

1/24/68

Dear Hal,

Your 1/21 arrived this a.m. With reference to the arrangements, fine. Glad you have a job. I know only better than I'd like the importance of an income!

I've read the letter and without consulting it again I'll reply in haste to get it outgoing tonight. I have to go to town to make a long-promised speech at the high school. I'm more than usually tired because I was up until almost 6 a.m. The half-Cuban phoned me late last night then early in the a.m. We talked so long I ran out of tape and in switching missed the last part of our fascinating conversation. He is quite informative, willing to be more so, suggested I tape it, thinks Cubans not the assassins, for he knows them so well-he considers himself not one-acknowledges what amounts to close company connections, told me of his New York police connections and what he and they did jointly and what they almost did, how he worked to break up demonstrations, etc. -quite a bit. I would not be surprised if he is still a company man. He was to have been in the political group, the government, if the Bay of Pigs succeeded. I'll tell you more when I'm there. I presume you recognize who I'm talking about. He is willing to talk to Jim-anxious- and I wonder if he fears the trial will damage his present and very promising business arrangements in Texas or whether he is still serving other interests. He also want to write a book and wants me in on it. I've had a call in to Jim for several hours. But this may explain my haste and fatigue.

Had a note from Jonn today. He doesn't say much in it but offers some opinions that are interesting and probably correct. He thinks my letter ended any chance of a dialogue with Unruh. Where we disagree is that I think there was no chance. What Jonn apparently does not realize is that I intend to say something about friends and the nature of friendships when I am out there, given the chance. That, too, is very much part of the story. Had the late President had a single honorable friend of the many he is said to have had in high places, the entire history since might have been different. They have legs. I intend to try and jerk a few of them up, or in any event, leave a public record for them to live with. And seek the votes of those who loved the late President. There are many of these in California. And elsewhere. Jonn says he will not allow me within 20 miles and that he read ~~it~~ farther than the first sentence of the third paragraph unless he has "masochistic tendencies".

Some of your letter is feedback, like the convention bit. Steve has been working on that for some time. I wonder if it is worth the time, as compared with other possibilities. Most of it is quite interesting. I'm sending you a copy of most of it. I gather Art has made indirect reference to some of what you did. I am certainly glad I took a Saturday, most of it, to brief him and give him copies of my appropriate files.

Rye is out of communication. I hope it stays that way. He never called back when he was supposed to. I knew about the Star. Linda told me. She also told me what they said of Tom's direct response. We are all in substantial agreement on what the affair smacks of, and if all of us reached the same conclusion independently, I guess it is not illogical. I also involved the Feebees, which, I think, killed the prospects. While I was not quite this blunt, when they demurred on the grounds of jurisdiction, I asked them if they were trying for two out of two, That did it. I also offered them a tape of my conversation with Harv and Dick's voice on it. They declined. And I have this.

I have no address on the LA Free Press. I wrote them several months ago and never got any acknowledgement. Can you subscribe for me when you are in touch with them and I'll pay you when I'm there. Also, if Sylvia or Harer can supply a dub of the Forum, I'd appreciate it. The people in New York do not know me and the explanations will be time consuming, ect. If not the whole thing, that part.

I have something new on the train. A man who was there has phoned me to say that when he was near the Trade Mart his car was stopped by the searching of a stopped train where he saw a man arrested. No description. It was this fast: He had been at the first car stopped at Main and Houston by the motorcade and when that traffic was turned loose, he followed police instructions on the route away. This is when it happened, he says.

I have no more on Jerry Bruno. I knew of the Elkins affidavit and I know a little about the picture. I have seen it. Without taking the time to look it up and I'd forgotten about Wright- are these statements all in the 28? Should I get them or ask for them from the archives. If so, can some one give me all the data I should have to make the request. You may recall from my first book and the discussion of the train that this has interested me, but like so much, I've forgotten. There is little doubt this is Florer also, the rest fits him.

I'll be surprised if Hall's defense is not federal. Rucardo told me about a Miami lawyer who had been a friend of his who he did not now trust.

