

8/26/67

Dear Hal,

I hope you have a carbon of your letter of 8/21, which took five days by air. My mail gets worse. The copy of the NO ms mailed the Wash office of the Times of London by my NY agent has not gotten there after more than two weeks. I believe this interference cost Dell publication of it, as I'll tell you when we are together again. I'll run through it by par., for today, for the first time, in several days, I'm writing again.

Thanks on Dolan. I have no doubt it is M tromedia pressure and that it precedes the Sehl firing. I have evidences of it on this coast. Thus I did not change a word in the N.O. book about him, nor did I add any, as I could have after what he did. Not have I been bitter in writing him. No response. Not even to say he hadn't gotten his copy, for I wrote and told him I sent Jim's attached to his and Jim had not gotten it. Increasingly, may I add, my mail is not delivered. Heard from the editor of Sega that what I sent him two weeks ago did not arrive. For what Joe has been and has done I'm grateful.

If this reaches you in time to tell Jim, who I think will not phone me (we talked by phone) I'll be gone 8/30 noon until pm, 8/31 on a turned worm project. I'm doing his show for a vacationing talker who had me for six hours. His station want me to go there and do a talk show, as I might when I'm finished this writing. You well know the problem of income. They make a very good promise. I mailed Jim something I think he is interested in, a current riots angle, the new Commission so closely following the old that the first witness was Rankin!

Harve will keep a professional copy of the Andrews tapes with my permission. I'll be glad to have a transcript of all of it, for we did but 500 words for O in N.O. (thinking of Jenner on Today, my wife says Oheeno for the title-remember his Eusins as EByoueenoh?).

I am making a determined effort to get out there beginning the end of September. I am co-publisher of the Parallax book, due very soon. I split the rprofit and the loss, and they take 100% of costs out first. They are small, have few facilities. If I go out and they pay, it is still more than half my money, one helluvaway to promote a book. But I have agreement in principle to a Chi-Selt Lake City, SF, LA trip postpublication. I'll try and add N.O. and, if a TV show can be arranged, St. Louis. So remember KQED and any others who will not do phone first for then. However, this possibility makes more essential some phone in advance, to lay foundation, build interest.

Page 2, par. 1. I hope I do not have to tell you how much I appreciate what you have done. You alone have sought to get me time for me rather than to defend Lane, and only in SF did I get so sell any of my books, meaning also what I believe and have discovered and published. However, I have yet to get apid for those books! Your attitude, thinking, are mine.

Par 2. Thanks, but you are not personally responsible for this obligation. Others made the assurance, as I recall, the Committee. However, if I get that, I'll try and use it to pay my way out. I'll not be able to go the cheap rate and stop off. I've been promised Chi and S. lake Cy TV. Someone else can also help now with my TV if this comes off, friend of Harv's. Can you speak to Venter and the others who had me then to see if they would like. I'd like to forget the stuff everyone else has been chewing like cud and go where I have already moved this forward. I can have the originals of the docs in RW, for example.

Par 3, please thank Primmer. It was no insult to him!

Par 4. I hope, belatedly, when I can do nothing about it now, Turner will send those notes. He has already taken public credit for my "discovery" (I got the Remparts; thanks). I have seen Penn's picture. There is a strong Ruby resemblance but I doubt if it is he. Clothes check could help establish. Penn hasn't sent promised

print though Seth Kantor was waiting to examine it. Penn has many additional troubles. I suspect he's spent his backlog. His printer is hospitalized (cancer). For all you say, Waldo has not answered my letter.

I recall your letter about the UFO woman. I have seen pictures of H,H and S and would very much like copies of those you have to compare and show those who may have seen them in Dallas. I saw LIFE's copies. I'd like to see the arrest picture. Recall my mentions in WW, PW, and the Docs. The Spanish part is interesting for there is evidence the epileptic seizure had Cuban involvement. Not proved. I think there may have been two arrests. One was not let go immediately.

3-3: You misunderstood Harv. We might have met in NYF (and didn't). I was there 2304, taking a detour for an additional evisceration of Kieran O'Dougherty, Conservative Party head and legal nut. I wish I had more enemies like him and as willing to fade me.

I have much to tell you of Hall but cannot now. Some of this is feedback. The more people read my books the more I get closer to ~~his~~ characters in it, directly or, as in this case, indirectly. Some of his acquaintances have been in touch! It is (sh!, although the FBI knows and is there) Lake Isabella.

