

7/25/67

Dear Hal,

your letter of 7/21 is almost 100% feedback. Perhaps you can now understand why there was such an abrupt change in what was coming out of New Orleans beginning the end of April. Your RFK stuff is right, but I have a different analysis: he was conned by friends. Also, more than even I suspect an Epstein connection, prob. thru former advisers.

I have not read the Nashville clip because I want to make the outgoing mail. Bannister was violently radical right, but I have no clip, pamphlets, etc. If you could send me that piece I'd like to add it to the appendix of Oswald in New Orleans. Parallax is doing it in reprint size and I in my format with an appendix of more than 300 pages. Parallax promises theirs in three weeks. I'm using their type, blowing it up to 6x9, and doing the app like in PW. There will be no time for references back to the pages or the other way. I'd like that to be possible, but too much time has been lost already. Remember, this book was done in April, before I went to NO (where I let Garrison Xerox it). You got much of it on his NBC appearance. You've been getting some of the rest in dribbles. My worst fear is that he'll give that and some of his stuff to one of us I regard as conscionable as penis erectus, who I keep hearing, is working on a book,

I did not expect NBC to use. I just want to know if they use the film they made of me because of the possibility of circuit editing.

You'll see the Friends De, Cuba, Paneque, etc., in Oswald in N.O. Those are my docs. It was probably William S. Oswald, who worked at Reilly or Standard (same), while LHO was in USSR. Rather interesting, two O's connected with CIA, LH working at some place, next to FBI, SS garage, across from P.O., short block from CRC, Bannister, etc.

You'll find that just about all of this comes from me. I turned my pic leads and suspicions over to Sprague, who has done very well in following them. He and JH have found what you'd expect from the note at the end of the index of PW I've turned all of this over to Billings of LIFE, who is cooperating. Lovelady is in Gaston Hosp. Rm 241, allegedly cancer! Not certain what Jim meant by auto rifle, but probably in combination Martin-Willis other films Probably Sprague's stuff. I ~~sus~~ suspect FEC forerunner INCA....I'll be printing the DeSlatte FBI report....There are two Hidell-Haydels. One a pervert from Houma, the other a deadbeat on the tires, both read, neither LHO. I have the stuff... I'd like the Liebeler clip on "flying trip". I have one not quite that. Some day he and I....The indications are Ferrie drove. I have all these reports, too, and print them in app....I think but I'm not sure I included that part of Walker's test...in O in NO. Ferrie was with two FBI agents, I've forgotten but I think one was Legis Kennedy, at the time of the ass., outside the court in NO. I suspect this is one of the suppressed reports....Your list of suspects quoted from Gurvich is accurate to Arcachia. There should be others with him and to Kennedy add deBrueys. He threatened Pena after Crest testified. I've arranged for Crest to appear before Grand Jury. I took Asst DA to him. He also places deBrueys at CRC, other meetings, regularly. Similarly, other source and groups, Logan! Shhhh! It's a hot book, and you'll have it soon....Ochsner is radical right. His outfit haven for them....Your conjecture WDSU good. NBC is more connected than you suspect on this, and with CIA....I'll copy that "Councilor" and return. I've bought a FM center which broke the first day. I'm awaiting the newspaper...

Esquire author Behrend, a quessifink who is responsible for the other pieces. JH has been collaborating with him. It is Salandria's stuff. I'm not impressed or convinced. Haven't seen article. I have little time for reading and have that sort of thing only when it is sent. I usually read what I do of it in the bathroom. By the time I go to bed now I'm too tired to even read. The hours and years are telling, but the output is holding up....OnRFK again, you'll see the enclosed letter, not the first recent one....The ten second cannot all be on Jackie and Clint. I do not know what it is but I'd like to. There is some we haven't identified. LIFE is buying all this they can get, and I want them to have it.

I'll see if they are interested in calling on Dolan show-conventions. Too much for me. I'm going to finish another book and publish it soon and I'll have to have some time for promotions or I'll be a bankrupt. Next on autopsy (again shhh! until it is out). Maybe we can get Dolan and Morgan, after NO book is out, and Morgan on his pix man, to do shows. Thanks for the list.

