

3-2-69

Dear Harold,

Got your letter with the FBI Report on WMAQ-TV yesterday, so I thought I'd send along this updated note with the old one & mail them both today.

Immediately after I got your letter I got on the phone, and I think that this will generate far more interest than anything else I've seen. I've ~~xxx~~ detected a lot of mistrust of Garrison here lately, so the approach that I'm using is that now that Garrison has managed to blow the whole case we're starting over again, almost from the bottom. So:

- 1) I spoke with my friend from the Criminal Court Building who said he'd try to track down that license number. He didn't promise any results, but the car should have been impounded after the arrest and he may be able to get the impoundment records.
- 2) I spoke with Ron Dorfman, Chicago newsman who's involved in this publication "Chicago Journalism Review," which you may have heard about. I presented it to him as possibly being an example of three things: a news blackout, FBI tampering with police reports, & the Warren Commission's obviously trying to keep Vallee's name out of it. (Not the Warren Commission, rather the FBI). He will have Henry DeSutter, veteran Chicago reporter call me Monday. DeSutter teaches at the school that's in the same building as my office, so DeSutter will come by to see what I've got on the case. If they agree to work with us on it we'll have about a dozen veteran Chicago newsmen on it.
- 3) I ~~xxxx~~ spoke with Lew Cook, newswriter at NBC in Chicago. He's very interested & wants a copy of the FBI report you sent me. I'll get that to him Monday. Bill Corley is still news director at NBC Chicago, and Cook said he would talk to Corley about it on Monday, and that Monday I should send Corley a written request for an interview with him about it, and ~~K~~ Cook said he's certain Corley would agree to talk to me.

I trust that by the end of the week I'll have some good results to report to you.

If you've got an extra copy of COUP I'd be glad to pay whatever the regular cost of it is if you'd send it to me.

*Russ*

*P.S. - If it's not too touchy to say, how did you learn the Vallee file was back?*

2-28-69

Dear Harold,

I got your letter a couple weeks ago, and even had a reply written ten days ago, which I forgot to mail. I've been very busy lately, because I'm getting my office into shape so that I can leave here some time this summer. I won't know until April or May where I'll be going. Radio TV Reports is considering a few possibilities, and if they come up with something attractive I'll leave here and go to work for them somewhere else. Otherwise I'll have to find another job. One of the possibilities is that the Washington office manager of Radio TV Reports may also leave by this summer, and if the company decided my political views wouldn't be dangerous to them they might send me there. Imagine me calling CIA to ask them if they want a transcript!

On that same subject, I accidentally picked up a tape from New York, an interview with a guy named Fensterwald about the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, I'm sending it along, you might find it interesting.

I don't understand about ~~the envelope~~ that envelope I sent you. The glue on that batch of envelopes isn't very good, so whenever I use them I put scotch tape around the edges. But the day I sent the envelope to you I couldn't find the tape, so I made usre I put a lot of rubber cement on the flap. Oh well, I guess that's the price of freedom.

That quote from Marshall's Princeton address was cited by C. Eric Lincoln in his book on the Black Muslims. The source was the Chicago Daily Defender. It may be possible for me to get a copy of the original newspaper article, I'll try next week.

I haven't yet gotten ahold of Herman Fell to talk to him about your proposal, but next week I expect to have enough free time to do it.

Garrison certainly presented a wonderful case against the Warren Report, from what I've read in the papers here. Unfortunately, as you predicted, he was a bit lacking when it came to Clay Shaw. Too bad the fate of the country and the world so often hinges on the acts of individuals operating in vacuums.

I got my letter to Bill Wirthly back. I'd sent it to the Baltimore Afro-American, they forwarded it to his New York address, unopened, and it was returned from there indicating that he was no longer at that address. Do you have any idea where he is now?

Had an interesting incident the other day, Monday, 2/17. On the noon news on WAMQ-TV here there was a news story about a guy who was apprehended by an off-duty policeman while stabbing another guy. The assailant's name was Lightner, although I'm not certain of the spelling. At any rate, what was strange about the story was that ~~the~~ Lightner told the police officer that he was a CIA

agent, and he was stabbing the guy because the guy was a spy. (shades of the Raus-Heine Case) So as usual with most kooky stories like this, I called our Washington office, told them about it, and they said if CIA didn't want to story they'd call back. Five minutes later the phone rang, it was our Washington office. Turned out CIA not only wanted the story but they wanted the names of the people involved right away if I could get them. The Washington office manager said, "They have to check with another department right away, and they need the ~~xx~~ names." ("They" is Public Affairs Staff.) As luck would have it, the tape recorder was on the blink during that program, and we didn't have a recording, but I got the ~~xxxx~~ names from another news program, which didn't mention CIA. The plot thickens: WMAQ-TV always repeats filmed interviews. Their early evening news program is an hour long, and it's pointless for them to send out a ~~xxx~~ camera crew, do an interview, and just show it for the smaller audience at noon. They had interviewed the arresting officer as well as the off-duty officer, who both explained about the guy telling them of his CIA link. The story was not repeated by them.

I haven't gotten the tape from Butler. I'll soon be sending a finished copy of the transcript to Lee Edwards (when I get it typed) as an excuse for ~~xx~~ reminding him that Butler promised me that tape.

I asked my mother to send you that copy of Win Magazine. Thought you might recognize some things in their: like your title, a few of your descriptions, a few of your phrases, etc.

I forgot to enclose the Torch issue last time, so I'm now sending installments 2 & 3.

I gave your name to a friend the other day to pass on, something might come of it, but I'd like to give you some background on it so you'll know exactly what you're dealing with, if they contact you. Reverend James Bevel was one of Dr. King's close lieutenants. Bevel's involvement in the civil rights movement goes back many years, at one time he and his wife got the SCLC yearly award for outstanding service. In 1965 it ~~was~~ was Bevel and Rev. Andrew Young who visited Malcolm X in Selma, Alabama and asked him to leave, because they were afraid he'd stir up the civil rights workers there. (Malcolm refused.) In the past two ~~xx~~ years, about, Bevel has come to see the light about what Malcolm was saying, and has been going around spouting a lot of rhetoric about Black Power, etc. None of the Black militants I know in Chicago trust him, because he's too erratic and still too close to SCLC for their liking. At one time Bevel was extremely interested in a close friend of mine, Carlie O'Brien (as her name implies, his interest in her is in direct contrast to his Black Power pronouncements.) At any rate, Bevel recently got some publicity by offering to defend James Earl Ray. Now, the other day Carlie O'Brien called me for the first time in a while and mentioned that she was now seeing Rev. Bevel's brother, Charles Bevel pretty regularly, and that they both came up to her house quite a bit. (Charles just returned from Africa.) I asked her if James was serious about the James Early Ray thing, and she said that he

was most sincere and serious about it. I suggested to her that if he were genuinely serious about finding out who killed Dr. King he should contact you, because you had more on it than anyone and no civil rights, etc. people that you had talked to had courage enough to pick up the ball and run with it. She said she would talk to them about it and she was certain they would contact you. From what I know of the man, I wouldn't trust James Bevel as far as I could throw him, but he does have many valuable contacts and the ear of all the leadership of SCLC, and if he does contact you he might be useful.

That's about all for now. Again, I apologize for the lateness of this reply, but I think after next week I'll be back in pretty good shape again.