

1/26/67

Dear Hal,

Hasty response to yours of October 24, of which I send Jonn a copy to help the two of you cue in.

First, congratulations on your great and successful efforts! Wonderful! Jonn also has things cooking very well. My immediate west-coast concerns are: will I have enough time in SF to do what you two line up and will I have anything to do in LA, for I've heard nothing from the people there. With Steve away, I can understand this, but I repeat what I have earlier told Jonn and written Steve, if they do not have me booked for the speech at UCLA 11.15, I should stay in SF if necessary and go there 11/16.

Next, my apologies for the paper and ribbon. Because I'm about to leave, I do not want a new ribbon to dry out in my absence so I haven't changed. The paper is what I will be using for a while (we haven't had new letterheads printed yet, but envelopes are coming today by buss, so we can also mail out advance copies of OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS). It costs me \$32.00 for a box of the 3M copier paper. This thin sheet is always left over. In preparation for my trip, I've used a box. I will have all the documentary backstopping for O in NO with me and as many other documents as I can copy and carry. That is my present chief occupation, for a number of purposes. Those that I haven't published will have to remain confidential but I'll show them, to you and Paul, for example, and if I can be assured there will be no accidents with them like others writing in the field getting access to them, will permit copies to be made. Well, I just cannot waste all this paper, so instead of having the problem of overflowing wastebaskets I'll save and use it. If it is too hard to read, tell me and I'll save it for carbons only.

Schedule changes necessitated a slight change of schedule. I arrive at 8:31 p.m. 11/10 instead of 8:05. I leave at 7:35 a.m. 11/15 instead of 8:00 a.m. Here a compromise is possible, for I can leave later even if I speak at UCLA that night. I'd asked for an early plane to give me time to prepare for it, get documents lined up, tapes excerpted, etc., but I can ad lib entirely and do anything you or Jonn may line up for the a.m. or early p.m..

May I offer a copy of the index to her book to Rosemary James? Thanks for it.

I remember Freeman with respect and pleasure. He makes an interview a stimulating thing (KDIA, Jonn). In this connect, also Ben Williams (KPX- have you spoken to him. He really ran the December press conference, competently, and with the obvious respect of his peers).

Pacific: cannot we get Bill to do that in LA if we are too pressed for time in SF. This is what we did before. They will not air it for a while anyway, and Bill also knows the subject well. Your schedule leaves the a.m. of Monday open for the KGO show we did last time that I think Jonn has lined up. That's good. It also leaves time on Sat and Sun for taping. I do not know if they do this in SF, but CBS did in LA last year. How about Harv. Have you checked with him and Jonn? I am very fond of him and his wife and would like to spend a night with them. He promised that if I have an early a.m. show the next day one of them will get me there on time. If he has a Saturday night show, we can do that. Otherwise, if Jonn could not delay a taping he had scheduled for before I can get to SF (like your last year's press conf.), possibly I can go right there from the plane Friday night. That would be dramatic, too. I think I've given him a formula we can use to swing this show. Anyway, to me Saturday and Sunday are working days. Jonn has some things not public lined up that can be very important. When you and Jonn have everything else lined up, perhaps we can squeeze tapings in these days, for example, with Louis Freeman (where I'd like to compare the "riots" Commission with the Warren, including initial advice from Rankin). This reminds me: which night do I spend with Jim Eason. Has anyone invented a sleeping pill with a specific antidote, so we can use both?

In preparation, I've been forcing myself to stay abed six hours every night, once in a while 7. I'm much more tired than last year and I've a few medical problems, one the possibility of diabetes or a similar condition. I'm also on a low-carb diet.

I'm all for the press conference. Tom has the same idea. Whatever you do is fine. "Remember, you had a Sacramento station there last year. Why not try and include book editors this time in case they want to ask me about suppression, the unwillingness or incapacity of publishers to publish fast, make books current (as, save for fifth, I also do), the problems of private publication, etc. I'm also all for the college appearances, if they can be worked in (and I can sit down while speaking). If we xxx run short of time, could we schedule your class for after the last appearance the night of 11/14? Or before it, say a supper meeting. We have an opportunity with this book to do what we haven't been in a position to for some time, and I'd like to use every available minute. You know the problems I have traveling and buying for the travel. But I'd like to meet with your class again. Can you try and squeeze that in for another time if we have an availability at that prime hour.

You can fill you in on the availability of books if he hasn't already. Either of you can get copies from the wholesaler, LS Distributors, Lou Swift or Dick Steiert, 621-6001. However, please use them only for press copies (save for Paul) and give the release date, 11/17. This is faster and cheaper than my mailing. If you have a car and you haven't, perhaps you can get them and divvy with him?