Remind me to tell you the Ward story and what may be behind the accident.

The name De Conford is familiar but I cannot recall why.

If you ever get a copy of the Hall record, please get me one.

The name Paterson also seems familiar. When I return I'll be taping another interview with a contact who formerly lived in Dallas and who has asked me to return. I may do it sooner. It might not be a bad idea if you had a list of names for me to ask about....If the Guiterrez thing needs further checking out, I have a new friend who I think is able to identify all the Bay of Pigs people and is willing. Let me know if you want. I haven't but would like Taber's book, now and for TIGER TO RIDE.

I want, very much, to have a rifle as close to exactly the C-2766 as possible, and with the identical scope. If there is one out there, please let me know. Klein has no more. I have something new on it. It can be urgently important. Steve had a friend who had the rifle but, I think, no scope. Also, with clip, and there are at least two clips available for that model.

See you soon. I'm now on the plane that leaves Chicago the night of 2/2 at 6:35. It is nonstop and gets there about 8:35 your time, I think the same plane I used last time. Two things that I can now anticipate can change this until the next a.m. I am seeing someone at Playboy and I may get to tape an extra TV show. If this happens, I'll be on the plane I took the first time, arriving SF 10:55 a.m. 2/3. I'll let you know. If you do not hear anything from Chicago, I'll be there the night of 2/2 about 8:30.

Hurriedly,

P.S. I've been surprised at Phillip's silence. Not a word from or of him.

January 21, 1968

Dear Hal,

Please forgive the long delay in answering your letters up until now but I will make up for it by giving you as much information in this letter as I can recall from the events of the past few weeks.

The talk at the University of Cal. in Berkeley has been set for Feb. 5 by Jan Karowsky of Berkeley of the "Union Program Board". Karowsky is working with Paul Hoch on this and has arranged to have an opaque projector available for your talk.

John Christian has met with Dolan and has set both radio and television appearances when you'll be here. He is also working on KGO and will have a schedule for me, hopefully, this week as to the dates set for that week you're here.

I'll contact Harv Morgan this week and also see about lining you up with Robin King of KNEW who received you so well when you were on his program by phone several months ago. Jim Eason has agreed to have you on any night you desire and, of course, there's no problem with him since he is agreeable to any course of action we decide. If only every talk program were as easy to deal with as we have been able to with him we would have no problem in getting a better hearing than we already have.

I wish I could spend more time on actually meeting more with the moderators and producers of these shows but I am now tied down with a six-day job (I only have Sundays off) and it requires me to put in almost 50 hours a week working which seriously curtails my activities. I'm reluctant to let someone else handle these arrangements because it takes a certain way of dealing with them to rail down your appearances and, quite frankly, I know of no one who is adept along these lines. Paul Hoch is helping on the Berkeley appearance and will do a very capable job. But what is needed is to have someone go around and meet regularly on a basis on which these programs can keep abreast of the latest developments.

I'll do what I can, of course, and you will have a very busy schedule while you're here and someone will be with you during the day while I will be with you at night during the time you're here.

Now, to answer some of the questions raised in your previous letters - First, in so far as my remark concerning Dick who visited with you or kept you up until the wee hours of the morning: What I meant in this connection was not my disparaging of his story but rather of his remarks concerning people whom he has met since this entire matter came out into the open. I have been involved from the start when Harv asked me to help out, after he learned of what happened. I helped raise money to get Dick down to Jim and even had to put in \$50 of my own money at a time when I was under great financial strain. But the urgency of the situation demanded that this be done and my friend Tom helped out. If it weren't for us perhaps Dick might not have gotten there to tell what he knew.

I didn't want to go into detail on the phone about my role in this affair because I thought I would wait until you got here. Tom helped out in the interviewing of Dick when Boxley spoke with him and Tom will give you his evaluation of the matter when you're here. Perhaps you can understand why I just couldn't go into this on the phone. John tells me that when he called you he briefed you

to some extent. As a matter of fact there are some aspects of this that I haven't even discussed with Jonn. This will all be made clear when you are here.