I can neither affirm nor refute Turner on LIFE. I am working with them and it is my understanding that, despite the major internal conflict, they are doing a fall story, work on which again resumes in 10 days, on unseen pix. I also stayed in that "Mafia" motel, which is a fine one! I do not think they are trying to link Jim with it but may be wondering if it (and "inutemen") were connected with assassination.

Par 5. Vy exciting. I do have people to show these pictures to if I can get prints, people who were there and are well known in Cuban community.

Sprague tabulated the different pictures he has seen and located without seeing, by photographer, scene, etc. He has done wonderfully in following what I started. I no longer take any initiatives. He seems now to have located dubs of Alyea and Couch film! He and Joes were to have seen two days ago. Harris asked me to stay over and view but I could not take time.

If I have the same Desatta report (I presume Garrison gave this one to Turner) the interesting think is the Oswald in it and his function, when the real LHO was in USSR. I think if possible that FDC -remember I asked you some time ago for any dope on them - may now be INCA. Seemingly strong Ochsner-right wing tie.

Kloepfer-Lemann memo exciting. Copy? Haven't seen. I found evidence CIA bankrolling lawyers 4/28. Not confirmed.

I'd heard ~~name~~ was moving to N.O. He will be no asset to Garrison, for he has done no recent work and has no knowledge of this part of case and may well persuade Jim to use his own error. I hope you can be there, and if you go and I do not - and I shall not unless Jim asks me to, for I must finish my own work - let me know so I can make some introductions.

Shirley Martin is near Tulsa. Penn would put you up and line you up with en route help, probably. He and his wife and grand people.

Max should find some interest in PW. Would he like the white on white evidence, the illegible exhibits, etc. He can use. Thank him, please. He should certainly be interested in the refusal to allow a photoarchive to exist (That is black on black on blackheart).

Will read Havana transcript after mailing. I am interested in any such.

LIFE cannot publish "those Willis slides", by which I presume Turner meant his new ones that I arranged to interest LIFE in and him to show them. They have to buy them first. I got Willis to promise to let them have copies for study by explaining to him that his schmalz today has the market value of lard, that for us to find value in them we must study them. We have gotten other things of worth from him. He also phoned me. I am the catalyst here.... My attack via fairness doctrine is more than CBS if you read my carbons carefully, but I've drafted that one aspect of that one part. It is very broad and seeks widening doctrine to include AP, UPI!

Hope you can read this through unedited typos. Best regards,

Hal.

August 21, 1967

Dear Hal:

Received your letter with contents and letters to Dolan, etc. I spoke to Dolan, in fact, just this afternoon and tried to get him interested in doing a show around your book (PHoto WW). He told me that he had never received it. I was very much surprised at this and can't understand how he couldn't have received it. He asked me to tell him details of your book and I proceeded to explain that it was absolutely thoroughly documented and contained information of devastating significance to the whole case and that you were having a hard time getting it publicized. I even told him of the New Orleans dealer refusing to distribute it and of other efforts to avoid it. Dolan asked me if I really thought this book was significant and I assured him that the message contained in it was vital and needed to be told. I then told him about making available the Andrews tape (which I taped from the CBS Morgan show) and he didn't seem interested trying to explain that in order for him to use it he'd have to explain all the little incidentals and that he wasn't abreast of all the developments, that there were news stories that were crowding out the assassination such as China, the riots, etc. He then said that he was "confused" himself over the issue. I even offered to go over to his house and sit down with him and explain the tape and supply him with a transcript of the Andrews interview after I have someone type it up. (Incidentally, you'll definitely get a copy of this when it is finished. Two people are working on it now and it is an exhausting task but you will get it). I then offered to let him have my copy of WW III, and said I'd be glad to go over it with him and bring him up to date on the latest developments with respect to your work.

From all the above you can gather what, I think, is that Dolan is under pressure. What exactly it is I am not in a position to say but Metromedia has probably "gotten the message" across to Dolan about subtly withdrawing. If you want my opinion I think it's because of the Sahl incident. When talking to Jim Eason the other day he expressed the thought that broadcasters would be wary on this as of now because of what happened to Sahl. As Jim said it's like they're saying don't overplay it or you'll get the axe like he did. Jim, himself, said that he'd be careful on this. Jim levels with me and he is, of course, interested in this case and particularly your work as I'm sure you know.

