

7/16/68

Dear Hal:

The ice is now broken; the enclosed is indicative of a new attitude.

I have since spoken to Frank Burns via phone; he tells me of his experiences with the LA DA's office (which I taped) - and it is another example of bureaucratic jealousy; they insist on no conspiracy and get upset when questions along these lines are broached.... "What do you want to know for?!"

(LA DA Evell Younger said just now that "conspiracy has not been ruled out...".)

Burns has made full commitment to give me a hand, to co-operate with whatever efforts I can mount; the rest remains dependent on Hearst or somebody picking up my proposal. (Would you believe NBC's bureau man out here is interested in following up on this story?)

I let Hal Verb record the Preacher's statement for courier purposes; it might have gotten sidetracked through Marvin Watson's Hoover pouch otherwise; I'll assume Hal has arrived with tape by now.

The enclosed piece by Sparrow has probably already come to your attention, but here it is just in case; this has to be the most gauche example of intellectual dishonesty I've seen yet.

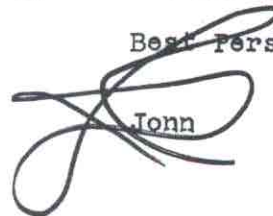
The latest New Yorker piece by Epstein is disconcerting, to say the least; if he is dealing with any proveable evidence in regards Garrison's manufacturing evidence, the consequences would appear dire; if, however, he has manufactured his own story to accomodate whomever, then the New Orleans Grand Jury ought to indict him ala Sheridan and Townley.

Please keep me posted on the investigative progress being made by your LA sleuths in the Sirhan matter; no use us getting tangled up in each other's feet down there; if Hearst goes then I will possibly retain some of their talents on fee.

I am most interested in hearing your comments on the Preacher's pitch; it has been your pleasure(?) to interview many similar types; I'm curious as to how similar.

Get back to me as soon as possible. My best to Lil.

Best Personal Regards,


John