

4/17/67

Dear Hal,

Trying to do too much is not a good way to write. I think you understand why I do. In between that is not in between, because I made the shift without stopping, a note of thanks. The Oswald In New Orleans: CIA White-wash ms is done. I gave it a hasty reading and my wife is transposing a few corrections and then it is off. I went back to Manchester and hope, with the tremendous new volume, to be able to finish it in a month. I have a number of interruptions of which I know that may prevent this schedule.

The New Orleans book is about 150,000 words. I wrote it without notes or outline but there was no choice. It includes my own material and everything important out of New Orleans up to now. I'll be adding a brief thing on the Andrews indictment when I get the full text and my own materials that seem to be lost or delayed between New Orleans and here. I'll be going there very soon. I've had three invitations I've had to defer. I'm flattered they all want to talk with me. It began with the investigators and is now up to Garrison. I've helped them some. We'll be seeing each other again and I'll tell you the story. In Andrews' grand-hiry testimony is evidence of a threat against Garrison. He also made it explicit that Liebelser did not ask him enough or the right questions. Liebelser will now like me less. Maggie tells me he has Lifton fine-toothing II for errors. When he finds a couple, he'd best recall where they started! I think L. will keep quiet about me until he is desperate. Once he opens up he'll have more trouble avoiding me. I'm more ready now than ever. What I've gotten from one of his witnesses (shhhh!) that he kept cutting off is enough to make even him blush.

The AP story that said not for use outside of New York was used elsewhere. I got in in a New Orleans paper, so your friend need have no fear. In fact, all of that appeared elsewhere and I had the sound tape I got a long time ago and forgot about, so nothing comes from him. I have more on Carlos Marcello if you ever want it. But I did not have the Anderson piece and I did use a little of that. Andrews also once represented Marcello and knows him and knew Ferris. The transcription you have and sent me is correct. I checked it against the sound. All the errors are right errors. I have misgivings about the too-hasty writing and the organization of some of it but the content is good, and so are my polemics, mostly against the FBI, CIA and Liebelser. I really make Liebelser stand on his own feet. They'll hurt him. I now feel that I have taken good care of the two main culprits, but I'll be giving them more attention, esp. Specter.

I've probably lost my contract of the Manchester book because of timing but I'm going to do it anyway. I cracked it today, and he's unbelievable. He has parts of the record as "unpublished documents". Every place I go now I'll have that with me, although I've got the actual assassination stuff done from his Look pieces. He has to stand on them. When I go to N.O. I do not know. I'll probably phone tomorrow. I got to Milwaukee this Friday night for a radio appearance that night and an all-day "action meeting" centering around me the next day.

It is sponsored by the Wesley Foundation, a church, and is university-connected. The minister is inviting the Deacons to meet with and if they chose argue with me. Good. I may combine this and the N.O. trips if I can to save time and money.

I have a hunch Garrison will wind up tackling Hoover because he'll have no choice. It will make him if he does because he can really do something. I'm assuming not that he has the guts, which he might, but that he will not want to sink so early in his career.

What Lane did down there was noted by the courts, with disapproval. I have a notion we'll be hearing of it in the Shaw trial. It is not good. I'm making no announcements and will seek no press when I'm there. I do not expect to be able to avoid it entirely but I'll initiate nothing.

Had a note from Jim Mason today. He's not doing anything and is worried about the quiet.

By the way, Ball, who has not answered my last letter, of which I sent you a copy, made a statement 3/16/67 that I'd like very much to have. Dell is doing it and is interested in New Orleans. Either one may take me out there again, so I'd like to be ready. I've been challenging Roberts, as I believe I told you, and let him be silent for a while longer. I've done it though Selinger and his publisher also. I'll soon write him another letter demanding an apology and specifying why.

Longer than I'd expected. Lil/ is calling me to supper, then I'm back to work. Excuse the typos that I'll not have time to check. Again thanks to you and everyone.

est,

April 9, 1967

Dear Hal:

A few more items for your attention:

Have identified who Sergio Carbo is. He is a Miami editor of a paper known as "Prensa Libre" (Free Press). This must be the exile paper of the one that used to be published in Havana. He has a son, Ulysses Carbo who was one of the invaders in the Bay of Pigs incident. Ulysses was one of ten prisoners sent to Miami, May 20, 1961 to discuss prisoner exchange deal by Castro. There he and nine others met with Mrs. Roosevelt, Milton Eisenhower, Reuther to arrange negotiations. This information is contained in a book published by Lester A. Sobel (Sobel?) under the "Facts on File & Newsyear" Publication firm in New York. The book is called "Cuba, U.S. & Russia."