You asked for the tape of the Keating forum you shared with him when you were in S.F. in Dec., 1966. That tape I don't have but I know that a copy of it was sent to the Militant Labor Forum in New York in care of Priscilla Ring. You can write them at: 873 Broadway, N.Y., N.Y.

I do not know of a Glen Hagen or the "New Island Movement" you referred to in your last letter but I'm having several people check into this right away. His name doesn't ring a bell. Ditto on a Stockton of Dallas who is a clothing manufacturer who also owned a coast-guard boat(?) known as the Sea Raider. Somewhere in the back of my mind there is a reference to someone by the name of "Ikard" in the volumes with respect to a gun-running boat operation that had to do with either Ruby or Hall but I can't locate it for the moment. Perhaps it is in Sylvia Meagher's index which I don't have.

Tom just called a few minutes ago and told me that a Washington Evening Star Reporter by the name of Tom Love called him regarding Dick. It appears that Dick's wife threatened to call in the FBI about Tom allegedly "stealing" Dick's luggage when they were in N.O. together. Tom denies that this is the case and said that he told Dick that he had to leave and wanted to leave Dick's luggage behind but that Dick refused so Tom had no choice but to leave. He twice urged him to go back but Dick refused and Tom even returned back to Dick after he had once left to urge Dick to leave with him whereupon he again refused. Tom had no other choice and he even reported the fact that he was leaving N.O. to the local police in case Dick were to claim that Tom absconded with his luggage. Tom Love called to check out Dick's claims on the 17th if you want to call Love and find out what this is all about. It's beginning to get confusing but I am sure that when you get here we'll be able to straighten this out.

Both Tom and I believe that this affair smacks of a "company" deal to plant false information in order to get another group blamed if what Dick says should occur. Jonn, incidentally, reached the same conclusion.

Your letter to Jonn asked about the "cab affair". I've been on top of that ever since Belli broke the story several weeks ago on Van Amberg's program. I'm getting the tape of the interview Belli did but I already know the essentials. Harv Morgan first told me of the story weeks ago and I said that I had heard the same story a year ago from a college student at S.F. State. I checked my notes on this and I have this student's name. I intend to contact him again (the student) and ask him some further questions since I have learned of the name of the cab driver. I'll give you that when you are here. I once told you this story when you were here in December, 1966 and you'll recall that we both thought it was a far-out story but impossible to track down on the limited knowledge we had. Now, however, I've got additional information and the story appears to check out. There is one slight discrepancy which I was puzzled about in comparing the story with the latest information I received but I have now resolved it. Let me tell you the details:

Back in Nov., 1966 (Nov. 7 to be exact) I contacted a State College student of whom I learned about from a mutual friend. The story he told sounded astounding if true and it had to be checked out. I was never able to but now can be based on the new information.

This student said that early in the evening of Thanksgiving of 1964 approximately the time of 6 p.m. he was picked up by a cabbie from the S.F. Greyhound terminal where he was driven to Berkeley. On the way to Berkeley which is about a 45 minute drive he engaged in conversation with the cabbie who then told him (that is to this student) that about a week before the assassination some "drunk" got into his cab and wanted to be taken to the airport. This person began saying things about himself and was going on and on bragging. Then he said to the cabbie: "Oh, do you know who I am - did you ever hear of me - my name is Jack Ruby - I own a place in San Francisco - I have to go out to Dallas - I gotta kill a man."

I asked the student if he recalled the cabbie's name but he couldn't except to say that it was something along the lines of an Italian sounding name and that the driver was on the "small side" and in his mid-fifties. The cabbie told the student that he drove Ruby to the S.F. airport. One other thing that I asked the student in getting a further identification is that he thought the cabbie was a "career-minded" one and not one recently employed. He said that the cabbie told the student that at one time a passenger in his cab had left some money in his cab and that the cabbie returned the money to the passenger. When he did this the cabbie said he got a bigger tip because of his deed.

