

cc Paul
10/10/68

Dear Hal,

your long, welcome, handwritten letter of 10/7 arrived this morning, I read it awaiting and during supper, and I answer between taking Lil to school and fetching her. I'll read the very interesting enclosures when and as I can. This past week I've almost despaired of planning anything. I had an accumulation of unfiled things and finally decided I'd have to really organize the files. When I got that part done, leaving the semi-organized mess to those few odds and ends of moments when I can nibble away at the enormity, I planned to get back on COUP. Then there was one thing after another, all interruptions and diversions. Finally I thought that Tuesday morning I could begin, so Monday afternoon, in Washington, I saw "The Weight of the Evidence", and that has me off with Meredith on what may wind up in court, depending on them, for both libel and unauthorized use. That's a long story I'll tell you about when I'm there. Meanwhile, it has taken most of the time I could squeeze out this week. It looks as though Lil will have to retype COUP as is and then I'll have to revise what would have been finished copy. I know I'll be jammed up when I get back from the trip, but there is nothing else I can do. I'm into so much! Incidentally, "The Weight of the Evidence" is not worth getting. It is reprints to which nothing but defamation has been added.

Fine on the appearances. Perhaps Jonn has done nothing at ABC. He told me merely that Owen would have me and that Dolan was off the subject. You have an idea of how much fresh material I have. Perhaps he'd like to clobber LIFE, use stills from the Zee film on the air?

I had told Steve to get in touch with you to divide my time. George Abbott planned for two days in San Diego, but after hearing from him I suggested three, for it looks like he has enough lined up and I should have some time to talk to that committee, new and active people. I can spend the first week there, though. I had planned to go to LA Saturday or Sunday, leave my baggage where I'll be staying, then go to San Diego. George has me for 28 and 9, and I suggested 30 also, because I can then stay in LA as long as necessary. My tentative plan is to leave for N.O. on the way back Tuesday a.m. 11.5. Can't use special ticket between Friday and Monday noons. Glad to talk to your class, of course. Jonn said he was leaving for LA today, moving, that is, so unless he left a schedule, I would like you to include ABC too. I would like some time to talk to Paul and whoever you and he trust, preferably with you there, about some of the unpublished stuff.

Strange you should mention Sherrill. I've been trying to get in touch with him in Washington. He was also a Florida paper correspondent. He was out of town each time. I did not know about the story you enclosed and that I'm glad to have, nor have I read his excellent book on the politics of the South, but I've read both "Accidental President" and "Drug Store Material". He's great. However, I've been through it with Carey McWilliams and have little hope from the Nation. I just think that if he can, Sherrill will help.

I cannot explain the S-I story on Milteer. Perhaps for his own purposes Jimmy felt he needed publicity. He has an unfailing knack of taking the edge off my stuff and for needlessly jeopardizing people. You can be sure nothing more will come from Somerset, for whom I was so careful I left his name out of the book. When I learned that Bud had sent him to N.O., I wrote Alock telling him what I had. Louis already had a pretty good idea. Gerstein had referred me to his former assistant, who was silent. No response. He undoubtedly kept a log and I think that is what Jim wants. Somerset will be lucky to survive. There is more I left out but know of. I'll be in D.C. and will try Sherrill again tomorrow. I'll be there again Wednesday.

Good idea, re: Bud and files, but he's leaving for six weeks Monday. I'll suggest....When COUP is out perhaps West will be good idea. I'll know better when I read piece.

I never know when Lifton is real. The major media could be KHT. I just do not know....I've heard from Mae Brussel. She's bright and way out. I'd rather now write her because of the Lifton situation, but I'd like to know anything she does....Why shouldn't Epstein have a chapter on 'hornley? He knows nothing and writes only about what he knows nothing about. And why shouldn't Lifton help such a project. Anything on his "Atlantic" piece? What does he know that enables him to "go over", save fiction, what is not relevant?

I wrote Liebeler and sent Paul a copy. You now understand why I've been sending things to him. No response yet. "Bulletin From Dallas" is vanity press, meaning Mayo paid \$1000 to do it. I'd heard it was kooky so I paid no attention to it, made no effort to get and read. It is not new. Mayo is or was Navy. If L. flipped, it has to stink. ...I don't recall and "Edward Horsey". I got a lead on a Horsey and wrote, copy to Paul. No response. Horsey does sound a little familiar. Perhaps when the indexes are again used he might be included. If anything develops, I have someone new in Miami I can ask to look around. Also St. Petersburg.

I do not recall the "The TIME piece. He has been hired to write Ray's story. I was asked to do a Chicago TV show with him two weeks ago and couldn't.

Some of the things you raise we'd best let wait for when I'm there.

I have a copy of "The Book Collector" somewhere. I know about the White book. It is the CBS material. I've known about the Flamsonde-Norden book for several months. Eric appears to have been in Europe for some time, as you'd heard. He has not responded to earlier calls. He did the Playboy interviews. I understand this is but stuff he got from Jim. If he's done any meaningful original work I've not heard of it.... Without seeing the doc, I suspect the woman getting the film is the allegedly German woman, 16 mm, traced to Detroit, which I think I have in PW. I know about that one, if it is the one.

My Drennan source is confidential until I see you. I note his name in one of the typed sheets you included, CD1107. If this is not the Brown report, we should have it.

How good is your copy of the rifle picture with the woman in it? I'll be bringing mine. My source cannot recall his, and I want to use that if I do AGENT OSWALD, as I may after the first of the year....I don't remember the Gison angle. Could be fascinating. Try and get him to record the entire incident, but I'd rather not have him use the picture, hence he should not be told. That would take the edge off everything I'm working on with it. I expect much better and not isolated usage. I've been in touch with someone.

The Binions are the same. The person knew what you say, or some, but came up with nothing solid. The station hasn't sent me the tape yet. I have an Vegas contact who has a police line....On Steve, the man you wanted me to see last time and I couldn't get to, who has been recently prominent, fed back to Steve.

Taking quick look at Jim's list. CD1107, interesting looking, Amer Nazi Party, Citizen's Council. Drennan, 422 (perhaps may lead to Brady), King entries? KKK, Commandos L (heard of), Minutemen (did I send you this?), "Oswald, Secret Agent", 667 (Minutemen, I sent you Shend stuff some time ago), Skip, 290, 2-Hall? 950, Thornton could tie in-remind me of John when I'm there, 160, Walker, CD 1512-48; 46 if it is not the same as in the Garner Price stuff we have. CD 1396, 35 (States Rights Party). CD 1518-41? 78, Markham, might be worth looking at, from probable date of number, Walker. CD1348- Rose, 58,67; CD 1395, I'd like very much to get and if you do not will get, as you will recall, from Post Mortem, 46,7;94-5