

2/28/69

Dear Hal,

What an oversight! You sent your Jacobs letter regular mail instead of by air. It took five days to reach me. I am making a trip to town to mail it as soon as I finish this. We do not get our mail now until 12:30, and, that time we have our only outgoing mail of the day. If I do not take this in, there is no chance of the letter to Jacobs reaching him in time. A copy is enclosed. If he doesn't have a set of my books, please try and get a set to him. I hope he will take them,

When you get a chance, will you ask Bernardo to add the appropriate names to his list, please?

To hurriedly answer your letter: There is too much delay when it takes 4 days for an airmail letter to reach you, as mine of 2/19 did. You should have had other letters by 2/23.

Every thing I see or hear of Lifton makes me more apprehensive. Either he has psychological problems that make him a hazard of he an agent, consciously or unconsciously, at least of Liebel. He intruded himself into the business of the debate. The initial offer to me included the repayment of my expenses. When they told me that Liebel was getting an honorarium, I said that I would be content with whatever he got, but to tell him that I would appear for nothing if he would. I never asked for an honorarium. He is the one who did. I asked for only equality of treatment and I think it would have been a studied insult for them to pay him and not me. However, I did offer to appear free if he would. I did say all the expense money I'd want returned was actual transportation. And they would have taken in much more than the cost of my fare and two reasonable honoraria. Lifton, who phoned me in LA (And I didn't speak to him, didn't tell him where I was-only three or four people know) told me he had the school representative add the line to the letter saying the other side had nothing to do with the cancellation. That is entirely false if the reason was the honorarium. I never made a single demand of the school, aside from an organized format and a tape, and they and Liebel agreed to that in advance. I do not know what the real reason for cancellation was, but the only thing that makes sense is that in one way or another Liebel arranged it. He doesn't dare appear when he cannot fillibuster, when he cannot make such long answers to questions he invents rather than those asked that it isn't possible to catch up with all his lies and distortions. But may I ask how Lifton knew about it, what business it was of his, and why he had the right to intrude in any way, on anybody's behalf, but most particularly to defend Liebel?

Does this not tell you enough about Thornley and him. I'd like anything you have on that. You know what I learned about him. It is I who was told that he and Oswald had been together at Bourbon House. It is I who Douglas Jones told the man who got the literature looked like Thornley. There was reason for Garrison to call him. If Lifton were really his friend he would have done as I did, counseled Thornley to make what he knew available. I tried to get him to speak to me. He didn't. I left word that without doubt he'd hear from Garrison, which was obvious. The last thing Thornley did before he left New Orleans was tell Mumu he'd like to speak to me! I would certainly like a tape of what Lifton says on KPFK, if you can arrange it. But if they are such good friends, why doesn't Dave find out where Thornley was when Oswald left New Orleans? They were missing together. Remember that Oswald's brother crossed the Mexican border at Miguel Aleman the same day Oswald crossed at Laredo!

If I can, I'll get the March issue of American Opinion. It is more unlikely today, with having to stay home because of my wife, so if you can get a Xerox of those interesting things for me, please do. I'd also like a Xerox of his original article, of which you gave me a hand-written excerpt. They printed copies look better on TV, and that is possible now, once in a while.

By now you've probably learned that your Hatchcock story is not quite accurate in detail but is in spirit. Let me know what you learned, for he and I will be in touch again.

And I am looking forward to hearing from you in detail. I am especially anxious to know how the fat swallow sang, and whether he flew further. I am not unhappy about turning him on and sending him ~~xxx~~ on his own where he fought so hard to keep from having to go. That is a first, but the second first. The first first will be impossible for a while. I forgot Ricardo. It is the third first!

Hurriedly,

February 23, 1968

Dear Hal,

Today I received the letter dated Feb. 19 which included the information concerning Similas, the letter to Playboy and your own letter to me. Thanks for the enclosures - they will prove helpful to our class and students at our Tuesday meetings. There has been a rise in class attendance for this semester and the class has doubled in size. This shows the great interest the assassination has and the fact that college students feel that the whole subject was left wanting by the faked investigation.

Just a few minutes ago I spoke with Dave Lifton. Lifton told me that your scheduled talk with Liebeler was cancelled. He mentioned something about an honorarium being offered, then turned down but my impression was that Liebeler was latching on to a flimsy excuse to bow out. Sorry it didn't turn out as you would have liked.

Lifton was very agitated about Thornley. Before I finished my phone conversation with him he was calling Garrison a "goon" and his method of handling Thornley as "voodoo style" tactics. He believes Garrison is all wet on Thornley and told me of taped conversations he's had with his wife who is crying over the phone about what ~~xx~~ Garrison is doing to Thornley. In fact, Lifton said he was to be interviewed on KPFFK and would use the opportunity to blast Garrison for what he's done to Thornley whom he considers as a friend. I've never seen Dave so agitated as he was tonight.