I was unable to track him down based on the insufficient information and the fact of my limited time in looking into it. But, as I mentioned above, I now have his name through a source. The name was given to Garrison. I don't know if any one has contacted this person yet but I do intend to look him up. One other thing that the student pointed out was that the cabbie told what he knew to the FBI, after witnessing the murder of Oswald on TV when he recognized Ruby. How soon after this the cabbie went down was not indicated by the conversation I had with the student, but his visiting the FBI is backed up by the report I have which says that the cabbie "went immediately ~~xxxxxx~~ after seeing Ruby...shoot somebody and told his story to two agents." The report goes on to say that the two agents "didn't do ~~anything~~ anything". They then asked him to take a lie detector test and he "passed". After the Ruby trial the two agents phoned him and said that "You're a good boy" and there was nothing else said.

The ~~report~~ report I got said the following: "Two days before ~~the~~ President Kennedy was shot he says Jack Ruby got in the cab here in S.F. He seemed to be very excited and queried the cab driver as to whether he 'liked President Kennedy'. The cab driver took him to be some sort of ~~nut~~ a nut. The cab driver says he remembers him giving a .25 tip. He got out and went behind the cab." The report continues: "Jack Ruby, if that's who it was and the cab driver seems to be certain, said, 'You don't know me but I've got to hurry back to Dallas to kill a man. You'll be reading all about me.'"

As you can see the words of Ruby are almost alike. The only discrepancy I noted was that the student said that Ruby was driven to S.F. airport by the cabbie while here the later report says that Ruby was driven to some street intersection in S.F. (Taylor & Eddy). On the surface it does seem to be a discrepancy since the airport is many miles removed from the city but at Taylor and Eddy street is the "Airport Terminal Building" where one can catch a limousine service to the airport so it would then fit. Another thing not noted in the latest report I have is Ruby's comment that he owned a place in S.F. As you know I once mentioned rumors I had heard that Ruby had been a partner in at least one gay bar club here in the city but I could never track it down. You might ask Garrison if he knows of any possibility of this. Perhaps the Frankie Goldstein (gambler) mentioned in the volumes from S.F. might have

something to do with Ruby for he is one of Ruby's phone listings. I think you should pass this on to Jim and tell him that I knew of the cabbie a year ago and that the story as told by Belli is essentially true. You might also mention the fact that Ruby said he owned a place in S.F. to him also which Garrison may or may not have been told by this cabbie who is supposed to have contacted Garrison.

Just this minute spoke to Joe Dolan. He's set your television appearance for Monday night, Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m. (to be taped for showing at 10 p.m. on Wed. night ~~at~~ on Channel 44 a UHF Metromedia station). The radio appearance can be set when I meet with him at the studio when Thompson is in town for his appearance. (I never did get to go through his book thoroughly but it is a must that I will definitely get on before I meet with him. ☺).

Do you have any information on a Jerry Bruno who is the advance man for the Democratic National Committee? Manchester in his book notes his role in the motorcade trip and then mentions that he was not called as a witness before the Commission. There's a brief reference to Bruno in Vol. 7, p. 442. I don't know what the tie-in may be but there's a reference to a letter sent to Walter Jenkins about some of the Dallas arrangements which I believe was written by Bruno. Recent information I have is that Clay Shaw was seen in the company of Jenkins in 1960 and at the Democratic National Convention. Is this just a coincidence or are there darker connotations?

The Jan. 12 issue of the L.A. Free Press states that "it is believed that Garrison has a photograph of Bradley being arrested that day in Fort Worth, within walking distance of the assassination site." This is about the best paper in the country on the case and I think you should subscribe to it because in the last two or three months the editor has had something in every issue on the case. It would be wise if you would write an article or several for them for I am sure they would print it. They don't pay but you'll get the recognition.

Speaking about recognition the February issue of Playboy gives you a very good review of the New Orleans book and a long overdue pat on the back. Perhaps this will be a boost and help you get the recognition you've long deserved. I hope so, anyway.