The list of typos is valuable. More than usual here, and this time I got an newsman to read proof. I have to get off on something else as soon as I complete one. I find also I tend to thrust published book from my mind, and its contents. There is too much to remember. But you'll see what I did with that incident. I have tape of Dolan SEP show and his cracks at me after I was on, but I haven't altered a single word of the book as drafted about him and his show. Didn't you notice Garrison used it on NBC, in small part?

For the immediate future my financial condition will be very bad. I've spent every cent on a down payment on a nice house, which we need, having been in a subterranean garret for all these years (with enough out aside for the required work on it) and borrowed \$29,000 from the bank, against Dell royalties. I owe for the new book, will for the more expensive O in NO edition, and for those that follow. The market is getting tight, so I'm in risky business. If any of that promised money is available for the trip, I can use it! My deal with parallax, which is small and on this will not have their usual S&S distribution, is co-publisher. Instead of a royalty or advance, we split any profit or loss down the middle. So, I also live dangerously!

Had glance Squires piece. Just about all mine or from my leads, save Marina, Ruth. Some of my source, who I turned over, may have provided more. Now do you understand why I suggested the research to you and Paul?

Hurriedly,

July 21, 1967

Dear Hal,

Received your latest letters together with various enclosures. Thanks for the useful information.

In regard to your question about NBC quoting you or using films about you I've no indication that they have here locally. No one in our group has seen any reference to you and they are alerted to tape anything that comes out either on radio, tv or the press. Incidentally, I've no copy of the NY Times story of 7/2(?) regarding your new book. Was it a good review?

If you haven't seen the Nashville Tennessean of 6/22/67 I'm enclosing a copy. The writer seems to have spent some time with Garrison and apparently written an accurate account. I can't vouch, of course, for all the details but since he doesn't allow his prejudices to get in the way of his reporting his account is an important one.

There are several things in this article I'll point out that I know you are interested in. First there is the reference to the "Friends for a Democratic Cuba" which you asked me to get information on and which I'm still looking into. Then there is the reference to a "famous" member of the Cuban underground known as "Peneque". If you'll recall, in a letter you wrote to me on March 1, 1967 you asked me to be on the lookout for a man named "Victor Paneque". This would appear to be the same individual and either Squires spelling is wrong or there may be a typo error. In connection with this, for some reason, I was wondering if this has anything to do with a "Charlie Chan" group you also once asked me to look into. I don't know why the thought entered my mind. It could be, however, that this is the 14-man guerilla group that Squires mentions. Anyway, it's just a thought you might pursue.

There are some other important elements in this interesting article that seem significant. (See the penciled-in arrows I've marked to indicate items of interest. Am I correct in assuming that the reference to a film he viewed is the same one Sprague has seen? The thinking of our group here is that Garrison has this film and will use it as evidence in his case. What of the reference to the "automatic rifle" - what photograph is referred to?

One other thing about this article I wanted to point out is the mention of William More and the ten trucks he allegedly tried to purchase in Louisiana in 1961 for the Bay of Pigs invasion. In going through my files I came across several articles that might touch upon this. For example, on May 3, '67 the N.O. Times-Picayune had an article about a salesman named Oscar W. Deslatte. He allegedly was approached by 2 men, one of whom called himself Oswald about 2 weeks before the assassination concerning the purchase of a truck. G. Wray Gill was his attorney. Nothing further is mentioned in the article about details of the incident. On May 17 the Picayune had another article in which a reference was made to this same truck salesman. There is an apparent discrepancy between this article and the 5/3 article judging from what this one states. It says: "Deslatte said he was approached in 1961 - before the Bay of Pigs invasion - by two men who wanted to purchase trucks. He said one of them used the name Oswald and a purchase offer was made in that name." The article continues pointing out that Oswald was still in Russia at the time and didn't return to New Orleans until early 1963.

You probably ~~are~~ are already familiar with this incident but if not you might check out the reasons for the discrepancies in

first, the number of trucks involved and secondly, the date.

