

3/25/69

Dear Hal,

Your valuable package arrived this morning. First, let me remind you there is no special delivery for us. Until 4/15 I'll be picking the mail up at the post office, after driving my wife to work. Then, there will be the single delivery each day. No specials. It is a ten-mile round-trip to the p.o. and they are not about to make that.

C
The biggest hunk out of each day now is "overhead". I get a little work done early in the a.m., get back from the p.o. about 9, and then take care of the mail and papers. It is now 5 hours after I got home and I have not yet finished this, so you can see how I'm mortgaged. After I'll stop work, while the mail will be later, I'll not be doing the papers, etc. This will permit me again to be more productive. So, this response may not be as detailed and complete as I'd like it to be.

O
Most of all I do want what you didn't include: a detailed accounting of what you learned in L.S. about Rose, Lamarfe, etc., together with whether or not Jaffe had proof that Rose is CIA and working for Brown. I asked Charlie, who has not yet responded. This may yet be urgent and I do ask you to make it as speedy and complete as you can.

P
Y
You will eventually learn that while Fred is very much with us, works hard, etc., he presents certain problems and, when there is any chance of any kind of conflict, should not be trusted. He is a coward. He is not with the other side. He does not make mistakes on purpose but he does make mistakes, some from too-great a trust in his imagination, some from inadequate knowledge and background. Please be careful. He has gradually wound himself up into a thing on me. I know why and am not troubling him, which would accomplish nothing constructive. That he is 100% wrong is not nearly as important as that he knows it. I just leave him alone. But take my word for it, there is a great danger if you are not careful. There is much inaccuracy in his Z work. I am glad to get that, which is more complete, I think, than another version I have. What is lacking is the great sensations he discovered in 170ff. He declares them only. I can recall when he was devoutly persuaded that each and every frame had been doctored. I am no more persuaded today. I think some of the other error should be readily apparent to you. That he keeps talking about bullets having hit the sign makes me wonder, for there is no evidence and never was any good reason to believe than a single one did. Ray will tell you the other side of the film-Lamarre bit. Fred was to have seen me in October, was very cordial over the phone, finally said he couldn't make it, with profuse apologies and regrets, and some time later wrote me a nasty note. Wierd. But he is what he is. Some of his work is good. What I got him started on, the rifle pictures, is very good. He may yet come up with something on Z. I hope so but have yet to see it. I certainly do want to examine carefully whatever he does, for there is the chance he excellent imagination and artist's eye will catch what the rest of us have missed.

The Enquirer story is important. I am in touch with them now. They are reading CEUP. Whether they'll go for it or not I have no way of knowing. The copy was incomplete. I'll ask them for a complete one. I will also write Canale asking confirmation or denial. He has yet to answer my request for the transcript, which pleases me since it is in the Blair book & I've read it.

C
McIntire: very interesting. I'd missed that development. However, I again encourage you to try and see for yourself that this, while it deals with bad people, is utterly without relationship to the case. This is one of Turner's very bad irresponsibilities. In itself it almost wrecked the Garrison investigation. Everyone on the staff prayed thanks to Reagan. How much more of this will it take to convince you? Remember Crissman? Nothing. And there is nothing to any of it, from the very beginning, the most dubious sources whose undependability and partisanship was carefully hidden by both Turner and Boxley. You will eventually see this, when you have access to the existing material. Until then, aside from interest in fascism, you waste your time and there is much that is important that can be done with it. Turner is your friend, but we have not had a more successful enemy. More even than Boxley is he responsible for the misdirection in New Orleans, for bankrupting that investigation. He lied, got caught in lies, backed up those who knew nothing about who were up to the worst, all sorts of very bad things. Between him and Rose, Christ what a fortune was entirely wasted. He brought Rose in, vouched for him without any good reason. He is responsible for Hepburn. And all that cost and almost cost.

Cuban Power: very glad to get those things. Several I did not have. This may still be another Morejon.

O
Gaetjones: I do not now have time to write him. Have you any more than is in this letter and yours to me, for when I can? I have put it in a file for when I can take the time. Meanwhile, Paul now has much more on deM than Gary got and I sent him about two months ago.

P
Delsune: this includes a story I did not have. I have heard nothing further. My inquiry to N.O. is unanswered. I suppose he also is gay. I think this is worth following. The coincidences are great. I will not be able to unless I go there again, unless I find someone there willing and with the time to check this sort of thing out.

I had missed it until the alert Whites called it to my attention.

Y
Dr. Fogg: interesting, but I doubt if he is now worth the cost of going there. We have moved very far forward on the autopsy-medical stuff. Much is now dated or not likely to serve an urgent purpose. However, he may have heard or seen things the significance of which he may not know (i.e. Stewart). Advance designation of the hosp. it quite interesting!

