

4/19/68

Dear Hal,

Unless you planned to leave the Bay area anyway, I regret you did not consult me prior to making your decisions, for there now is little prospect of an immediate trial, from what I was able to learn in New Orleans, which I left only Monday of this week. When the available technicalities are exploited, I think it is well within the capability of federal power to prevent a trial until at least after the election.

However, if you want to go there before the trial, I'll let you know when next I'm going to be there-if I can-in advance. I've not planned any of my recent trips. In each case Jim phoned and asked if I'd come down and help. In each case I've dropped everything and done it. And, I'm happy to say, in each case the results have been exciting. If what I developed on this last trip holds up, there is a book in that alone!

My intention of offering you sleeping accommodations with me still stands, but recently that would have been complicated. The last two trips I have been interviewing women in my room until late at night (and doing nothing else with them). When this happens, if we are together, I have no doubt I can improve something else. This last time the woman, who I suspect had been on some kind of stimulant, just popped out after I'd finished interrogating her, fell asleep on my bed, and slept there. I sat in my clothes, a not very comfortable night.

If you go back east, visiting us will not be far out of your way. We have the sleeping space and you'd be more than welcome. We are almost in Fredrick, if you look at a map. And, if you do not mind bad hours, it is two hours to the Archives by bus on days I do not go to Washington (which is most days now). Jim will be here in a couple of weeks and I'll see if there is anything he wants checked out there. There are some things I'm interested in and do not have time for. I haven't been able to do anything on Post Mortem in seven months. It is typed for the camera and I need only make a few additions to the last chapter, write an epilogue tie the appendix in.

If you leave, of course, I'll miss all the fine arrangements you've been making for me. John has been totally silent. I asked him for the money he promised to make up when he but in at ABC. Incidentally, will you please ask for the balance of what is due me from 1966's trip. Money is an increasingly-serious problem with me. Our situation will soon be desperate.

On Harv: I do not even have his address.

I am not confident that I understand what Bobby is up to. He is not the kind of guy to engage in self-destruction. Jones Harris says it is because of all the guns between him and the election!

What you sent of the Blue Shirts is immediately exciting. Whether or not Steve got to see Jim, I've made a copy and sent it for several reasons not immediately apparent to you. Perhaps even today there will be a special reporter here from the London Times, which sent him to this country just to do definitive work on King. I've indicated some of the NSRP stuff by phone, stemming from Preliminary Postscript From Miami in O. in W.O. and he seems interested. Therefore, please send everything possible as soon as possible. Of the two things on this Paul gave me in February, the people in L.A. kept one when I gave them to them to copy. I have the FBI Brown-Drennan report, which is also in a second file, the copy of which I also have. But there was part of a tabulation, something in outline form, that was not returned.

My interest in Courtney may wane. I have some good sources, people who once worked for him. He ran a campaign to blockade Cuba which aborted when that was done. He had an "agent" working for him in Europe, arranged for Walker's defense after Oxford, published him, and many other things. That literature that was found on Pine Street that the police immediately attributed to Reisman was just as close to Courtney's home and then-possible interest. I've been able to borrow copies of the book you cite and three others he published. But anything you have can be worthwhile. Be certain if anything is to be returned, the name is written on it.

What you say about Varney jogs my memory. I once had an extensive file on him. I think he had a connection with a Russian fascist, Vonsiatky. Professor Tansill was an open fascist when a professor of history at American University, in the graduate school in the late 30s, as I recall it. This is to serve Jim's interest, and I am confident it is not immediate, so do not extend yourself on the blogs. When there is time, a full file would be valuable.

I have a tremendous amount of work to do following my recent investigations, perhaps 12 hours of tape to transcribe, and a lot of time to devote to analyzing them and drafting reports. This in addition to what has kept me busy.

Recently I sent Paul a list of names. I asked him not to mention them on the phone. That, I would say, is of immediate top priority. I hope you can find a way of helping. I should know what is available as fast as possible. If there is anything that seems to relate to any of them, no matter how indirectly, I want it. There is in them a clue that will mean something to you. The odd name is the most important. Also, if you have any clues on any CIA types in N.C., even if just rumors, I'd like them. One is now in the booby-hatch and really mad. How things can fit as they didn't earlier. Regards to everyone, best
Also, if you have time to go over Philip Geraci, Blalock, etc., inc. Bringuier, and try and spot what might indicate prior connection, lies, a different association—anything wrong or seemingly wrong, please do it as soon as possible.

April 14, 1968

Dear Hal,

Again, excuse my delay in replying to your letters. As of this week (after the 15th of April, that is) I'll be free to write more regularly than I have in the past several weeks and you will be informed about what our activities here have been.

Thanks for all the enclosures you've been sending and the documents concerning the items you've been following up leads on. A more detailed letter on this from me will follow shortly.

I've had absolutely no chance to check on the names you sent me (Owen, Latham, Thompson, etc.). Ditto on Youngblood. As for Harv Morgan and Jim Eason I have not called them since January. That's how busy I've been at my office and you know how I would take the time to look into anything that you wanted me to check out.

