

Other College class 11/1/66 on Kennedy death

The assassination of John F. Kennedy and the subsequent Warren Report will be investigated by a newly-formed Experimental College class.

The workshop "will conduct intensive evaluation and original research into the whole area of the Kennedy assassination."

The course reportedly will include material which has not been available to the general public: photographs, tape recordings, films, and data which has recently been discovered by independent investigators.

The weekly sessions will begin tonight from 7 to 10 p.m., in BSS 119.

The workshop format will encourage class participation by including individual research on separate facets of the assassination. The findings will be discussed in class so that they may be collected and evaluated.

Mark Lane, author of "Rush to Judgment," will be invited to address the workshop, as well as Harold Weisberg who wrote "Whitewash."

Those persons who have spoken favorably of the Warren Commission's efforts will also be heard. The workshop will study the 26 volumes published by the Commission and the writings of those who have found it valid.

Bill

Hysttown, Md. 20734
11/1/68

Mr. Hal Verh
923A Fulton St.,
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Hal,

The timing of your letter of Nov. 3 could have been better by only one day. I'll now have to write U of Wisc telling them only the week of the 12th. I'd told them either that week or the previous one. I'm looking forward to it. There are now only two things that can interfere. Tomorrow morning I'm having some kind of upper gastrointestinal check. I do not know whether there is anything, I hope there is not, and if a anything shows that will change our plans I'll let you know. I'll probably mail this on the way to the clinic, for our mail has gone for the day - unless someone comes who can mail it.

The other possible conflict is work on the new book. There is not much I can now tell you about this, but barring unexpected difficulties or medical problems the immediate concern with that should be over before that week. May I suggest that you figure on beginning Monday the 5th? I should also go to LA and very much want to. Perhaps we can work out a schedule where I can go to LA first and then come up there and then go to Madison on my way home, perhaps stopping in Chicago. Or, I can go to Chicago on the way out if I can line something up. But Chicago is uncertain. I'll send a copy of this to the LA people who can possible check with you. But from the way things now look, I think if I could be in LA whatever part of the week of 11/28 they'd like, possible only the last part, or possibly the last part and the beginning of the week of 12/5, then be in SF the rest of the week of the 5th and, should it be necessary, perhaps a day or two of the week of the 12th., and then go to Madison on the way home, the schedule would be more efficient. Also, I am reluctant to leave my wife by herself any longer than is essential.

But in any event, unless there is something immediate that turns up in the medical check, this sounds very good and I'm looking forward to it. My last presently-scheduled medical check is 11/25, the previous week.

Meanwhile, if prior to that we can get anything going by phone or radio, I think we can stir up some interest. I think this entire thing is coming to a head much faster than is on the surface apparent. What you say bears on that. Also, I think my new book will date much of the present discussion and a large part of the field that can be constructively discussed. When you see it you'll know more. If prior to my arrival I have an idea how many radio stations would like me, I can be thinking of different material for each. For example, I've never used Part 2 of WHITEWASH on the coast at all, and there is virtually none of it in any of the other works. Here the "Patsy" tape could be very helpful, Bill.

Generally speaking, I do not care what the format of any appearance is. It is tougher on me and is beginning to tell when I have opposition. That makes for the best and most informative show and is, I think, the way this whole business got opened up. Generally speaking again, it is least desirable to have on the same program others on the same side. The differences in points of view are obvious and it tends to make for confusion and a less lively show.

The whole business of the "new" material transferred to the Archives and the reappearance of the pix and Krays is part of the play of desperation, as is LBJ's press conference effort to put the monkey on Bobby's back while making it clear that he is saying nothing while seeming to (nothing I have seen...). What you and others say about the asst counsel is in the same plane. They are worried. This means that, aside from Liebler, they'll be looking out for their individual interests, and I think it will be fun when the two main culprits, one on your coast and one on mine

start looking for ways of leaving the ship. I also think that at least for the present our main attention should be to the staff, not the members. I have many reasons for saying this. I also believe it is right and true. If you recall my introduction to WHITEWASH, I have seen nothing to in any way dispute this and very much to solidify it. I think there is no question but that the whitewashing was a staff job. So the new play is but a cloaked further suppression....All articles on Liebeler are helpful. They do not always duplicate. Sometimes there is a single helpful sentence.

With reference to your comments on a symposium with members of the Commission, by which I take it you mean staff, I'm inclined to let them worry, as they are now worrying; let them lie, as they are now lying. If any want to debate me, fine. If they do not, I'll leave enough behind to keep them busy for a while. Let's play it cool. I anticipate there may be some kind of a Liebeler confrontation in LA. I shall do nothing more to promote it. I have enough and need no Charlie McCarthy. If he wants me to come back after I've been there to debate him, which I very much doubt, I'll do it. By this time, from WHITEWASH alone, he knows I'm loaded. And I've got much more. I also think the cause of the ultimate truth may best be served by their fighting among themselves. This they will resist, but events may develop to the point where they each do in intended self-defense. Liebeler has already done this with Specter through Epstein. I do much better with Specter in the new book.