Eason told me that beginning today and continuing for a two week period ending Sept. 1, he'll be on KGO (ABC's affiliate) here from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. which would be 4 to seven there. I asked him if he could do a show with you and he said he would try to work it in without making it look obvious that he was going out of his way to get you. So you can probably expect a call from Jim on this in the next few days. On this line I'll try to visit with Jim and go over some things with him before he does call.

I asked one of the members of my class to contact KQED during the day (when I am unable to) to get a program built around your book. In this instance she said that they're very much for doing interviews with authors of new works but the difficulty would be that you'd have to be here. She knows the right person to talk to and will advise me on this tomorrow night at our meeting

This week I, myself, will get around to doing some publicity for you in contacting programs concerning your book. Again the problem is one of having you present and that is the answer they'll probably give. Some, of course, won't touch anything on the case and their troglodytic approach is typical of their stance on other issues. Newspapermen here are badly informed and probably worse so than in most big cities. They wouldn't know a really big story if they fell over it. There isn't any muckraking journalism today and the shoddy efforts *are made by* the ones who are somewhat advanced. In this case it is vital for them and others to be aware but none are and we suffer because of it. You, I and the general public. Perhaps I'm an idealist but, I still think this case is going to bring matters to a head in the future. I've never abandoned my convictions about this and with the trial now coming closer and closer and the behind-the-scenes effort to get the case crushed I feel this is the most exciting opportunity for a young writer or, in fact, any writer to pursue it with diligence. I try to do every thing I can, particularly with respect to your work. Many times I have called call-in shows and discussed your book (and the most recent one, too). It's incredible to me that no one listens but it only redoubles my efforts. The more they try to stop it from appearing the more I am determined to see that it does get a hearing. I well understand how you feel about not getting a good reception to your latest work but here we are going to do our best to get it across. You can count on that.

I realize your economic position and know that I still owe you money promised from your trip here. On this meeting's agenda I am proposing that this be immediately taken care of and you can expect something to materialize. We all realize what you have done and can't thank you enough. (I know, for example, that one of the newest members of the class has said that we would help and has expressed her appreciation of what you have done.) Other ideas to make up for this past money due you will be worked on. We'll keep you abreast of what we have in mind, of course.

I wasn't the person who called you the night on the Morgan show. That was Stan Primmer who did and he has been doing a lot of work on studying Cuban refugee groups and is thoroughly familiar with this area. One report from him, although limited, you've already seen. If I had called I would have mentioned your book. I'm sure Stan would have, too, but there was so little time and he was seeking answers to specific questions.

I saw Bill Turner today and a few ~~day~~ days ago had a long discussion with him. He promised to send you the notes you wanted. When I saw Bill today Thayer Waldo was there. He was writing a piece for Ramparts and we couldn't talk too long but he set up a meeting for next week and I'll talk with him some questions I have. I asked him if he thought shots were fired from the Dal*tex building and he said he thought so. He also knows of Penn Jones picture of a man resembling Ruby outside the Parkland Hospital but hasn't seen it. I've asked Jones to send it to me but have received no answer. I told Waldo of your difficulties in getting WW III publicized and distributed. He lent a very sympathetic and understanding ear. He is a very affable sort and talks very readily unlike some newsmen I have met. Waldo said he hasn't followed developments in a very long time and his memory has become hazy on several points.

Turner turned over to me photos of Hall, Howard & Seymour. I intend to send one (Seymour's) to one woman I know of who claims she saw LHO's double. I mentioned this to you in an earlier letter.

Turner also showed me a photo he says was taken a few minutes after the assassination not far from the TSBD showing a man being held by two Dallas police. He is screaming something in Spanish and is standing next to a little girl. The film shows he is let go. I presume this to be the Spafgue film but Turner could not say so for sure. Do you know anything about it?

You should by now have gotten a copy of the June Minuteman Ramparts piece which I had friends send you. If you have not, let me know and I'll see you get another copy.

Morgan told me that on his vacation from KCBS he would stop off and see you. I believe he said he would see you Wednesday (Aug. 23). If so, when I saw him recently he said he knew the whereabouts of William Seymour. Says he's in Tucson probably working for a trucking firm. He wouldn't give me the source but said he had his address. I know Turner hadn't given him it so I suggest that you ask Morgan this when you see him. Morgan also believed Hall to be in a town sounding like "Isobel" California. Turner said Howard is either in Eastern Los Angeles or Pica, Rivera(?). He said that Hall's driver's license is in Kerndale, California.

