2/63
 FBI report on Bill Corley 12/2/63
 FBI Report on arrests 12/10/63
 FBI report on interview with Fanning, no date
 FBI report on Vallee trial, no date
 Letter from Probation Officer Masi to Judge Nash
 Letter from National Archives relating to Vallee material

Newspaper articles:

Chicago American 12/3/63
 Chicago Daily News 12/3/63
 Chicago Tribune 1/29/64

One page offootnotes from "Coup D'Etat" relating to my work on Vallee case.

It has come to my attention that rather than investigate the Vallee material you apparently called a press conference and pawned it off as your own material. If this is true then you not only lied, but you blew what could have been a very valuable case. This type of behavior is not wise for a person with your record. In the first place, there is considerable public record, including some Chicago television programs and newspaper articles, documenting Weisberg's and my work on Vallee. In the second place, if you are accusing everyone under the sun of being agents, and then ~~xxx~~ behave in a manner that is consistent only with a total disregard for what is expedient and intelligent, then people can only assume that it is you who are in fact the agent, seeking to discredit everyone else.

All power to those who deserve it,

Russ Trunzo