

9/17/68

Dear Russ,

Your interesting letter of 9/11 and enclosures are helpful. The story on the bike boys is inconsistent with what I was looking for, though consistent with the little information I had on them. I think it pretty well eliminates what I had been told, but not completely. That Duarte had moved to Hollywood, in that version of the AF story you sent, is the first I'd heard of his move from Miami and permits correction of what would have been a small error. Strange, and I've several versions of that AF story. Your comment about his cracks "stunning familiar" is much more right than you can imagine. His "Bringuier" is one Dr. Fernando Ramirez, editor of something called "Insight On The News". I am very interested in both. The story is an almost exact parallel with the New Orleans cover for Oswald. The WKBK release on Roy as decoy also fits well, for that is what I said from the beginning. I'll try and get more from them on that.

The transcripts interest me more than anything else, for they help many things fit in place and confirm suspicions I've had for a while. I suppose it just isn't possible for anyone without the most intimate knowledge of the fact to understand exactly what Mark is up to, but it may be ruinous to all of us. His enormous ego is damaged by the fact that he has been able to bring nothing of any significance to light by his own work. He feels that he owns the field, that those of us who have done was he was incapable of are interlopers he tolerates, etc. His new book is so unbelievably dishonest, even those working in the field cannot believe it. I will, when we meet again, if you'd like, give you the details. I have written a short book on it for a number of reasons, one of which is that in order to survive him, it may be necessary to expose him. Minor example: he protests he had no idea why Grove wouldn't do his book when he delivered it. He hadn't delivered it by scheduled publication date then presented an unpublishable book not conforming to specifications. I knew this from his former agent. Another kind of example, the frequent plagiarisms. The one he has on Klein's Sporting Goods the FBI turning them off so they won't even talk to the Secret Service has a non-existing source cited in a spurious footnote. Plain manufacture. The real source is WHITE-WASH II, which has become the most frequent source among the potboilers.

Well, all that big you may remember about "his" prediction of the RFK assassination is mine and he stole it; knowingly, pretending otherwise. I spoke to the one guy, not two, he refers to, who had not been sent to Garrison by RFK but was in New Orleans on other business and looked me up for other reasons. I pumped him for several hours to get that from him, then took him to Garrison. The full story is in CODE D'ETAT, to which I may add some of these transcripts because there is little likelihood I'll even publish the Mark book. Well, when Mark had his new book coming out he asked a station in DC for which I had agreed to do a half-dozen three-hour shows for time and they asked me to share one of these with him. I agreed and postponed it for the appearance of the book, imagine my surprise when he starts using my lines on my show. I clobbered him, to his face, told the real story in somewhat abbreviated form, in the forlorn hope it would silence him on the subject and some of the Kennedy-people we were trying to reach would not be terrified that anything they said would immediately be on the air and they endangered by it. The next night the station did a repeat. They have a very small audience and I never dreamed they'd cover or let Mark cover the same material. With much work to do I didn't travel the 100 miles it would have required, plus 6-7 hours, instead making a brief appearance by phone. Imagine my surprise when, having heard the entire story, truthfully, with dates and other details, the night before, the incompetent moderator lets Lane air it as his. Here is where Anderson picked it up. From there Mark was off across the country, with Holt paying the bill and making the arrangements, and with him plugging his book that is loaded with my stuff with my unpublished stuff he knew he was stealing! Fortunately, I have the Washington TV thing on tape, a live tape, not an air tape, including our off-the-air exchanged.

These transcripts and that make another irrefutable proof of dishonesty, for none of it can be accidental. He is really a very sick and a very corrupt man. Sickness or corruption, either alone, cannot begin to account for what he does.

There is that little extra boast in these shows (can you get me any other, for example, the Kup one?), that begins to make sense out of it. He is fond of pretending that he knows everything Garrison does, has everything in Garrison's files. This may sell his books, but it can also ruin Garrison in court. What, indeed, should FBI agents be in the control room when he is broadcasting when he is the major one on our side who has brought nothing new to light? Why should they not content themselves with taping him off the air? The obvious reason to me is to have witnesses. Each of those agents can at some later date take the stand and swear not that he heard a voice over the air but was present and saw and heard Mark say these things. The same is true of Sahl.