A very good source although it is anti-Castro is a book by Hans(?) Tanner called: "Counter-Revolutionary Agent". It has a diary of the events leading up to the Cuban Invasion and mentions names of the planners involved. The book was dedicated to Alberto Fowler one of Garrison's investigators. Fowler lived in a Havana apartment in early 1961. You may have come across his name.

In Tanner's book the name of Fernando Fernandez appears and you once mentioned his name in your letter. He was considered to be a Castro agent. The name of Diaz also appears in Tanner's book who may also be significant as it is one of the names you asked me about.

I just finished reading the Greater Phila. Mag story on the Tippit killing. Fonzi mentions a man who checked into Dallas on Nov. 12, 1963 and uses an alias "Brown". I believe this is the same as Igor Vaganov who is to be written about in a book by Schiller (Title: "The Scavengers and Critics of the Warren Report"). Schiller says Esquire will run an article on Vaganov entitled "Second Assassin" or something like that where Vaganov will be interviewed with photographs appearing. In a review I saw of the book which appeared in the L.A. Herald Examiner Vaganov checked into Dallas on Nov. 7, 1963. Since "Brown" and Vaganov appear to be one and the same I was wondering why there was a discrepancy in the dates? Could this be significant? The Greater Phila. issue appeared in Jan., 1967 if you don't have it.

Paul Hoch showed me some Archive documents on Vaganov which I don't have right now but will get a hold of and send you copies. He said they were CD 14, page 10 & CD320 SS745.

If you can look up the NY Times of Mar. 4, 1967. There is a story on the Mafia and a man who allegedly murdered some 50 persons. What makes the article interesting is that a Carlo Gambino is mentioned (a NY mafia leader). Gambino is an "intimate friend" of Carlos Marcello according to an article I have written by Victor Riesel in the Herald-Examiner of L.A. Marcello of course had extensive Havana underworld connections as you know.

Speaking about Havana underworld connections I'm enclosing some material written by Drew Pearson's associate written April 28, 1963. Pay particular attention to the persons mentioned in this article who have since been mentioned in the Garrison probe in one way or another. (I've numbered the paragraphs so you can follow

them in order). Note the references to Ruby's trip to New Orleans in Aug., 1963 where he stayed at the Volk Apartments. Note the reference to Matthews on the "release of prisoners" (see P.370 of Warren Report, copy enclosed). Is it possible that in some way Carbo could have figured in this whole thing because of the release of prisoners and that Ruby was to act as some sort of contact. It would be logical for Carbo to have been involved since it was his own son that was participating in the discussions. Just how this ties in with the gambling community in Miami, Havana and Las Vegas I don't know but why did the Commission seem to go out of its way to establish that one of the gambling centers, the Tropicana, had no American owners? CE 1697 says that McWillie said the Tropicana was "Cuban owned" yet page 802 of the Warren Report claims Ruby said McWillie "supervised gambling activities" there in 1959. And if you'll refer to the Anderson story you'll see they mention that Norman Rothman was "one of the underworld owners of the Tropicana". Note the references also to Mike McLaney in that Anderson article.

I'm enclosing some wire reports on the munitions cache raid of July, 1963, Frank Riddle, and Liebeler. Other items you'll find of interest deal with Kroman, Lane and Hooten that you may not have come across.

I'm also enclosing a pamphlet prepared by the Committee to Defend Francisco Molina published about seven years ago. On the face of it it may not seem important but Francisco Molina was the man mentioned by Castro as the man he wanted to exchange for Manuel Artibe, one of the palmers of the Cuban invasion captured by Castro. Note that the CIA intrigue played a part in this whole affair of Molina's sentencing. You may find something useful in this but then again it may not be.

In case you didn't know about it Ramparts magazine office was broken into a few days ago and they stole the file on the Warren Commission together with some old hank statements. Isn't it a coincidence that this comes at the very time of Turner's revelations about the Minutemen and your information about a possible confession by one of their men. If any group had something to benefit by the seizure of Ramparts material they certainly do but why they should be interested in getting Warren Commission material I don't know. Perhaps I am speculating too much here and it may be wrong of me to accuse them of this but it was my first impression when I learned of the raid.

I got a tip which may not be valid as its source is difficult to track down but someone has told me that Herbert Ryan who this person said was Ruby's Carousel bartender was present at the time the alleged meeting took place between Ruby, Tippit & Weissman. He says that ~~two~~ two FBI agents visited him and that Ryan hasn't been heard of since. Know anything about this? A partial confirmation of this can be found in Vol. 14, p.14 as to a "Mickey" Ryan being a bartender but nothing else I have come across has anything on a Herbert Ryan.