I'm enclosing articles you'll find of interest, particularly the remarks made by Bobby Kennedy when he was at the San Fernando Valley State College. The statements he made are quite accurate since I was able to obtain a tape of his remarks through Dave Lifton. Except for a few slight changes Bobby did say "I stand by the Warren Commission" (I'll have a transcript made of this and a copy of the tape shortly so you'll be able to compare the report as printed in the L.A. Times with what he actually stated).

You may be interested in knowing that the night before Bobby made this ~~speech~~ speech a friend of the Citizens Committee manage to sneak his way into Bobby's suite to attend a press gathering of favored newsmen. This person managed to confront Bobby face to face and asked him about the assassination and another investigation. Bobby gave him a look as if to say, "Who let you in here?". This person persisted, however, in asking Bobby to make a statement. Bobby finally did and said: "It's a closed case". So much for Bobby.

You'll notice the second enclosure concerning the "Blue Shirts of Louisiana". I sent Steve 2 copies of this and asked ~~him~~ him to give one to Garrison who was supposed to be in Los Angeles last week. There are more details on this that I'll send you in a letter the next time but before ending my discussion of this I just wanted to point out to you that the "Blue Shirts" served as the uniformed guards for the New Orleans meetings of the National States Rights Party when they held their meetings. Can you get one of your New Orleans contacts to identify who the "Leonard Butler" is in the letter sent to the person whose name is blacked out?

You requested info on Courtney of New Orleans. Kent and Phoebe Courtney advertised in "American Opinion" through a front group known as "The Conservative Society" which once published "America's Unelected Rulers" by the Courtneys and also through the "Independent American" a publication which produced a line of pamph-

lets called "TAX FAX" which was pro-big business. This could mean support came from sources who had an interest in seeing that the Courtneys succeeded in their venture.

I'll have more on Courtney in a later letter.

Here's some interesting data on Harold Varney which I dug up. As you'll recall I wrote you once before that Varney was President of the "Committee on Pan-American Policy". Prior to this Varney was an associate editor of the American Mercury. In June, 1937, the American Civil Liberties Union sued that magazine for \$50,000 for what they said was a libelous article by Varney entitled "Liberalism a' la Moscow" which appeared in the December, 1936 issue. The annual ACLU report said: "The American Mercury, now a spokesman for the fascist viewpoint, published in December an article...by Harold Lord Varney, associate editor, formerly secretary of the Italian Historical Society, subsidized by Mussolini. Mr. Varney was personally decorated by the dictator. The article so libeled the Union that suit for \$50,000 was brought...When the Union offered to submit to an impartial referee the examination of Mr. Varney's charges, provided the Mercury would publish his findings, the publisher (Lawrence E. Spivak, who is still publisher) refused."

Varney was also an associate editor of a fascist magazine that appeared in the 30's known as "the Awakener". Lawrence Dennis, the leading American ~~fascist~~ fascist during these times was its publisher.

Varney's "Committee on Pan-American Policy" had offices in New York City and listed besides Varney a Professor Charles Callan Tansill as "Research Chairman". Tansill was known to be one of the ranking scholars and historians on the Right. This group published "Pan American Headlines", a glossy two-color 8-pager which appeared to urge old-line American Imperialism. They sought armed "intervention" in Cuba. The January-February 1962 issue says: "It is impossible to escape the conclusion that we must now intervene in Cuba with our armed forces. We can no longer pass the buck to anyone else."

It's interesting to note that the chief fear of the Committee seems to be that American holdings in various South and Central American republics are in danger of seizure by nationalist regimes. A comment I have here concerning this in the data says the following: "It is not difficult to imagine what American business combines might be contributors to this group."

The Advisory Committee includes the following names: Taylor Caldwell, Brig. General Wm. P. Campbell; Frank Chodorov, Hon. Kit Clardy, Admiral Charles M. Cooke, Lieut. General P.A. Del Valle, Col. Serge Obolensky, Professor Revilo P. Oliver, George S. Schuyler, Lieut. General George E. Stratemeyer, General A.C. Wedemeyer, Judge George W. Williams, Ralph E. Davis and Major General Charles A. Willoughby.

Revilo P. Oliver you know about already but the rest of these characters are also intellectual stars of the far right. Clardy was, for example, a member of the discredited Velde HUAC. Stratemeyer

and Del Valle endorsed anti-Jewish publications and Ralph Davis is an officer of the John Birch society.

There are some biographical sketches I can supply on each of these if you wish. Let me know if it's important enough.

What have you been able to determine as far as the trial date in New Orleans? I'm quite anxious to go down but will await your judgment as to when to leave. I would like to be there when you are there together with Steve. My problem is that the longer I wait the less money I'll have to be able to go and stay for any length of time as I would like. I was even thinking of going back east to New Jersey for awhile and then when the trial opens leave for N.O. If I were back east I could then visit you and be of some help. What's your thinking on this?

More to follow later, but have to run now.

Best,
Hal
Hal

P.S. I almost forgot. Please change my address from 923A Fulton Street to my new address. IT's 6009 Jordan Street, El Cerrito, Calif. 94530. I'm staying here until I leave. That is the address of Tom and you have his phone number where I can be reached.