When you mention the "Thousand Medusas" chapter I realize how much I have put this book from my mind as I work on others. I'll have to read it at least before I get out there. When you get the ms back from Joe, I'd appreciate it if you or you could check on something for me. A hasty glance at the book indicates a very sloppy job, for example, the omission of the table of contents; I had forgotten to include the proof that the Cuban Revolutionary Council had been organized by the CIA and made an add on it. It is important that I know whether or not it was picked up, for it it wasn't, I'll have to emphasize that. I'll have photocopies of Schlessinger with me. I have seen Penn since then and have a little more on this, not published. If you talk to Dolan again, you might call to his attention the coincidence between my appearance in New Orleans and the subpoenaing of Kennedy and DeBruyne immediately thereafter. I would prefer not to volunteer this... You got pretty far into the ms, unless you read like Tom, if you got to chapter 12.

Just spoke to Farwell. If the book does well enough and I cannot do every- thing this trip, another is possible in a month or so. Tom-these parities Bowen, etc. In person at that time. The SE diet has copies now, so you can get them. I hope both of you will keep a copy for the noting of errors, which, I fear, may abound. Just nothing I had misread letter, that you finished book. Right now you probably know it better than I do.

Re: Burton's fears: I have one, that Shaw will not live. Murdering Garrison would not eliminate prosecution. He has competent assistants. I rather liked several. They do not have his flair, but they are good lawyers.

On the newspaper clipping, which I return, look at the face of the man with his fists raised. It seems familiar to me. Your reference to Forty and Balli on his show makes me wonder if Tom can get me on it. He can tell you that Garrison spent some time with Balli and Lee Bailey and shook Balli a little. It is possible he said what Steve quoted.

The name Hicks is familiar but I have no separate file. I think I came across it when I was in the TV inventories that I didn't the money to get copied (one alone would have cost \$25.00). Your comment on the SS re Miami is evaluable. I had forgotten to check it out and will want that for the press conference. Again from the same period of greatest poverty and least time, I am fairly certain I saw something about this in the files but couldn't afford to get copies.

In a similar connection, I have still another plot to kill the President, also taped, that I did not add to the book. In Dallas and involving Cubans. I also have witnesses. You'll jump when I tell you who:

On your PS about the names who served with Oswald: neither name is in a file I recently saw of those contacted by the Government. All the names in that file are mentioned in the printed stuff. Our Dioen said he had never been spoken to. I am inclined to have a strong hunch on the explanation. However, I will not be able to follow these leads down now. I can write Bill Barry about the one at Fort Walton Beach & is that near Miami) and a radio man I know in Hartford about the one in West Haven. Possibly a new York newsman, if you think either a good idea. Barry will use what he get and he may not be in a position to understand or see through, even though Penn has a high opinion of his news competence (hard-nosed, he said). These things are just beyond my present capacity.

This is longer than I had anticipated. If I read and correct it, I'll have fewer documents with me, and I know which you'd prefer. In making reference to these documents for the press conference and media purpose, say nothing about any not used in the book, but you can say I'll have more than 300 pages of those that can properly be called suppressed, that were, until I dug them out, secret, and that those who want copies to use in their papers or on their TV may do so. I'm having black and white slides made of a few pictures, including the Newman building and its addresses (and Benister's door) and a few shots of Rene's bar, including Benister's store, and of Shaw's home. I also have a few others I've not made slides of, like Novel's Lamesan Village. Oh, ye, also Oswald's magazine street home. I think you'll be interested in what the Commission called a "back porch". It was as private as the cable car (I should ride that this time).

To John: If you showed John my letter to you and got any reaction, I should know in advance. And if I broadcast to him from the room John has arranged, can you please arrange for a second phone in that room, John, so Halix and/or you can listen in? You may both recall from the book what I now have forgotten. By the way, Halix will make up a table of contents you'll be able to copy. We have the galleys indexed, but they never gave me the pages when they were stricken off, so it is now useless until we have that done (a friend is now doing it). Then we type the t of a I'll mail one of you a copy of it. In this connection, if either of you has suggestions for a few appendix additions to Vol II, please make them. Although I have gotten very few orders for the index to that (not included because the printer bound all of them by mistake), I fell I must publish it, if at a loss, and there will be a few pages to fill out the site.

My apologies for your struggles with the typing. Best to you all.

October 24, 1967

Dear Hal:

Sorry for the delay in not answering you sooner but this past week has been rather hectic. I'll try to bring you up to date on developments here and some information on your tour while you stay here in the Bay Area.

I've lined up several programs, including Joe Dolan. There are some I still have to work out arrangements with but these are ones that are more flexible than the others. They include KDIA (where Louis Freeman is) and KPFA (the FM Pacifica station). Both are anxious to have you so there is no problem there.

So far these are confirmed appearances while you are here: Sat., Nov. 11 at KNEW (Joe Dolan, 8 a.m. to 12 noon); Mon., Nov. 13, KRON-TV "Panorama" (4 to 4:30 PM); KQED-TV - "Mel Wax Show" - 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14, "Dave McElhatton Show" (6 to 10 a.m.), KCBS-radio.

Of the above not all the time will be spent in interviewing you. For example, Dolan will phone you and probably speak for about 45 minutes then have questions. (He no longer has guests appear in the studio). On the McElhatton program you are to be in the studio at 9:10 a.m. which only gives you 50 minutes of radio time.