One of my students prepared an organizational chart of anti-Castro groups operating in New Orleans. I'm enclosing a copy.

That's about all I have for now. Please send me any of the material you'll be putting out on New Orleans when you get a chance to.

Best,

Hal
Hal

FRENTE
REVOLUCIONARIO
DEMOCRATICO
574 CAMP ST

SERGIO ARCACHA SMITH
PATRICK LAYTON MARTENS
CARLOS QUIROGA

CUBAN
REVOLUTIONARY
COUNCIL
574 CAMP ST.

SERGIO ARCACHA SMITH
LUIS RAVEL
FRANK BARTES
CARLOS BRINGUIER
MANUEL GIL
CARLOS J. GRIMMER
ARNESTO N. RODRIGUEZ, SR.
ARNESTO N. RODRIGUEZ, JR.
JOAQUIN VILLODAS

CRUSADE TO
FREE CUBA

RONNY CAIRE
WILLIAM A. MONTTELEON
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DE REOPERACION
REVOLUCIONARIA
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NEW ORLEANS
COUNCIL FOR
PEACEFUL ALTERNATIVES

LEONARD REISSMAN
BEN SMITH
BRUCE C. WALZER
? JAMES DOMBROSKI

FAIR PLAY
FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
? DR. LEONARD REISSMAN

4/11/67

Dear Hal,

Yours of 4/9 very valuable. I'm too tired to read the ms of the rough draft, all 125,000 or more words of which are now written. Two things you can be sure I'll use: McLaney and that immortal line of Liebel, "I have only truth for a client." I'll help immortalize it. There is another lawyer's maxim I recall, "penis erectus scism non habet". Don't ask a woman to translate

I'm really tired, longing to get back on Manchester and III. Returning Lane KLAC. Steve Burton sent copy. I wrote Sahl a stiff one. Lane's behavior in N.O. was so bad it was objected to in court by the defense. As you know, he deprecated the False Oswald, missing the boat on #1553, and to him Bertrand was a lawyer. Garrison can do without such help. As time goes on, you will see how right I was.

Wrote Tom Wilson, Las Vegas paper, sent copies each book.

I do not think Reissman belongs on the chart. No evidence any contact.

When you've finished reading my letter to Grosset & Dunlop, please return. I haven't enough copies. That'll be the day. But again I've got a record I'll use when I get these three books done...I've got a good source on the past in New Orleans. He places an important man with the government in a large number of the right meetings.

I cannot find a copy of the Inter-American Press Assn meeting. I had someone check the Library of Congress and the copy there apparently does not have Carbo in it, not in anything like those words. Times and Miami papers being checked tomorrow. But time is very short...I wish I had the guts to dedicate my New Orleans book to Liebel and his quote. I love that.

Bill is out of hospital and doing okay. Spoke Sunday night. Maggie's book due less than three months. No sign of "Scavengers" here, though I understand it is out there. Hope Penn sues. He should. Fowler is not on Garrison's staff. Wity information. Garrison used him a short while...I don't think Liebel's friends will be able to defend him from what he did in N.O. That quote about the free hand is also helpful. I'll add that... I've just about decided the subtitle will be CIA WHITWASH...Turner never sent me copies of his teen notes. I doubt if the Reports NC file was important enough for that to be the reason for the theft, not from what they've printed...I'm disappointed that when I turn something like this over and make no demands he did extend the courtesy of copies. There might be things that mean something to me that do not to him...The Gills thing is dangerous. I have not been close. I understand he is threatening suit. Sylvia was close and would have nothing to do with it. Vince does not answer my letters. Some very good photographic stuff should be breaking, stemming from WWII... NBC is doing N.O. Special. I'll know more now that the strike is over when they return with camera...I've got pretty much of the Training-camp story from obfuscating official documents. Happy they wrote it that way. Nobody will

ever believe such language is accidental...On your student's chart, if he is going to include unofficial information, he'll be able to add Ferris to several after my book is out, and surprising government men, by name. To MIRE he can add from AP many other names in Miami. Apparently MIRE not now active in N.C....You'll get the story of Fernando Fernandez in my new book. He's in jail in Chicago....Student should add Christian Democratic Movement in NO and Miami...Can you send copy of LA Examiner review of Scavengers? I'd appreciate a copy of the Riesel-Marcello piece, although I'll now get it too late to use...If Turner still has his note, I'd very much like a copy. If they were stolen, it is important that I know that, too....Got Patsy tape. If use I'll see to it that Gillian is properly credited.

Many thanks, and regards to everyone.
-incerely,

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible due to low contrast and scan quality. It appears to be a continuation of the letter or a separate page of notes.]