Ramos: I'll show this picture to the Castorrs when we can get together again. I was supposed to see them over the Amas holidays but couldn't. It is my recollection that by 1963 their Ramos was in a managerial position, but my recollection could be wrong.

Lala: Check. Is Rosemary Ruiz Rosemary James? Again, I think you are probably right in believing this should be done in person. If you have anything to add, please do, for that day when....

Your Shaw notes are valuable. Can you send me a copy of the AP dis-
patch of March 1, 1967, referred to as from SF Chronicle, NYTimes? It think it is not a typo, that Kirkwood said the same thing. I think he also said he was returning from lunch when he saw this. Garrison went off half cocked again, again without consulting anyone. Paul has my letter on it. He was not in charge of rentals, did not leave voluntarily. The date coincidences are also pertinent. I had missed them.

I have the Blair book. It is a potboiler but the transcript is valuable. Your comment on 2/14: let me suggest this rephrasing- when, by 2.14. Ray had not

been sold on the idea, an extension was sought and obtained. Delays are of no special duration. A month is a nice, round, not-too-long figure.

Hule has not answered my letter. I suspect meeting some of us turned him off. In any event, there is too much money for him to be honest about this. He has joined the other side, made a deal with Foreman. I am very interested in anything you have or might see indicating my belief, that Foreman came into this just to cop the entirely-out-of-character plea. And make a pot as his reward. Anything in the papers out there on this, Stoner, etc., important.

I have seen the Garrison ad. He could have planted the idea. Minyard wants to be coroner. Deutsch is an old friend of Jim's. The others mean little to me. New Orleans is also nut country. My belief is they will do nothing but support Jim politically. I think he will continue to run for re-election.

C
O
P
Y
Your page 2, par 3: do you mean Jack Brandon? If not I do not recall. That is Texas Industries Rogers. They will see me whenever I am there. They were leaving for three or six months when I was in Nov. It would be interesting if he was in Ruby's notebook. It also could have been his father, also wealthy. I think Mrs. R. knows important things about what Odio has not said. Interviewing Machann fortifies this belief. I think she told him things in the confessional. Can you nudge Brandon and see if his women have told him any more? His suspicions were logical, his fact solid.

Until we have proof that deM deliberately lied, is there compelling reason to be certain this was not just a mistake?

Relations between John and me are not good. He hid from me when I was there, did not keep his promise to repay me what he cost me on my 2/68 trip, refuses to account for the copies of O in NO he has or to send them to me unless I pay the shipping, which I cannot. If I get mad enough, I'll do something. He remains in many ways a mystery and not really worthy of trust. He is also capable of saying he did what another did. Before the film was aired, I had heard Burton was arranging it. I do not know who did. It was not well done. Glad to have the transcript, which Gary had not sent me. From all I was able to learn of him, Lubic is a luftmensch, a faker. When you are in LA ask Kevin. I spoke to him and to Jeffe about him. Nothing stacks up, nothing promised has been provided. His "friendship" with Bobby is dubious. I'd heard the LIFE theft rumor before but have no confirmation. Thompson was there then. One rumor is that he was caught with it once late at night. Another is that he has a copy of Z from there.

I sent Paul the Rose picture. No objection to Fred having copy.

Vesjoly picture: if copies can be made, please send me one, another to Maggie with the request that she and Steve (both) examine and see if he is one they met. Please send me copies correspondence. Important. Thank Jim, please. I had asked Burton to do this several times. No answer. Must be more than 4'5". Typo? I suspect he was also CIA, may still be.

What Turner has said of Lamarre is public knowledge. What he says of book purpose, to embarrass US oil interests, is pure shit and he knows it. None of what Jeanne Hack is quoted by him as saying of Thornley is new. but I'd sure like to have it in writing from her. She is in SF. It may be much in her interest to do this before anything happens. She should know Thornley's capabilities. One thing that can be vital: I am pretty certain she had left Thornley before assassination. I think you should try and see her and interview her in depth, sending me a copy, to which I'll respond with comments and questions. Try and get a description of the clothing store that could, indeed, be Bringuiers, but there are many others on Decatur. Try and get the block, by number of streets. Show her a

picture of Bringuier. e has aged much in a few years. Try and draw her out on when she was at the meeting, who else was there, what was said, what the org., etc. This can really be very important.

Moynihan: I do not believe this or any of the other stories that say Kennedy people helped or were behind Farewell (Garrison suggested that title!). I think Turner is trying to diminish his own very significant role in this awful thing so close to total disaster. It is a luck accident I got to drive Lamarre around in N.O and could delay him. Lamarre says he got one copy of the film from Steve Smith, had a second copy. One, he says, is not clear. It could have been from Garrison's. My comment quoted by Fred is accurate.

