

11/13/66

Dear Hal,

Thanks very much for your letter of the eighth and the enclosure. You can see that I have challenged Smith to debate in front of his peers and with the audience they can command. He will not accept. But I hope he does. Please send me as soon as you can a copy of his story with the Connally HEAD wound. This will be nice in case he does accept the challenge. What he says of my book is picayune and what I said is consistent with the Commission's Report. It did rain after midnight. But suppose those things he picked out are wrong? What difference does it make. There remain 110,000 words he dared not address. This is but another sign of the continuing disintegration of the pro-Report forces. Ultimately they help.

I wish Morgan could use me by phone, prior to my getting out there. I can work up a little interest that way. Jehner is a setup for anyone. You and Paul did very well! Liebeler's weakness, I believe from afar, is that he is too clever and thinks he is even more clever than that because of what he has pulled off. This is one of the reasons I'd like a little exposure before I come out, to plant the questions I want him to answer. If he does, then he lies and gives me something to shoot at or he acknowledges the truth and some balloons bust. I would like to stick to his record, with Epstein, on the record, and since the Report, with the press. He knows this. He has a copy of WHITEWASH for which he hasn't paid. I've already challenged him by mail, back in July, and recently, to the President of UCLA. He is silent. I'm waiting. My new book really exposes him. He is much worse than Specter, and he finked on Specter to divert attention from himself. At some point these two may mix it up. That will be fun.

It is interesting that Smith reveals the presence of still another car in the motorcade, that in which he was, and that it was ahead of the Presidential car. I recall nothing like this from the Report or evidence. He also discloses that others had enough access to the car to drop the tiny fragments of bullets into to.

I would imagine the story is intended for use in most Sunday papers. The Washington Post did not carry it. I will not be surprised if the NYTimes does not.

Sorry about the way things worked out. I cannot now ask the U of Wisc to change again. I think if and when I get there I'll stir up a little more than Ramparts. I know the record. I know Liebeler's and Specter's record. I have a personal bit with Liebeler. Through the president of UCLA I told him if he were so anxious to get into court on a slender suit and if he was so ~~xxxx~~ terribly disappointed because Lane hasn't kept this promise, he had a simple alternative: file a slender suit against me. I said I'd defend it. All of this brings silence from Liebeler. I think it will be of interest in Calif.

Just the letter to Liebeler and the one from him could give Morgan a few very interesting minutes. Or Dahan. But I cannot pay the phone bill.

Again, many thanks.

Sincerely,

NOV. 8, 1966

923A FULFON ST.
S.F., CAL. 94117

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Last night KCBS ran the Harve Morgan "Contact" show for three hours. Jenner, Ball and Liebeler were on. Originally only Jenner and Ball were to appear as I wrote you but it appears that again at the last moment Jenner and Ball got in touch with Liebeler and they decided not to come to S.F. Instead they were on a telephone hook-up from L.A. (Ball's office) and they took questions from listeners

Paul Hoch and I were present at the studio to help Morgan and the CBS producer. Hoch even managed to place a call in which he got both Liebeler and Ball to state that the Warren Report's sentence about the five-volume FBI report being "of principal importance to the Commission" was "inaccurate".

I took on Jenner and got him and Liebeler to admit that their point about Bogard's testimony being rejected because he was not corroborated by other witnesses was an incorrect statement by Jenner. I said that Jenner himself had interviewed Pizzo and that Pizzo said someone had said "There goes his prospect" when Oswald's name was flashed on TV the day of the assassination. Liebeler interrupted to say that this was Bogard and I said ~~xxx~~ no - Jenner took the testimony himself. There was silence from Jenner - he couldn't answer. Then I said that a remark was made to the effect that the man who identified himself as Oswald said something like "If I don't get what I want here it looks like I'll have to go back to Russia." At this point Liebeler interrupted and said "Yes - there was someone who said something about going to Russia." I replied: No - he didn't say he would go to Russia - he said he would go back to Russia."

At this point Morgan interrupted and went on to other calls. Not long before this Jenner complained that the program was getting longer than he expected and had to go to work the next day. Ball chimed in also but Liebeler bailed them out again and said "No, let's continue." Morgan said something like "Well, if you gentlemen want to wrap it all up I'll close it off right now". He was needling them in getting them to stay on.

Jenner is irresponsible but Liebeler is clever. Someone had called in about a missing photo that had never been published by the Commission of the 6th floor window of the TSED. I told Morgan this was the Mary Moorman polaroid one taken seconds or minutes before the assassination. Jenner kept insisting that a photo by her had been sold and printed across the country. He was either confused or covering up. My guess is that he was confused. Liebeler knew, of course, and said that the photo was seen and was considered too "fuzzy" to make out anything. Besides, he said, the Commission already had a photo -- the one taken by Dillard of the 6th floor so why did they need another one? Actually Jenner is right about a Moorman photo being sold and

published but this is the one that shows the President leaning over to his left and Jackie Kennedy giving him support as the car passes the grassy knoll. Naturally, Liebeler wasn't going to call this to Jenner's attention and the point was probably lost to the listeners who couldn't be in a position to know what they were talking about but might have come up with the idea that (1) a picture was published and (2) a better picture was printed in place of an inferior one.

Well, anyway that's how it went. I'm trying to get the tape and then I'll send it to you. It's an eye-opener of the thinking of the Commission. I'm sure you can make use of it.

I'm enclosing a copy of something KCBS gave me in which you are mentioned. Harve Morgan said it'll be included in this coming Sunday's supplement of a newspaper. I thought he meant the N.Y. Times but wasn't sure. Anyway, there's an attack on you on the silliest basis yet. Smith claiming that you were wrong on the weather and the motorcade route. On page 58 of the Bantam NY Times Warren Report it says: "Because the skies had cleared in Dallas" and the motorcade route you have laid out follows precisely the one outlined in the Report. There may be some question on page 1 of your book about the mayor being in the fifth car and the next sentence but I presume you mean not the fifth car but rather the fifth car of the escort behind the Vice-President.

But Smith, the Pulitzer Prize winner is hardly the one to complain. In the UPI report he had published on the day of the assassination, he reported in the third paragraph: "Connally was hit in the head and wrist." So much for rejecting some one almost from the start.

Well, must get back to work. Write when you can.

Best,

Hal Verb

Hal Verb