It is all very bad and hard to do anything about. But do, please, keep me posted, for it may become necessary to try and do something.

I wish I could help with your novel by suggesting an agent. Mine I think is a very nice guy, but he works in his own way, which is not helpful for a man with controversial material. For example, because he knew the Dell vice-president very well and had always done handshake business with him, he got no contract on Oswald in New Orleans - and I got no \$30,000 "advances". They were subject to pressures, bowed to them, and godby vice president! He is so busy on the commercial stuff that he can sell without trouble he does little with anything else. Pretty much the same is true of publishers, but you are groundflooring, and might find a different reception. My hunch would be Grove, where I cannot help you. Another might be right there in Chicago. Cudrangle might be interested. They may have a reputation I can do nothing for "Courage". Mel Brick is President, Ivan Dee is managing editor. Perhaps either can recommend the kind of agent who would do best with the subject matter.

Sounds like the Feebees in their excesses have helped you. Crazy business. Glad it worked out that way, though. Better for you!

Whatever you can send on Malcolm I do urgently need, for I can connect him with the other assassinations only by reasoning that may not persuade most people. Would you like credit or ~~xxxx~~ anonymity for anything I might use?

Vallee is but one of several such threats in your area. The other involved Abraham Bolden. Is there any sign of National States Rights Party activity?

If Gregory and Mark are close friends, I suppose it is a waste of time to make any effort in that direction. I think, however, that some of these people had better learn what they are against, instead of just assuming it, and had better do something about getting fact to the people, instead of demanding its acceptance of their beliefs on faith in their understanding alone. Besides, people ought have fact and ought not be expected to take things on faith when it isn't necessary. Most people will not believe - and should not - blind assertions.

I'll pass on your stories of film damage during the convention to friends in the foreign press who may be able to use it.

Does the file on you indicate you were the prime subject of the espionage or that this was a by-product of other spying?

I've got to get to other work. Many thanks for the valuable information and the interesting letter. Anything else you can send will be appreciated. Good luck, and I'm glad you're out of court and jail!

By the way, if you cannot do anything else about getting an agent, why

not phone Bob Cromie, who is with both Book World and the ChiTrib and ask him if he can recommend an agent who would be interested in the subject? He might very well know one. Unless explaining how you know me might lead to a complication for you, you might say it is at my suggestion. He knows me. He also knows the field as few do. If you saw the most recent Book World, you know he was quite capable of punning Allan Drury, though he fell short of using the one apt word, "scavenging".

And if you get an agent, I'd be interested. I haven't used mine since he left me entirely unprotected with both Hell and Canyon, each of which was its own kind of disaster.

Have you ever heard where Paul went?

Best Regards,

September 11, 1968

Harold,

Received your letter the other day. So much has happened since I last wrote I hardly know where to start or how to sum it up so I don't take fifty pages to tell about it.

You'll find enclosed a photo-copy of a newspaper article about the Florida MC club. If you need the original I still have it. So far this is all the information I've been able to get on that, but it's pretty complete.

The major reason that I've been remiss is that shortly after I last wrote you I got started writing another novel. The first one I wrote wasn't what I'd hoped it would be, so I scrapped it. Well, I've spent most of the past two months cloistered, writing it, and am now ready to begin typing the final draft this weekend. It's about the Peace Movement, and varying views and positions within the Peace Movement. It's about 75,000 words. If you know of any agents and/or publishers who might want to look at it I'd appreciate hearing.

On my arrest: The officers who issued the arrest warrant explained that they'd raided someone else's apartment and had found one stick of marijuana, and on the basis of that had issued an arrest warrant for me. The judge asked them why me, and they said an informant had told them the marijuana was mine, at which point the judge ruled "no probable cause" and I was out. ~~At~~ At the time of the hearing the case was a year old and the original search warrant still hadn't been filed.