JO conversation. I have the same low opinion of Owens and that whole thing I gave you. I believe none of this is worth any time. I also do not believe his tale of his relations with the LA police. There was no reason for him not to mention the names of the special police squad working on that. I gave them to him.... He is probably close to right on what LIFE has paid Z. I'd like to know his source.... The disappearance story may originate with Lubic. I think it does. ... My overall impression is that Jonn was being a little too cute.

O It is too easy to be paranoid. Despite your friendship with Turner- perhaps because of it- I must again warn you that he has been nothing but trouble, is more responsible than all others together for the continual misdirection of Garrison, has come up with nothing worth anything and an awful lot of wrong stuff. This is an incontrovertible record and it is without question. To me it is not important whether or not he is an agent. He is a disaster. You can ask Gary about his endorsement of and association with those who probably were agents. Why may or may not be important. What he did is and of that there is no question at all. If I had not blundered into what I did in November, that he was an integral part of, it would all be over, with a disaster the likes of which you cannot imagine. I will not put it on paper. I have told Saul part of it. Please see what he recalls. You know from your own observation that he is not honest, that he steals the work of others, which is enough of an indictment. While I regard them as whores, I nonetheless suggest you read what the Overstreets have to say of him and the FBI. I do not believe all of it can be wrong.

Y On Jeanne: I think this really can be important. I never did have her address when I was out there. I have told you enough of what I have learned of Thornley and Bringuier. Try and speak to her as soon and as long as you can. Send nothing to N.O. If you have anything that should go there, do it through me. I am still in touch with Iven. We are still friends. e phoned me yesterday. But take my word for it if you would not a year ago, there is a major illness. One of the closest confirmed it to Art two weeks ago. This is the first acknowledgement, though the same man indicated his agreement to me with my commitments. This makes it a very tough situation that must be handled delicately. I am trying to establish a different basis and may not succeed. But I am trying. I am also satisfied Jim has issued an edict, a ban. Means nothing bad, if anything. The problem is unchanged. Only a little more of it.

Please keep me posted on any other books of which you hear. There is always the possibility something worthwhile is in one of them, as with Blair. And please thank the copyier, whose machine I think I recognize. Very wonderful people.... If anything develops on Hack that requires my presence, see if it is possible to arrange a paid speech. I'm loaded with new stuff. This time, if there is a this time, the ticket will have to be in hand in advance. I'm over \$1,000 in from unkept California promises.... Do you think if he read it Bekker would get more interested in COUP? Thanks and best to all, hastily,

A nice girl named Stephanie Cherry may soon be asking you for help, including introductions ~~to the underground press,~~ for which she thinks she'd like to write. I suggested to her that she phone you. She and her friend Mary may also be looking for a decent and inexpensive pad near Berkeley or convenient to transportation. She strikes me as a very good kid. If she asks for help, I hope you are in a position to provide it. I know you will if you can.

Unsolicited advice: I think you are made to use Tom's address.

Stephanie may want to make other writing efforts. I have suggested a couple, tried to discourage her on the underground papers.

March 22, 1969

Dear Hal:

Just received your letter today and it was good to hear from you. As I promised I'm typing this long letter to let you know what I've learned not only from my ~~trip~~ trip to Los Angeles but other things I've been looking into.

I'll begin by referring to some points raised in your letter. As to Mike Lala and who he is. Although I don't have Paul's interview of Johann Rush (mentioned in CELL53, CD6-PP.4167-7, CD206 PP. 216-8, CD75 P. 687, CD 6, PP. 421-2 and film of Oswald in New Orleans on 8/16/63 mentioned in CD87, SS 200) my notes indicate he was a cameraman present with Rush in this incident of Oswald distributing leaflets.

As you can see from the enclosed ad in the States-Item of Nov. 13, 1968 (it also appeared on Feb. 19, 1969) Lala is currently a photographer at WDSU-TV (Channel 6) in New Orleans. I believe you should write him there for further info on the Oswald bit. If not you then perhaps Paul can. (I would but since Paul conducted the interview with Rush and has done more work in this area than anyone else perhaps it might be better for him to write. But I do believe the best course of action would be to see him in person.)

Your comments about James Earl Ray are very appropriate and, I believe, correct. My own feeling is that something (or someone) persuaded Ray to plead as he did sometime between the period of Feb. 14 and March 10. ON Feb. 14 you'll recall that there was a story to the effect that the trial scheduled to begin March 3rd was then postponed until April 7. From looking ~~in~~ at the calendar that's one calendar month exactly. If Attorney General Mitchell (advised by the former head, Clark) had intervened to get Ray's "guilty" plea entered it would take at least a month to iron things out. This is just a speculative thought on my part and certainly cannot be looked upon as fact. Isn't it customary for government lawyers to request 30-day delays, though?