Another possible reference to this truck sale is what I found in an AP report dated 2/23/67 and written by Gavzer from New Orleans. Gavzer mentions a ~~woman~~ woman who was to give AP some details about Oswald in New Orleans but expressed fears for her life. It says the following: "The woman who was frightened into silence had earlier told an AP reporter that she was working for a New Orleans firm in the summer of 1963 when a person using a name sounding like "Hidell" purchased some automobile tires. Hidell is a name used when he purchased a mail order Mannlicher-Carcano rifle identified by the Warren Commission as the weapon used to slay President Kennedy.

"This man was a dead-beat on his payments," the woman said. "It took a lot of checking to track him down and on three occasions that I did call his home the telephone was answered by a woman who had an accent. I thought it was French or Panish."

"Oswald's Russian-born wife, Marina, spoke with a strong accent. The ~~woman~~ woman said she was able to fix the approximate location of the telephone as being in the Magazine St. area. Oswald and his wife resided on Magazine St. during the summer of 1963.

"I am not claiming that he ~~was~~ positively was Oswald," the woman said. "But I feel almost certain it was. I saw pictures in the newspaper of a New Orleans man named Haydell and I knew that this was not the man who bought the tires."

"Information developed by the Warren Commission indicated there was strong evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald did not know how to drive an automobile.

"The woman said she did not know whether the customer had driven a vehicle. She said the tires were for a panel truck.

"One aspect of Oswald's activities reportedly being investigated by Garrison concerns a report that Oswald tried to make contact with anti-Castro Cubans in the New Orleans area to train guerrilla forces.

"The woman said that after President Kennedy was assassinated, she voiced her suspicions to the FBI.

"I never heard from the FBI after that. I don't know if they were able to find the purchase order to check it with Oswald's handwriting or not. I haven't been with the company for a while now."

Speaking about Oswald and his ability to drive a car if you'll check General Walker's testimony before Liebeler he indicated he had information that Oswald had picked up Ruby's car from a hotel garage. The discussion went off the record when Liebeler asked for more information from Walker.

I've found another reference to a supposed flight by Ferrie on Nov. 22. Jim Eason turned over to me wire service copies he got from CBS and in one of them dated 2/23/67 it says the following: "Ferrie was questioned by the FBI in 1963 because he had made a flying trip to Texas on the day of the assassination and because he belonged to the Civil Air Patrol in New Orleans." Now why should both Liebeler and the wire service (and that that would include the FBI if we presume the reporter got his information from them) make the same error, if indeed that is what it is? One explanation pointed out to me is that the phrase "flying trip" is colloquial for a hasty departure. My objection to this interpretation is that in this instance the FBI and Liebeler employed colloquial expressions in accounting for Ferrie's movements, a most unlikely coincidence. Besides in the wire service report it seems clear that an actual flight is referred to since the latter part of the sentence refers to a flight group in New Orleans.

Perhaps you may not have come across a story in the Times-Picayune in which a listing of unidentified persons were discussed who William Gyrvich were to be arrested as accessories after the fact. They included: (1) "One of the city's leading coffee importers; (2) One very prominent doctor of international reputation; (3) An owner of a local hotel; (4) Two... leaders of local refugee organizations; (5) A local FBI agent."

Our best guesses here place these as possibly: (1) Either the Reilly or Standard Co; (2) Dr. Alton Ochsner; (3) William A. Monteleone; (4) Arcacha Smith & ?; (5) Regis Kennedy & ?. (See 6/28 issue)

Regarding Ochsner I'm enclosing a copy of a letter he wrote which gives the interesting information that he was connected with INCAS. INCAS appears to have been set up by the CIA and Oswald's getting on radio to air his views about Cuba for WDSU an NBC affiliate would appear to be to make NBC suspect in this whole aspect. I even ventured the thought to a friend that NBC had close ties with the CIA and appeared to be infiltrated by their agents. How else can one explain the NBC station's willingness to allow Oswald to publicize his alleged pro-Castro views? If it had been another station the chances are that he would have never appeared at all and the publicity attached to Oswald in getting a favorable image of him as far as pro-Castro identification would never be what it was. Someone had to see that he got the right publicity and the right persons saw to it - it just couldn't be left up to chance, particularly in the conservative environment Oswald found himself in New Orleans.