What I would also like to do is perhaps have a press conference and also have you appear at various colleges to speak during the day. I'm working as close as I can with John Christian and he will be informed as to what I have worked out. Just as a tentative outline then, I have four confirmed radio or TV appearances, six to be scheduled, two or three college appearances and a press conference.

I've set aside Tuesday evening so that my class can meet with you. (That's Nov. 14).

If you can would you send me copies of the new book so I can get it to these 10 stations? I'll deliver them all by hand so that there'll be no excuse that they were somehow lost or delayed as happened in the past.

You're correct about John Christian turning over the New Orleans manuscript to Joe Dolan for it was I who presented the ms to him. I went to his home and showed him some other material on the New Orleans investigation and loaned him a copy of the "Plot or Politics" book. We talked for about an hour and I believe I convinced him of the urgency of the matter and of his importance in this entire affair. There was no hesitation on his part to get you on and when I spoke to him yesterday I asked him if he would like to have you on first and he agreed. He couldn't really go in too deeply in your ms but I suggested that he read the "Thousand Medusas" chapter of the ms if he read nothing else and he said he would. He is swamped with a pile of letters and requests to speak plus a new television program which debuts on Jan. 2nd so he is quite busy.

I read your ms before I turned it over to Dolan and found it absolutely absorbing so much so that I stayed up until the wee hours of the morning to get through it, which I did. I then briefly reviewed it for the class (from memory and notes) and the response was good on what I showed the book would show. Everyone is waiting to see it come off the press.

I'm enclosing an index I prepared on the "Plot or Politics" book which I thought might come in useful since so many names of those figuring in Garrison's investigation are discussed.

Steve Burton was here over the weekend and told me that he and Garrison spent some time together. Lifton also met with Garrison but I know little of what they both discussed.

Burton indicates Garrison's confidence in his case but great doubts about the trial ever taking place. The belief is that either Shaw won't live to testify or that Garrison will some how be done in, even so far as his murder. There are other things Burton mentioned that I'll tell you of when I see you here in the Bay Area.

You enclosed a torn copy of the L.A. Free Press of 9/22/67 which puzzles me and I'm returning it to you. Did someone else get to this first and rip out the article I sent you?

Steve Burton said, but I can't confirm yet, that Mel Belli on Mayor Yorty's TV program (Los Angeles) said that ~~was~~ he (Belli) "is sorry that he ever defended Jack Ruby who was one of the conspirators who helped murder our President". Burton said that if Belli had known this he never would have defended him. I have no confirmation of this but if true, it is important although I have never believed that Belli didn't know what he was getting into when he defended Ruby. One thing I do know is that when Garrison spent some time at Ruby's penthouse about 10 days ago that Bill Turner was with him. Turner and I will meet soon again and I'll try to find out more about what transpired.

In your files do you have any information about a James Hicks? He once lived in Dallas at 926 No. Marsalis St., Apt. N. His wife worked at the Depository Bldg. and gave a report to FBI (see Vol. 22, p. 650) but that report does not mention the fact that Hicks was at the assassination scene. There are news reports on his being there which I have and that Garrison interviewed him. Other things I'll discuss with you about him when you're here. Remind me.

In your ms I remember reading of the Bill Barry story on the Miami tape of Nov. 9, 1963 and so I thought I would check to see what the Secret Service would have to say about any such report in the Warren Report. If you'll notice the Secret Service file was "reviewed" according to the Warren Report (see p. 432-37 on November 8). That is to say, just one day before this interview. Notice also that it only refers to the "entire Dallas-Fort Worth area" as if that would be the only place in the world for a plot to be conceived. The total effect of this is to get the Secret Service off the hook by claiming that as of a specific date (before the Nov. 9 interview) and a specified area (not Miami) they (the Secret Service) ~~were~~ were unaware of any plot. If the Miami story has any merit to it and details of the plot were not spelled out before this Nov. 9 tape this certainly clears the Secret Service only in so far as the written record of their handling of the case.

Well, I guess I'll close now so I can get this in the mail. Before I forget my telephone number is: #567-5534 (it's listed) and the alternate phone to reach me is at #237-7101 (That's my friend Tom Sanders whose place you stayed at when you were here). Correct me if I'm wrong but my schedule has you appearing here from Fri. Nov. 10 to Wed. Nov. 15 with a possible return after the 16th.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Best, Hal

*Hal*

P.S. almost forgot. I came across two ex-marines mentioned in AP files who knew Oswald you may wish to contact. I don't have their full addresses but it can probably be obtained from the operators or the telephone directories of the cities mentioned. Here they are:

Maurice Holder of Fort Walton Beach, Florida. He is a hardware salesman there and was at one time the administrative officer and director of a Santa Ana, Calif. radar unit. Holder has been quoted as having had Oswald "under his observation several months of 1959".

Peter Connor of West Haven, Connecticut. He served with Oswald in Japan and is now an apprentice ~~xxxxxxxx~~ ironworker.

Hope you can check them out.

Best, again,

*Hal*  
Hal