At the present time, a symposium with both sides and any number would be awkward and hazardous. Lane has been too inaccurate and there is too good a chance of all of us being tarred by the kind of attack they can make on him. I'd prefer to be the only one of those writing against the Report, to stand on my own feet, and have no one on my back. I do not think they will all get together yet in any event, at least not on a platform and in public. I rather imagine that as things grow the staff will adopt the Liebeler-Epstein line that they were but servants following the bidding of the members. This will not jell, but it may be their best defense. In the Metromedia TV show (where the editing was very unfair and unkind to me) I nonetheless launch something along this line that remains in the tape.

I've had no direct contact with Lifton since before the Remparts issue was set. I've heard the charges against him and know nothing more. I'd suggest he be allowed to work his way out of whatever he is in. I speak as an older man, Hal.

If your question about Morgan having Jenner and Ball on Monday night refers to tonight, it is academic. If next Monday, by all means, I'd like to be on by phone, if they'll call me. I've done this alone and with others in the studio. The only problem is that those in the studio can fillibuster and steal lines and take other advantages. But with opposition, fine. Let 'em. As you learned with Dolan, I wake up fast. If this is a nighttime show and I'm asleep, 5 minutes is enough to put on a bathrobe and awaken. On Dolan, when it is all set, it would be nice if he could call me one or two nights in advance for a teaser or two. I've got some fresh stuff that can be brief and exciting.

Should anything develop, I'll let you know. As soon as I can, I'll have to dip into the dough we owe the printer for enough to get a Valapak or something for clothing. I'm looking forward to it. Try and bear in mind that we have all been working in a more or less static way, dealing with what, essentially, is in WHITEWASH. This is still true, still important. But we should be trying to anticipate the changes that our success has made imminent. We have been successful, even if there are no picket lines around the White House. We should also avoid propaganda stunts that are not genuinely constructive, because of the subject matter. Things are going to happen. Of what I have knowledge, I think my new book and Manchester's will soon work a radical change. Then there are political necessities that will surface. I think it would be wise to try and anticipate which way things will go when they change and to consider it likely there will be a change. Thanks for everything.

Yours,

November 3, 1966

923A Fulton St.
S.F., Cal. 94117

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Your letter of Oct. 22 received and this is the first chance I've had to sit down for a reasonable amount of time to answer it.

I've checked with KCBS and they definitely want you to appear. There is a show run by Harve Morgan every night (it's called "Contact") and it's like Dolan's of KNEW. So anytime you will be in town they will definitely have you on. It could take no more than 24 hours to arrange it when you come in.

As far as Joe Dolan is concerned the same thing is true. The same day you arrive Joe could have you on. Of course, the best way is to line up these shows well in advance. So count on both KCBS and KNEW. As for the other radio and TV-stations I am certain they would be interested. The only reason I haven't checked into them is the time factor -- I just haven't had the chance to sit down and call all of them up. The main reason for this is that I wanted to wait until I could find a good time slot for you to appear.

The time that would be best for you to appear would be on or around December 9. The reason I selected this date is that a group is putting on a forum on December 9 (Fri. nite) on the Kennedy assassination and they are trying to get a speaker from Ramparts to speak on their November issue. They asked me to have you appear on that date also. I told them I was reasonably sure that you would be here then. The forum would be held by the Militant Labor Forum. (In New York they also conduct weekly forums). They wanted to have you speak before other engagements and I said this would be possible depending upon when you were able to come into town.

As far as plane fare the money will come out of the "Citizens Committee of Inquiry" we have here in the bay area. Of course, I will also see that you have a place to stay while you are here. Perhaps the best way to arrange this would be to have you come in on Wednesday, Dec. 7 and stay for a week or until such time as different talks could be arranged. I'll assume that you agree with this arrangement for now and after I send this letter off I'll start lining up talks for you on campuses, radio, TV, etc. Also I think a press conference should be held on Dec. 7 or 8 after you arrive.

So assume that this is the time schedule. If you have any change in plans and cannot meet these dates please let me know at once.

I'm enclosing copies of articles on Liebelier as you requested. It appears that one of his predictions (the "hunch") about the X-rays and photos was partially correct in lieu of the Kennedy family's announcement yesterday. The S.F. Examiner story yesterday said, however, that the family "imposed strict conditions including a permanent ban on publication or display of the gruesome photo". So we're right back where we started from.

