

6/18/68

Dear Hal,

Yours of 16 arrived this a.m. in remarkably good time. I've got to go to Washington, so I'll make partial answer immediately, of the part I know of. Mark, typically, is using other people's materials, typically without credit.

Here's the whole story. I was in New Orleans about two months ago when Jones Harris (whose name I never use) stayed at the same motel. He was there with a fighter (I say on business). Bobby had just made his San Fernando speech and I was pressuring Jones on why he had told such an awful lie, trying to argue that in this and in his silence he jeopardized his life, feeling, as I do, that only those who declare the report wrong give their enemies pause. Jones' explanations didn't even satisfy him. I had roused him from bed and we were breakfasting in his room. Finally he blurted out that Bobby feels "there are already too many guns between him and the Presidency."

Whose guns, I pressed. CIA's, he finally said. Not meaning Helms, of course. So, because I needed exercise and because I wanted to talk to Jones more about this, I coaxed him into walking to Jim's office, a long walk. We chatted. I got no meaningful simplification. I told Jim, to whom I had often in the past and then given my opinions on Bobby. I talked him out of keeping after Bobby last November, when he finally realized that political life might yet make Bobby an ally. He had been clobbering Bobby until then.

That morning, after Jones, when we were alone, we discussed Bobby further. We agreed that Bobby might feel safer while running if he pretended he was satisfied with the official fiction. Jim agreed to continue his same policy, not to assail Bobby. We agreed Bobby had to know he was lying at San Fernando and had to have a reason, even if we couldn't agree with the reason Jones gave, that it was safer.

On this occasion, and for the second time, my trip to N.O. coincided with that of a friend of Bobby's. I believe his name is Lind. It is Bobby whose roommate in college he was. The first time Jim asked my advice, I told him to tell Lind he could understand Bobby might feel compromised, might feel he could say nothing, but that he could depend upon the cooperation of that office and those of us working in the field to give him any knowledge we had that he might want. The second time I suggested he send the message that as a politician he knew that what was expedient during a campaign might not be policy after it. To the best of my knowledge, Jim was never told by Lind that Bobby would do something if elected. His Jones told me. I believe that if for no other reason because I have from the first felt his position as President would be intolerable unless he did, and this is the reason I feared for his life. If Lind did make any such statement, Jim never repeated it to me and I am confident he would have.

Now on the night Bobby was murdered, I gave Mark time on a three-hour TV show I had previously committed on WFAN-TV in Washington. I postponed the show to accommodate him. Typically, he starts using my stuff as his, as he did in his book. When he started I set the story straight, and it was aired in accurate form. It is merely that Mark is a whore with a pimp publisher to pay his way around the country and get him air time. He had nothing to do with this story save embellish it and present himself and his new book as though they are something they are not.

Matter of fact, if you dig out your copy of the letter I wrote Unruh in January, you'll find my prediction that the silent ones would be cut down, one by one.

I'd like to air the true story, with Harv of whom this is my first

word since KCBS) Dolan or anyone else, for with me it is first person.

I can now add this to it:

I had dinner with Jones in New York a week ago last night, 6/10. I reminded him of this conversation. He then added that three weeks before it happened he had warned the entourage it would be attempted in California and that he had never seen people so unconcerned with security.

If anyone wants to air me on this, I'd prefer not to clobber Unruh. I can quote that one paragraph and leave it with the expression that he sent word to me through a friend that he had gotten and read the letter. Perhaps a kind handling like this would do some good with him.

Several other things in haste.

You have never in any way responded to my request that you bluntly ask those who agreed to defray my expenses in 12/66 why they hadn't. They sold admissions, got other benefits, and didn't. In all, in California, this has cost me about \$1,000 I do not and did not have. On that occasion, as you know, I abandoned WHITEWASH II to go out there, making a trip before the book was on sale. I went for other, principled reasons. It has been a burden to me since, for my debt is great. I am also inhibited. It makes impossible what I would otherwise do, and when I see you you will get an idea of what this is, in just one area, and what its possible cost to all of us might be. You are, as I know, in the middle on this. About that I can do nothing. But before you leave I expect you to get the balance of my actual costs - no fee for the talk - or some rational explanation (that is now beyond my understanding) of why they didn't keep their word. If it means the individuals must dig to get the money, I regard it as their obligation. I am more outraged that I can tell you that they would treat anyone, particularly me, this way. It is about \$300, which is enough to pay for another investigation in N.O. As you will see for yourself, if I do not do the things there that I do, they do not get done. You'll be surprised at how much of it is or is from my work and no one else's, brief as is the time I am and can be there. We have never before been even near what I am into and proving now. You cannot exaggerate its potential, in significance and impirtance. Survival is itself now a serious problem, and I do not mean for me alone.

Because I must go there as soon as I can arrange housing and pay for the ticket, as soon as I can I will. Therefore, keep me posted on you plans so I can let you know my whereabouts. If I can go there, I may stay as long as two weeks, if I can. How will you be coming? If by air, examine special rates closely. Discounts are available, and round-trips out of the way included. I cannot promise to keep you posted, but I can try. I may have to improvise. Speed is urgent. One vital witness may already be out of the country. Others may be under "protection". The easiest, fastest and cheapest way is to call yourself at my phone, person to person. If I am away, my wife will say she doesn't know when I'll be back. If I'm away for just a short period, she says, "I expect Mr. Verb at such and such a time", when you can then place a station call for only a buck in the evening. If I am here, one of us will say "We expect him in a few minutes", and you can call again in five or so. If I am or will be away at the time you get east, why not see your folks first, then go here on the way to N.O.? That might be a little cheaper also. Gotta run. Hope you can read this. I've been keeping Paul posted. Will order docs today. Best all around, H