I told Dave that he may be guilty of rushing to judgment on Thornley's role even if he considers him as a friend. What if he were involved as Garrison charges?, I asked Dave. Dave said the ~~xxx~~ question ought to be: what if Garrison were wrong? I then asked Dave to what purpose would Garrison go around makin false allegations as Dave claims he is. Why would Garrison be right about uncovering a plot with Shaw involvement and then go off half-cocked about a minor character such as Thornley is, if, indeed, he is as innocent as Dave makes Thornley out to be. Dave claims Thornley is poor, can't afford the lawyer he needs and was willing to appear because - unlike Novel - he did not want to be placed in a position where his flight could be considered as evidence of guilt. I told him I suspended judgment until I knew more about the facts of Thornley's case. I told him that I had a transcript of an interview that Thornley gave not long ago (which you sent me) that put him in a very bad light.

I'm leaving for Los Angeles tomorrow night and will stay there until Sunday night. I wanted to see Hathcock and hope to set up a Sunday meeting. Unfortunately Steve won't be in town tomorrow since he'll be leaving by plane tomorrow at noon, so we won't see each other. He's arranged to have others meet me to make arrangements for a place to stay while I'm there. I hope also to meet with Penn Jones and Roger Craig at Maggie's for she'll be having a reception for them at her place Sunday at 5 p.m. I'll be there then if you should ever want to reach me or talk to Penn.

Before I forget see if you can get the March (or is it April?) issue of "American Opinion". It has a review of Thompson's book. Both

you and Penn Jones are referred to as "eccentrics" and Lane as a "left-winger" but Thompson is seen as an academician with no axe to grind. The issue is also important for there is a review of "The Espionage Establishment" in which the same Medford Evans suggests that perhaps there was an inner dispute as to the carrying out the Nov. 22nd deed and he uses a paragraph from Hilsman's book "To Move a Nation" to show the lack of harmony that existed within the ranks of the CIA. Hilsman's point was that disgruntled members of the CIA sought out members of the press to get their point of view across. If this had been published in the so-called "left-wing" press there would be angry denunciations and charges of "crackpot" politics. But Evans opinions will receive scant notice. They should be mentioned, I believe, as often as possible because it shows that they switched from their previous Oswald-left-wing-assassin-who-did-it-by-himself theory to one that indicts the Johnson administration and the Warren Commission. I am, of course, quoting from memory but as I recall the very last sentence in the review of Thompson's book was an especially quotable one. It was also written by Medford Evans.

Referring to Hathcock again: I've learned that it was he who was responsible for notifying the FBI a day after the assassination that Loran Hall had a rifle. In fact Hall showed it to him! That's how the story got out about the rifle. The FBI told Hathcock that the rifle Hall owned couldn't have been the one since a 6.5 Mannlicher-Carcano was used!

I wanted to call your attention to someone whom Bernardo introduced me to who can prove of valuable aid if you can write him as soon as possible. Here is his address: Harold Jacobs, ~~301~~ at 3014 Fulton Street, Berkeley, California, telephone #848-0110.

Jacobs is going to Cuba around the 1st of March and he's willing to pass on information about Cubans and individuals I've made him aware of whom you are interested. Bernardo showed him his list and I'm xeroxing copies of names from the Blazewick transcript, "Oswald in New Orleans" index and the "Plot or Politics" index.

Jacobs asked ~~me~~ me to have you write him a letter of introduction he could use when he is in Cuba showing that he is seeking information for a reliable purpose and that you will be given the information for use as a Garrison investigator. What he seeks is a letter that he can show which will allow him to meet with people who - if they cannot give Jacobs the information directly - will, at least, pass it on to you in some way or other. You can understand the natural reluctance on their part (the Cubans) to hand out information to an American and a letter from you may help. Letters, of course, can be forged and they might be suspicious of someone trying to prove his credentials (Remember Oswald?). But this is about the best way we know of handling it.

I feel that Jacobs can be trusted. I know he is active in campus politics and identifies with the democratic socialist movement to the left of Norman Thomas. His name appears from time to time in the Berkeley Barb. He knows next to nothing about the Kennedy assassination, however and this may prove to be a drawback.

If you write him, send me a copy or if you feel it safer, to Paul.

There's a lot more to write about but must go to sleep and get ready for work tomorrow. I'll write when I return home.

Best in the meantime.

Hal

*Hal Verb*