There's some mighty funny going ons with respect to Liebelier at al. Harve Morgan of KCBS told me that some members of the commission have indicated a desire to "participate" in a "symposium" at some major University where all the critics and investigators could be assembled together. I asked Morgan who was interested in participating and he mentioned Specter, Liebelier, Griffin among others.

I told Morgan that this was like inviting a couple of horse stealers to your farm and letting them look at your chickens. When Morgan and I were discussing this Penn Jones, Richard Stark (who helped Lane on his film), and Bill Turner of Ramparts were present. So the suggestion of a "symposium" wasn't being offered lightly. Morgan said these men were interested in the idea.

Jones was in town for a few days and had a busy schedule of radio and tv appearances. I also invited him to appear at my weekly class at the S.F. State College (Experimental College) on the assassination. The first meeting was last night and about 39 people showed up. I'm enclosing a copy of the College newspaper on the course.

Dave Lifton has been attending Liebel's class at UCLA. He told me that Ray Marcus had accused him now of "selling out". Lifton's position now is that the Secret Service lied to the Commission and that though Oswald is innocent and was framed the investigation wasn't a deliberate whitewash but rather one in which the members exhibited qualities of "bungling" or "stupidity". There was no collusive suppression of evidence Dave seems to be saying. I don't see how he can take this position but he is. Do you know anything of this?

Dave said Liebel will probably be the first member of the Commission "to jump ship". He also told me about Liebel sending Rankin a letter about the 4 missing frames of Zapruder's film. Redlich answered instead and said there was "nothing in it". I don't know ~~anything~~ anything more about this but Liebel should be called to account for it. Dave told me, though, that since this was a private discussion between him and Liebel it was not wise to bring the letters out into the open since Liebel's confidence would be violated. If you write Lifton on this just ask him what Liebel's position is on the missing frames.

When Jones was on KCBS a few days ago with Bill Turner Burt Griffin was listening in and the three tangled together. Let me tell you some of the interesting things that turned up out of this repartee. Jones brought up the Jarnagin incident and Turner brought up the Litchfield testimony (see Vol. 14, p. 107). Griffin said Jarnagin's testimony was rejected because of a "background check". As far as Litchfield Griffin said Hubert had taken his testimony but that his testimony was rejected on the grounds that his "general demeanor and general approach" weren't satisfactory. He also said that witnesses interviewed who were with Litchfield did not corroborate him and besides Litchfield had an "extensive criminal record". Then Turner wanted to know if the other witnesses were interviewed by the Commission and who they were. Griffin said one was a photographer and Turner kept talking about another man present - Alex Gruber. It went around and around like this and the thing was that no one had a copy of the volumes present or we could've referred to them so no one was sure as to whether someone was or was not in the volume. Jones then asked Griffin why Jarnagin hadn't been called to testify. Griffin said 552 witnesses were called and if we had to call everyone "the taxpayers have to pay the bill". Jones answered: "Good - let a thousand witnesses testify if necessary until we crack this case wide open." What Jones was referring to is the fact that in Jarnagin's deposition he mentioned that he had called the police on Oct. 5, 1963 (that is, before the assassination) about the alleged conversation between Ruby and Oswald. Griffin lamely replied: "Well, the police had no record of this".

Harve Morgan about this time then mentioned a conversation he

had with a member of the Warren Commission about whether a new investigation would be started about the whole subject of the assassination and that the Commission member replied: "Not in a million years - it'll never happen!" I asked Morgan after the show who it was that made the statement and he said he was not at liberty to tell.

Incidentally, Morgan will have Jenner and Ball in person on his "Contact" show Monday night. I am going to ask him to reach you and see if he can have a question from you --do you think this would be worthwhile? The producer of the show have asked us to help out in letting us have volumes on hand and both Paul Hoch and I may be at the studio to facilitate them.

I'll try to get a tape made of the show or keep notes and send you anything of value.

You might be interested in knowing that an ad in the Barb has this notice: "HO KILLED KENNEDY" POSTER, P.O. Box 309, Venice, Cal. 90291.

The reason I asked you about Korth is that he figures in the Oswald case to some extent. Fred Korth handled Marguerite's divorce case and thus, knew of Oswald beforehand. Also he got the letter from Oswald about the reinstatement of his discharge from the marines. Korth was forced to resign from the Kennedy Administration a month before Kennedy was assassinated and there appears to have been some bitterness between the both of them. But the most important of all is the fact that he was one of several people who helped arrange Kennedy's Dallas trip! (Check this out in Volume 7, page 475).

Well, this is about all for now. I must get back to some other matters. Don't forget to let me know about your upcoming trip here.

Best,

Hal
Hal

P.S. - Paul Hoch is not working for Popkin, even though his name appears as a footnote in his book. Popkin just came across Hoch's Archive document through friends, I presume. Paul sends you his regards. *Hal*