

1/23/70

Dear Russ,

Had I not gotten your letter of the 20th today I'd have written anyway, because I had become concerned, thinking something might have befallen one of you.

I have, I hope, completed both parts of COUP with the addition of a few notes Lil has yet to retype and the completion of chapter 18 of II (dealing with Agnew in the context of the King/Ray suit I am about to file and the Chimurders). I have a few notes of corrections to go over, too. Aside from a couple pages of notes and the appendix (about 85 pp as I recall), the numbered pages total 527, which is a very large book. So far, no interest in it. No black even wants to read it.

Your meeting got good attention on the radio, either WTOP (DC) or WBEM, for I heard of it while I was doing other work, probably taping part of these additions up, or corrections.

Good on the license number. I am confident it is Herman's.

This slightly expanded explanation of Task Forces and Area 1 does not completely satisfy me. I do not believe that with the SS expecting an attempt on the President's life just any available group would be assigned to watch for, tail and capture Vallee. In other words, I am of the opinion that Groth had special functions in 1963.

Conspicuously missing in any of the FBI reporting is any interview with Schurle, him or anyone else making the arrest.

Nor do I believe that with the President due that day and Vallee, for whatever reason, the suspect, the cops would have depended upon his making an illegal turn, if he did.

Perhaps we'll eventually learn more.

Sounds like you are making a good start. Think I've read or heard of Barbara Bowen... Hope the appearance can be arranged... Tell you the rest of the Russell story when we meet again. He has reacted to something and he has not changed his opinion- he's just expressed it publicly.

Lil is working and will be until mid-April. I has been no fun getting her there and back with the snows we've had drifting the lane shut. More predicted for today, but I leave to get her in about 4 hrs and it hasn't started yet.

Best to both,

1-20-70

Dear Harold,

I haven't had time to write because we were involved in planning a very large program here in Pittsburgh for the past month. Last Saturday we conducted an entire day's worth of workshops at Carnegie ~~Mellon~~ Mellon University dealing with various forms of Repression; then in the evening we had a large rally at which we had a local Black militant, one of the leaders of the Pennsylvania Black Panther Party, and Abbie Hoffman speak. We had a turnout of about 1,000 during the day and 2,000 at night.

Along with this I've been ~~xxx~~ putting together the RISC group -- we've gotten a little bit of money now and it's beginning to look like something will happen with it.

I'm writing this at work just so that I'll be able to get it off to you and you won't think that I've given you up or anything; but I don't have your letters with me that I must answer, I'll try to remember some of the important things and answer them.

You will be getting a copy of the ACLU report on the raid of the Black P apartment. An attorney from New York, Barbara Rowan, is getting two copies, one ~~is~~ she's sending to me and one to you. She is checking on the Vallee license number in both ways: checking 311ORF and checking what license number Sam H rman had at that time. She came down for the program on Saturday, and was very pleased with the activity she saw going on here and has taken some of our literature back to NY to try to raise some money for us.

I've forgotten exactly what the question on Task Force Area 1 was, but I'll try to define it for you again. Task Force is a group of police officers who work an extra shift - ~~they~~ during that extra shift they are not confined to their own precinct, they work in any area where there is the need for more officers. One time they may be ~~xxx~~ patrolling high crime areas (when I was arrested in Chicago it was by Task Force patrolmen who were just cruising this neighborhood), another time they may be directing traffic at a baseball game, it's like a flying squad that goes wherever it's needed. Area 1 is a geographical thing in a way -- it means that they're assigned to the first precinct, which is headquarters, which is a geographical division. Now in this case the Sec Ser had asked the Cmi Pol to tail Vallee 24 hours a day, so Task Force officers were assigned to it rather than take regular officers off their duties. "On view arrest" means that they saw the person commit the offense and arrested him rather than went and got a warrant for an offense that they hadn't seen. So in this case they saw him make an illegal turn in his car so they stopped him, at which time they observed the hunting knife on the seat of the car and also arrested him for that.

I will answer all your letters and send you some of the material we've printed up tomorrow night from home.

1-20-70

Page 2

It's beginning to look good for getting you into Pittsburgh. There are at least two radio programs that I know I could put you on, and a number of people here have expressed interest in your work that I've told them about. We will probably be doing another repression day or something in March or April, so maybe at that time we can pay you ^{to} come here.

My friend in Chicago still has not replied to my letter in which I asked him to dig up the necessary information there, such as Groth's record, etc.. There's a slight possibility that we may go there in the next couple weeks over the weekend, and if I haven't heard from him yet I'll try to prod him some.

That's about all I can think of to tell you right now. Did you hear on last night's news that Richard Russell says he now thinks Oswald had help? Wonder what caused that reaction from him.

Lita sends her love. She, too was tied up with this planning for this program -- she's now trying to rearrange an apartment that's practically been used as a convention center for the past week.



Russ