According to Turner Life has backed down on its "reopening theme". He claims that their latest pitch on the Garrison probe is to try to link it with the Mafia. In other words, the Mafia has ties with Garrison. They let him use a hotel known to be a Mafia front, etc. Enough to make Garrison laugh, no doubt but could do serious harm. Turner, in fact, told Garrison of this and Garrison did laugh.

Before I forget: In the photos Turner gave me, the feeling is that Howard looks very much like the man in the assassination film who is seen screaming in Spanish. Experts say they match.

You also mentioned that the Sprague film had been "tabulated". I wasn't quite sure of what you meant. If such a tab does exist, can you send me a copy?

Just a few more items before I forget: I have a copy of the FBI report on Deslatte (which mentions the Friends of Democratic Cuba). Is it a possibility that Joseph Moore could be an alias for Seymour? (Also, is this the Moore mentioned in the Spires Nashville Tennessee piece I sent you?)

You'll recall my thoughts on the WDSU #CIA possible connection. I now have a memo on Reissman (Dr. Leonard). In it is contained the following information: "Her (Ruth Kloepfer) husband is also related to Stephen Lemann who is (a) the General Counsel for WDSU -TV, ~~and~~ and (b) according to information given us, the local paymaster for the CIA with regard to the attorneys attempting to block the inquiry." I presume you have this same memo but if you don't I'll be glad to send a copy. Can't send one ~~now~~ now but if you remind me in your next letter I will.

In your letter to a member of my class you discussed some points about the epileptic fit. I'm enclosing data on this and it contains the police radio log of the incident.

I spoke to Mark Lane today. He told me he is working on finishing a new book [It'll be on the media and the assassination]. On Monday (Aug. 28) he leaves for New Orleans where he'll move to. As of now he's in Palo Alto. Waldo indicated to me that he would be down there too to cover the Shaw trial. Turner ditto, if time allows him. I am feeling Ramparts out about going down to New Orleans in September and will meet with Turner again. I am very interested in going down. In fact, I put an ad in the Berkeley Barb that I was interested and am seeking transportation. It's the chance of a lifetime as I see it and I'll have the time. -(I

IMPORTANT
→ *

have free time now because of a lay-off at my plant. The only problem will be that of money while I'm in New Orleans. I think I can manage to get to New Orleans without too much of a financial burden. Perhaps, Ramparts will help out but I doubt it. I'm trying to make other contacts so that any stories that I do there will be paid for by whoever is interested. On the way there I intend to see Penn N Jones, pass through Dallas. Is Shirley Martin on the way?). If I leave I'll try to get there before the trial begins but at this point that is all conjectural.

I did a review of WW III for the Berkeley Barb for Friday, August 25. I'll send a copy when it comes out. Let me know if you get any orders for the book because of it. Barb now reaches close to 50,000 readers. I don't write for them as often as I used to but now with the time I have I think I can do more on the assassination bit. Can you think of any ideas that I can get into print. Max (the editor) frowns on continuing pieces and I am asked to keep stories down to 3 pages when submitted. Perhaps a story on the behind-the-scenes maneuverings designed to destroy Garrison's case.

I'm enclosing a copy of a transcript based on a radio Havana tape of November 16, 1963. There's some interesting material on the CIA operatives. I can't locate earlier pages to this at the time but it contains just about the same type of comments you see in this one. I wonder who all the first-named CIA individuals are. My guess is that when aliases were used (probably so in all cases) the operatives used their same first names. It's much easier to respond to a first name you're familiar with if you're doing work of a secret nature and don't want to be tripped up. (Remember the "Frank Bender" in the Invisible Government and then, of course, there's the Clay Bertrand-Shaw matter.)

Turner indicated to me that Life won't go through with publishing those Willis slides. He says one reason Life adopted it's "reasonable doubt" stand was because they felt miffed by Look magazine having gotten the rights to the Manchester book and scooping them. As Waldo said Jackson (publisher) is the "cement-head" of the right wing and would be the last person to realize an important issue was coming to a head.

You mentioned in your letter that you were going to do a reply to the CBS-TV series. As of now I don't have any comments on this but this week I'm going over the transcript and some other matter (such as Paul Hoch's notes) and will send you my thoughts on this. Ditto for the AP and NBC versions.

Well, I guess I'll close now. Hope everything is going well and that the Oswald in N.O. book is coming along. I'll write you soon and keep you posted about latest developments.

Best,

Hal Verb
Hal Verb