I'll have more on the L.A. Free Press statement above when you're here but I'll call your attention to the following if you didn't already know of it. See the report of Deputy Sheriff Elkins of 11-26-63 on the "three prisoners...arrested on the railroad yards". (Vol. 19, p. 540). Also see the report on Lonnie Ray Wright which says: "white male - 3 time loser. Drunk, put in jail. Was on RR track." (See Vol. 9, p. 527). This is by Deputy C.L. Lewis. There is also on this page the report on Jim Braden, who is an "oil dealer" who was in the building when JFK was shot. Turner told me that this address under Braden's name was a phony one. He listed a Calif. Beverly Hills address and phone. Perhaps Steve can look into this. (Note also on this page that the "Floren, Lawrence" referred to is ~~probably~~ Larry Florer and is obviously a typo error.

I wanted to give you when you're here a typed copy of a summary of my visit to Los Angeles ~~xxx~~ and I will when you're here but let me just point out a few things now.

I managed to make an excellent contact with someone who knows Hall, Howard, Logue, Patrick, and Davis (mentioned in Patrick's letter which you sent me). Hall, I learned, made a speech in L.A. in which he said before the assassination that President Kennedy "should be stood up against the wall and shot." I'm to get a copy of this in the near future (the tape of this talk).

The Davis mentioned in that Patrick letter you sent is Howard Davis, of 3350 N.W. 18th Terrace, Miami, Florida. Davis is a Miami attorney and his brother whose first name is Tommy according to a report I received in L.A. Tommy (if that is his first name is the lawyer handling Hall's defense).

In a taped interview that Hall did for a L.A. TV station Hall referred to a "pilot friend" of his who died in a plane crash. He did not identify him in the interview but I have learned that this was Ward who died in that plane crash with DeLesseps Morrison. Hall also mentioned a friend who was a "skin diver" who drowned in his bathtub but I did not learn who this was. Do you know?

I wasn't able to learn of any Bradley associated with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in L.A. while I was there but I did learn that the March or April edition of the NY Times mentions a "Lester N. Bradley". Will trace this down for you and send a zerox of the article. Believe the story had something to do with American prisoners being released from Cuba.

About Bradley: Bradley took "his orders" from a Colonel Dodge whose real name is Colonel William Potter Gale, at 17846 Stillmore, Saugus, Calif. Statistics on Gale.- Born, Nov. 20, 1916. He is 5'9", 150 lbs., has brown hair and brown eyes. Gale formed the "California Rangers" and trained his men at 1840 W. Ave. K4 Lancaster, Calif. Gale ran for Governor in 1958. Bradley is reported to have said of Gale: "I take all my orders from him.". I've seen a photo of Gale dated 1955 indicating an arrest. Someone ought to check and see if he was.

A close associate of Gale is a man known as Colonel Dodge. He is described as being 5'10", 210 lbs., has thinning hair and sort of paunchy. He invited this informant to see the Gale troops train in Lancaster.

This informant said he knew ~~ex~~ Quarito also and his description of him matched perfectly the description printed in the transcript I sent you.

Jerry Patrick's real name is Jerry Patrick Hemming and lives either in Downey or Paramount, California. Both towns are listed in the "Mid Cities" Directory and Steve is trying to track him down.

In that letter that Steve wrote you I said that this informant also knew William Seymour. That was incorrect and should be noted. I did not get around to asking him about Seymour. I'll be in touch with him again and will find out if he does.

Bradley is reported to have flown out of the Van Nuys airport and had a ground maintenance license there. A company known as "ON MARK" had a plant at Van Nuys which specialized in making old B-26's into executive planes. The CIA allegedly used this company for Vietnam "out of the back door", so to speak. Whether Bradley had anything to do with this company is not known at this point but Van Nuys is known to be a U-2 center and this plant is reported to have had CIA-type operations going on in Central America and Mexico. The cluster of plants formed a kind of "security blanket" out of which CIA operations could be performed.

