

1/20/68

Dear Hal,

I forgot too much. In dropping Joe Dolan a note, I should have told him of my letter to Unruh, in the context of what I say about "friends" in the epilogue of WWII. If he would like to air me on that, I'd hold it for him. I anticipate no meaningful response from Unruh. Or, perhaps Jim Eason? I am kind of expecting we'll spend the night of 2/3 with him, or should I say the a.m. of 2/4?

I've been meaning to ask you and Paul and Stan for recommendations of a four-page addition to WWII. We have the index done and have for some time. It runs 18 pages. I can never get enough back to pay for publishing it, even at \$1.00, 20% of the cost of which will go for mail, but I think I should do it. There is no reason to leave four pages blank. The printer I use has 32-page signatures. This would be a half sig, if I use four pages in advance for additional documentation, as I did with WW. Please make whatever suggestions you and the others would care to. Remember, I have all the documents mentioned in the book. I could also use a sequence of the sewer pictures Al Chapman took for me (and Jim used without reference to me).

Eason

Jim and I could do a whole and exciting (additional!) show on PW, which is almost virginal, there and elsewhere. ~~xx~~ Ask him to look at it again.

I hope to have a typed copy of the index to O in NO with me. You can make copies. It will include the index to the documents. As I have been editing this, I came to realize how the book was really butchered in "editing". All the stuff on the Training Centers was just cut right out, and later references refer to nothing.
P.M. I have just talked to John, who tells me that Thompson is to be on the Dolan Show. If Joe is willing, there is no one like him to pull the plug. I have given John this by phone, but he may not have understood it and he should consult you for the data for Joe anyway. I may even phone you and get you up in the a.m. to discuss this. Where he thinks we will not spot him. Thompson is defending the FBI. I mean specifically, in Baltimore, WJZ-TV and WCRM radio, where listeners, familiar with my writing and speaking phoned in with questions. Everything confirms my analysis. I am getting closer to Ray's belief that he may be CIA. He got annoyed when callers pointed out that he was merely repeating part of what they long ago had heard from me. He also got annoyed when they pointed out deficiencies in the FBI performance and here accused me of giving only one side, saying it was easy to make the FBI look bad by telling only part of the story. The producer of the TV Show must have known how raw this was for when I learned about it and phoned him five minutes after his show was off the air Friday he never called back. He has to go past the switchboard to get to his office. First the operator said he hadn't returned to his office then, as I called back, she shifted to he was out of the building and hadn't returned but she'd give him the message as soon as he did.

In all of Thompson's book there are but two "new" things. One is what he could well have gotten from Vince or Sylvia, for I gave it to them in confidence more than a year ago, well before I showed it to all of you in California when I was there in 1966. This is the Harper stuff. The other is the Specter memo. Now I cannot conceive of his having that in his book unless it was slipped to him in advance. I was after it for some time. It is one of two memos that were held back in a larger file. I had the book written (PM) waiting for that. I never did get a meaningful explanation for the continued withholding of these two documents. However, if he didn't get it until I did, which is just before 10/1/67, I just cannot see how it could have been included in his book, especially because of the extra time in

doing a hardbacked book, how it could have been included in the index, the SEPost package, when that article was printed by the middle of November, with their six-weeks lag, etc. It may not be impossible but it is improbable. I take this as an indication of an official connection.

There are several points on which he is quite vulnerable, as you may have concluded. I think if Joes can go after him on a couple it could help us establish who and what he is and what he is up to.

He was asked on WAVA radio, a show taped and aired the night, I think, of ~~xxxx~~ 1/5, why he had written this book. His answer was that it was full of new material—that his reason was to present new evidence. This is hardly his reason and there is, except for these two things, nothing new except irresponsible conjecture and deliberate error.

His case hangs, among other things, on the two "missed" shots. He does not acknowledge the Tague shot in the SEPost. Or the Aldredge. But he does in the book.

Here he presents another vulnerability. Throughout his book he refers to documents "recently discovered in the National Archives", as though he were the discoverer. In most cases they are documents that I not only "discovered" but also published—before he began his book. I have him on tape placing that date, the date he got the contract with Weis, at December 1966. Pub date of WWII was 12/2/66. In the case of the "Aldredge shot, I had published this. His citation (p.177) reads, "This document was discovered in the fall of 1966 by Harold Weisberg". No reference to the book. And he hasn't the slightest idea when I "discovered" anything. We'd never spoken or met. It wasn't the fall: I had the book done before the fall. It was in early Summer. What he says about the A shot is the kind of thing Joe can really do things with if he has the time to understand it. One p. 171, below the middle, he says that it "lines up perfectly with a trajectory running through Connolly by 2234-253...". Thus, any kind of trajectory is "perfect", for this one requires a sharp turn of not less than 90 degrees! That shot gouged about about 5 inches of concrete to the east of the second lamp post on the north side of Elm St! Ever hear of that kind of trajectory, where a relatively low velocity bullet can be deflected more than 90 degrees after smashing through the chest and wrist (and even the CBS tests proved that few of the bullets had the power to go through the incomplete mockups of the chest and wrist), and have the energy left to do this to concrete. How "perfect" can a trajectory be!