My case with Selective Service has become extremely complicated. I am now I-A, because they had classified me I-A-O in a procedural error, and so now to reopen my case and consider me for I-O status they had to put me in I-A. In line with appealing this I-A status I looked at my file, and found that the F.B.I. has come to the local board at least twice to look at my file (clearly unethical), the local board has taken damaging testimony from my wife, both in person and by letter; and the United States Attorney had my case for a while, but returned it to Selective Service. Plus they have a lot of information about people I'm in contact with or have been in contact with in the past of a political nature, including ~~my~~ pro-Castro Cubans, all of this without ever (that's bad) notifying me. The experts here now feel that it will be impossible to ever convict me of a Selective Service violation because my case has obviously been so badly prejudiced. The odd thing is that the F.B.I. is taking such a keen interest in my activities and well-being, because the agent who was at the local board is the same agent that came to visit me last year, so obviously he's been assigned to keep tabs on me.

On the Malcolm information: I have it all on my desk now, as I have had for some time. However, what I have are handwritten notes of information as I came across it, there are about eight or ten pages. I was supposed to give a talk to a Black church group at the end of July about who killed Malcolm, and I had intended to compile all the information in its logical order for the talk, tape the talk and send you a transcript of it which would have included everything. Well, the church group was very excited about it, and was even going to run spots on the radio announcing it. So the woman who was in charge of the program had me write a radio spot, which said, "R. Trunzo, writer, former newsman, will discuss who killed Malcolm X and why." She left my office and went to WVON, the large Black station in Chicago to give them the spot, and the next day she called and said they'd cancelled it, the whole talk. No explanation, just cancelled.

Anyhow, as soon as I finish this letter I will begin to retype this information; if I get it finished tonight I'll mail it along with this, otherwise you can expect to receive it no later than next Wednesday.

Still nothing on Vallee. I haven't been able to get over there, and the young reporter I know is very hard to get hold of. I saw him briefly during the demonstrating in front of the Conrad Hilton, but there was no time to talk to him. He goes to school in the building where my office is, and school starts again in two weeks, so within three weeks I should've gotten something on that.

Dick Gregory is a strange person. He's back in Chicago now, and I'll make an effort to contact him during this next week -- it probably won't be until Monday. He stepped in the demonstrations during the convention on the last two days, and managed to capture many headlines. I saw him on the street one of the earlier nights with Mark Lane, but they were just walking, obviously avoiding the demonstrations. Of course, no one expected Gregory to show up at all. Just when you think he's going to "cop-out" he pulls through, and just when you think he's going to pull through he "cops-out."

I couldn't begin to tell you about the convention week. I was out in the streets every night except Monday. Sunday in Lincoln Park it was like a picnic, I must've run into 30 people I knew who I hadn't seen in a long time, and there was a lot of celebrating and having fun, until 11 PM. But by Friday we were a very tired, very beaten, very bloody group of people who didn't really have a lot to say to each other. An interesting thing is that there seems to have been a rash of accidents in film developing houses that week. Chicago stations are now vying frantically to buy film from independent people who were shooting

motion or still. There were small files, film was overdeveloped, underdeveloped, mislaid. CBS was the only one who managed to keep most of their films, and that's because they were paying \$100 extra a roll to make sure none of it would be lost. Sound familiar?

What the Selective Service situation means is that I probably will be walking around for at least another six months to a year while we're tied up in litigations, and it appears that the ultimate conclusion will either be that I'll be out free or I'll do alternative service. So maybe the F.B.I.'s diligent attention has done some good after all. Too bad they spend so much time being diligent with me and not L.H.O. or Sirhan.

So I'll close for now. I don't expect to go into hermitage any more for quite a while, so I'll be in closer touch with you. I'm working on another novel now, but this one I intend to take quite a while with.

Yours,

Russ Trunzo