The Minutemen suspected Bradley, in fact, of being a CIA man all along and this might account for his difficulties with them. Bradley worked for Lockheed during World War II. (This checks out with what you had on him working on F-38's. Lockheed made them).

Bradley associated with a group known as FAIR. FAIR stood for "For All Interested Republicans" and a man by the name of Gorton headed it. Between 1954 and 1962 Bradley ran a firm called "MOvers, Incorporated".

Bradley and Hall are said to be very close friends.

I have the name of a minister who was in Dallas, Nov. 22 who left immediately thereafter and went to New Orleans. This person is associated with the same group that Edward Beckham belonged to. That's the religious order known as "The Universal Life Church". Beckham, as you know, was seen at 544 Camp Street in religious garb. He's now a disk jockey.

Beckham once associated with a firm known as the "B and L Enterprises" in Omaha, Nebraska. The B stood for Beckham and the L stood for Colonel Lowery of the Strategic Air Command. Ever hear of him? Omaha, of course, known to be a big CIA center but what's Beckham doing associating with a colonel in the Air Force??

What do you know about the man reported to be the "number one Minute-man" in the country, Harold De Monford. Information I have is that Shaw befriended him. Know anything about this?

Referring again to the Lockheed Aircraft Corp. for which Bradley worked during World War II check De Mohrenschildt's testimony in Vol. 9 page 206. There's a reference to a Ragnar Kearton who was a ~~vice-president~~ vice-president of Lockheed in Calif. whom De M knew. He moved to Alaska. It's possible Kearton might have known Bradley at Lockheed.

Incidentally, scattered throughout the volumes are references to Minutemen individuals. See for example the items on a ~~Robert W. Parker~~ Robert W. Parker, "munitions man" from Orange, Calif. in Vol. 20, P. 503 and Vol. 24, p. 312 and a Morris Tannehill in Vol. 26, p. 316.

Hall is supposed to have had a record put out known as "Cuba Betrayed". When interviewed at the L.A. Free Press office Hall claimed he didn't know Bradley and said he thought Bradley might have recorded the record several years ago for Hall. Hall said he thought Bradley might have worked for a firm known as the Ultrasonics Sound Equipment in Los Angeles. Wonder why he would drag this company in? His denial of not knowing Hall though won't stand up in court for Garrison has the proof the two did know each other.

Bradley broke away from the Minutemen and formed a group or at least played an important role in that group. The group was known as the "Real Minutemen". In an informal talk with Burton Hall admitted knowing H.L. Hunt, Logue and a Paterson or Peterson. Could this be the Lefty Peterson mentioned in the Russo testimony or could it be the Joe Peterson (a friend of Ruby) who testified before the Commission? (See Vol. 14, p. 615).

Hall told Burton that he had participated in the raids against Cuba with the Patrick Raiders (Jerry Patrick's group). In that transcript you were mailed there is a reference to Morgan's Raiders to which Seymour belonged. There's a reference to Captain Morgan after whom this group was named in the volumes (see Vol. 23, P. 171). Could this have something to do with Ruby's visit to Cuba in 1959 and McWillie's alluding to Morgan? Recall that there were rumors that Ruby was seeking to negotiate for Americans imprisoned in Cuba and Morgan could have been one of them. Morgan ~~rose~~ rose to become a Major in Castro's army then turned against him and was shot for leading a counter-revolutionary force against Castro.

Hall told Burton he knew a Capt. Gutierrez while he was fighting in Cuba (presumably on the side of Castro then). This could be a reference to Francisco Gutierrez a Dallas member of JURE (see Vol. 26, p. 349) but it is more likely to be Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo who formed the Segundo Frente Nacional del Escambray when fighting with Castro. Menoyo worked closely with Morgan as a double agent (See Taber's book, "M-26: The Biography of a Revolution"). In exile the SFNE probably had the co-operation of the CIA. This is the group that came to be known as "Alpha 66."

There is a lot more I could say but I want to close now, and will say so long for now.

Best,
Hal