As you know, with the spectrographic analysis that I alone have demanded be released for two years, it was possible to identify the Tague strike with any of the others. The FBI could not identify it with any bullet or fragment of bullet that it could associate with the car or any of its occupants. So he said it came from a head fragment. This was more magical than even Specter's comment, for that fragment had to have energy more of the others did, they not having escaped the car and the allegedly most energetic one not having the strength to go through the windshield. It had to get through the bodies of the various people in the car, the windshield, not hit any of the bystanders between the car and the ~~st~~^{sc} curb was hit, and had the power to splash concrete with the force to cut Tague's face. Or, it was a high blooper that generated new force as it got near Tague! Obviously, this is a total impossibility, as also is the Aldredge invention. If Joe doesn't want to go into this, I'd be glad to on his show. I have written a letter to Unruh that might interest him too. Sent you a copy.

One thing I'd like very much to know is when his book closed, when it went to press. If we can nail him with getting special favors from the government we have a good part of the case against him.

Reading his book in now way changes (rather it fortifies) the analysis I made 11/21 when I read the SEP piece flying home from LA. He has manufactured a formula to get the government off the hook while seeming to criticize it strongly. He agrees with or at least concedes that all its basic conclusions are possible, says Oswald was an assassin in the face of all the ignored evidence he could not have been, says shots came from the sixth-floor window in spite of the evidence none could have, and in the SEP even says that with three assassins there need have been no conspiracy. In context, he really says there was no conspiracy. Obviously, the SEP reached a vastly larger audience.

Whatever happens, please try and tape everything he says and get a dub to me as fast as possible. Also, see if we can arrange for the best-quality dubs out there, say on Sunday, 2/4. It will be effective to play his voice back. Small excerpts, that is

I also have the proof that he really stole the double-hit from me if not Ray, for we each separately discovered the same thing (I published it well before he knew about it) and that he stole the 237-8 shoulder hit from Ray. Ray told him about it in the fall of 1966 when he was in NY and at LIFE. He saw me on his way back. I still have what Ray sent me on this in the postmarked (7/17/66) envelope. I have Thompson, on Face (Ray has a dub) on WTOP-TV, saying he didn't get his contract until about 12/22/66 and that some time later, when he "discovered" the double hit, he phoned his editor to say this was so overwhelming there was no book!

Also, I showed the double-hit in the movie to Mike Mooney, senior editor of the Saturday Evening Post, and Dick Whalen, at the Archives, before Thompson began his book. So, the SEP knew he stole this. I wrote Mooney. No answer.

I do not intend all of this for Joe. Merely the questions when his book went to press, why he wrote it (what is new) and the two missed shots. The other things I'd like to unhook myself. And I'll add his blatant theft from me on the Connally clothes. I in error said they were plundered. Mrs. Connally said the opposite, that she had just set them in water. He says laundered and cites her contrary LIFE statement as his source!

I did phone you- 7:30 a.m. your time. No answer.

I think it important to schedule nothing before my 8 p.m. KGO show. They are paying the expenses and should have the first, whatever they want. I think it also advisable to say nothing about other appearances that might get back to them until I am out there, so they will not use that as an excuse to change their minds, or to say that they do not want me to do anything else.

John tells me he has talked to Turner, who freely acknowledges stealing to much of my stuff and says it is okay because once I publish it, it is in the "public domain". That's new law, quite opposed to the old, the one still observed by the courts. How completely without morals these people are! I'm not shocked at Turner, because he has done it before, or at Ramparts, which has done it more than he. But I am dismayed that from this immorality we are to suppose genuine dedication to enunciated principle. No wonder they founder.

In a letter to Playboy I have specifically called Thompson a thief and offered to prove it in their pages. And so you will not have any doubt, he added nothing to what was known of the content of the 2 film, is disproved by it, and lies. It is a lie to say the Commission never saw a copy as clear as he saw at LIFE, that the LIFE stills were an earlier generation than the Commission slides, and that without the clearer LIFE versions what he has "discovered" is impossible. Ray did it with the shoulder with only what was printed!

Also, in all of this, I do not want to forget Marv. He has been a stalwart friend, to me and to us. I'll try and call him and see if there is any use he'd like to make of me, if there is anything he'd like to be exclusive with him. He has been treated shabbily, as has Art Kevin, at KHJ radio, and it is wrong. He may want to air the Mafia story; he may want silence. He and I, together, can do it, and it should be exciting. (I have asked a New Orleans newsman I trust to check out a local angle, in confidence, without telling even Garrison. I've not had time for a response from him.)

Penn just phoned to say he has the name of a Deputy-still a deputy-who was on top the jail at the time of the assassination. Harry Weatherford, who has every kind of gunmade and buys a new Ford every year. He is about to go get Craig, for whose life he fears (and apparently for his own, from the call). Craig was restricted to living in a room, was under constant surveillance, including a white 1956 Ford, license KXK 471. The Locke who is about to run for governor was Mrs. Tiprit's lawyer. 2CH426. Connally's brother is to be his campaign mgr. I think he was Connally's.

Best,