

2/17/68

Dear Hal,

Were it not that the enclosed excited me so much I'd not be writing this letter at this time. However, I am, and I'm sending the enclosed to you first because that is your due. Got home last night, with a big backlog, one or three tapes of interviews with Hall missing, about 12 hours of tapes to go over, the awful accumulation, notes I'll not be able to take the time to make, and then this morning a brush fire started outside the house. In her efforts to help my wife fall and tore the ligaments in her left ankle very badly. So, I'm even farther behind, more handicapped, and a temporary housewife-shipping department.

Tomorrow I'll copy the things to go in. You'll see that Similas is for real! I'm not able to make and distribute the copies. Please ask Paul if he can send one pair to Steve, with a note that the second set is for Fred. We now have an artist working with us on the pictures. His skill is great, as is his imagination. He has come up with some exciting things-faces and, I think, tight proof that Willis S was altered, as I had suspected. He took my suspicions and went to work on them.

The only thing that went bad was the prearranged and not unexpected bobby-trap with Butler and Pyne. With anyone else I'd have slaughtered him. The gangup still leaves a good record but I'm doubtful about how it will come across to the average boob in that audience. I was too tired when I went there. I'd been on the air until 5 a.m., got even less sleep than in Frisco the preceding days, missed too many openings, lost my cool too completely, and foolishly expected that Pyne might be impartial. Everything else was very good. I didn't get together with Rathcock. He tried to get to interview me but the station sent another reporter and then fed the interview to the net, as I understand it. He never got my messages until the night before I left, then we couldn't get together. He has given some of his stuff to Jim (what I do not know) and we're to have an exchange. I think we'll have a good relationship.

Three long interviews with Hall, who is the most accomplished liar I have ever met. He doesn't cross himself up, looks like he's not lying, and, I think, is terrified. Until there was some crossing of wires, he had asked me to go to New Orleans with him and to have an adjoining room! Keep this quiet. He is so afraid he has spirited a pistol into the hospital, knowing it can get him tossed out! Saw Howard and got some interesting evidence from him. He is to give Steve more. However, as I got to thinking the interview over, it suddenly occurred to me that his cooperative manner was deceptive. I then stayed up one night to listen to it and have reached the conclusion that he really told me nothing! Steve was very impressed, which, I guess, helped condition me. He and Art had both previously interviewed Howard. As we left, Steve said, "I don't know how you do it." But when I got a chance to think, I began to wonder. However, we have some interesting pictures from him and he has some files we can Xerox. I wish Steve were free to do it fast. From Hall (confirmed independently by Howard), I suspect that one Wiley Yates can be very much involved, could have been the hospital inside man. He is a rightist, a real Kennedy-hater, an incredibly good shot, with rifles and an assortment of explosives, and an oxygen technician at Parkland.

Probably Eric Norden, Playboy, will be in touch with you on Minuteman story for Playboy. Please help him. Try and arrange Olam. I interviewed Dean again, got