In going through a file on old newspapers dated just after the assassination I came across this item on W. Guy Bannister ~~XXXXXX~~ in ~~the~~ "The Councilor" published by the White Citizens Council of Louisiana (Shreveport, dated 12/5/63). The issue was devoted to linking Oswald with left-wing groups). Bannister's name is listed as one of many "Free Elector candidates in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes". The article says that the information appeared in "an independent newspaper, "Civic Review". Bannister seems to have associated quite freely with right-wing groups, and I was just wondering what "Civic Review" is like. This issue of the "Councilor" calls Congressman Boggs, "a darling of the far-left extremists" so that ought to give you some idea where they stand!

This amusing item appeared in the S.F. Chronicle on 7/17/67: (in a letter to a columnist): "My wife and I were mad at CBS four nights in a row for taking off our regular programs and running that thing about the Warren Report," writes Dave Williams. "Most of the people in America have accepted the Warren findings a truthful and forgotten about it long ago. Am I right in thinking that very few people cared to watch it?"

"No, you're wrong. The ratings show that it was viewed by 55 million persons, either in full or in part, and it beat all competition on other channels."

As you can see from the columnist's reply Garrison has a tough road ahead of him if he thinks he can get this American to give up one fairy tale for the fairy tale he already believes in. I still marvel how so many Americans can be oblivious of what's happening not only in the world but even in their own back yard.

I'll contact Ferlinghetti about your new book shortly. Have seen no local reference to it here. If I can manage some free time to do a review of the book I'll see that the Berkeley Barb has something on it by me.

Understand that Dolan had the author of the Esquire Vaganov piece on his program this morning but I wasn't able to get anyone to tape it. Have you read it? The article mentions a "James Henderson" as one of the researchers who dug up information on Vaganov. It's our opinion here that Henderson is actually Jones Harris.

I received a report that Bobby Kennedy came to the aid of Sheridan and defended him on 7/19/67. There's been no mention of this here in the local press. It ran on the AP wire and Bobby was saying that he couldn't see how it was possible that Sheridan would not seek the truth about the assassination. Bobby said that he worked with him in the McClalland Committee & the Justice Department and he had faith in him. It's my opinion that Bobby didn't do this without seeking some political advantage probably from LBJ. Whatever deal was made can only be speculated on. Incidentally, speaking about LBJ one friend here says he believes LBJ will try to make political hay out of the Garrison investigation and even inject it into the 1968 campaign. It would be ironic, if true, for in 1964 he kept it out of the campaign and in 1968 he'd be keeping it in. Politics does make for some strange behavior as you well know.

Do you know anything about a film that Dolan mentioned recently on his program (6/27/67)? He said that KTTV-TV station in Los Angeles (a division of Metromedia) bought ten seconds of film showing Mrs. Kennedy climbing over the back of the car, and a secret service man hopping up on the back bumper. Dolan went on to say that "the original source of the film is unknown" but that he was certain that it could be traced. I'll call Dolan about this over the week-end.

Last of all, I'm enclosing a list of conventions to be held in Washington, D.C. in September. If you'll recall when you were here that person who spoke to you said he was going to be at a convention in September. (This is the man who said he knew Oswald and had information about him but wouldn't give out his name). If you'll study that list the ones I think are the most likely group which this person will be going to are either #3 or #15. Perhaps he could be reached at the Shoreham Hotel on either of these occasions. I know it's a long shot but this person may never come forward with his information and I do think it is most significant.

Well, I guess this is all for the moment. Hope everything is going well for you and that your new book is doing well. Am anxiously awaiting the book on New Orleans as are others here.

Best to you in the meantime.

Hal

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P.S. Here are other type errors in WW III:

- P.57 - returned should be return
- P. 91 - extensive should be expensive
- P.113 - spent should be spend
- P.114 - workss should be works.
- P.293 - Spiegel should be Speigle