By the way, there is now a pocketbook out on the Ray case known by the title, I believe, of "The Strange Case of James Earl Ray and the Conspiracy to Murder Martin Luther King". It's written by Clay Blair who works for both Time and Life. It contains Ray's plea of guilty. Blair, if I'm not mistaken once wrote something for Life on the Oswald case. My recollection is that it was Life's first biographical sketch on Oswald back in December, 1963 or possibly Life's story on the Oswald rifle and its origin.

I just this minute heard on the radio that Ray, through his new lawyer, J.B. Stoner, has denied shooting King and said he was "pressured" to enter his plea of guilty. By the way, do you know whether Huie is aware of that King plot which you showed me when you were last here? What has been done with this, anyway?

The March 18, 1969 N.O. Times-Picayune has a full page ad supporting Garrison. It was sponsored and paid for by the "Citizens of New Orleans Committee" whose chairman is Dr. Frank Minyard. What do you know of this group and do they plan on doing further work in this case?

I'm enclosing a copy of a National Enquirer story of Nov. 10, 1968 on the Ray case written by Michael Woodruff. Perhaps your friend at the Enquirer can get some more info from him.

Enclosed you'll find the photo dated March 7, 1961 (from AP) showing a Pete Ramos of the Minnesota Twins baseball team. He had "recently arrived" to the U.S. and would appear to be the "Ramos (phonetic, a baseball guy)" mentioned in your letter to Gary Schoener of 9/28/68. His name appears in connection with other Dallas names so I presume he may have info along these lines.

Incidentally, you'll recall the man who called you at the Dolan TV station when you were last here. He returned the photos I lent him concerning Rogers in Dallas. We couldn't talk for he was in a hurry to leave but he promised me he would get in touch and tell me what he had learned. Before he left he said there was little he learned but whatever it was I'll let you know. (Incidentally, I have a note that says the following: "Rogers, John P.O. Box 10707 - Ruby notebook. Same as John B. Rogers, Odio friend - Vol. 25, page P. 369?? Texas Industries."). I'm sure this note refers to the same Rogers you're interested in but haven't checked the volumes on it.

Enclosed you'll find a copy of an article on the autopsy report prepared by that three-man panel plus a brief biography of the three men involved.

Other items of interest included are the following: four articles referring to a Jose Diaz Morejon (re: the exile attack on ships led by a group known as "Cuban Power"); two typed memos on Shaw (with my comments); article on Fresno doctor (Gary Fogg) who arrived a little late to Parkland to attend JFK (see my comments); articles on Henry Delaune, relative of Chetta; article on McIntire; and a copy of a letter to a Mr. Gaetjanes.

On this last letter to Gaetjanes, I believe it worth while for you to write him even though he never responded to my letter. If there is any truth to the rumor (not spelled out in the letter but told to me by the Joe mentioned in the letter) ~~Shaw~~ Shaw had a secret bank ~~xx~~ account in Haiti. Gaetjanes was with DeMohrenschildt on Nov. 22, 1963 at a party for various Haitian officials and DeMohrenschildt had made some comments about JFK.

I believe I pointed this out to you before but with respect to DeMohrenschildt, the volumes prove he lied about Oswald for in a letter he wrote to the Auchincloss family from Haiti on Dec. 12, 1963 he wrote that he had never seen Oswald since November, 1962 yet, in fact, he saw Oswald since then since he talked with him on the morning after the April, 1963 attempt on Walker's life.

Now about my trip to Los Angeles, I'm enclosing two items which relates to that trip. One deals with the Zapruder film and the other deals with my phone conversation with Christian.

Regarding the Z-film please make sure that this report by Fred does not get circulated by mail and don't tell Fred that you have it. His analysis is from a dupe copy which now is probably in Marcus possession. Please keep this paragraph strictly confidential.

As you can see from my phone conversation with Christian (incidentally, if you write him don't tell him that his conversation was taped) he managed to get the Z-film on Channel 5 in L.A. and was very cagey about the use of Alfie in connection with the film. I wasn't able to establish what relationship he had with Hepburn, either. My guess on where he obtained the film for the TV-station was from a friend of Jaffe, who is a Bobby Kennedy friend (Dick Lubic). Lubic once was with Life as an associate editor. (This info also con-

fidetial - for your use only). Lubic allegedly had film in his home but it was stolen, if you can believe the rumor. (Interesting to note that the film was stolen from Life in Feb., 1967 for 8 days and then returned if you can believe Christian).

You asked about Jim Rose. I learned little about Rose from my trip to L.A. I know that Paul now has a photograph of Rose and Fred Newcomb wanted to get a copy so that he could make a photo comparison. I haven't had the chance to ~~discuss~~ discuss this with him, yet. Will do so when I see him next.

You wrote to Paul Hoch and asked for a copy of a photo of Vosjoly("the Topaz guy") ~~MENT~~ mentioned in the Hepburn affair. Jim Schmitt located a Philippe Thyraud de ~~Vosjoli~~ Vosjoli in Life's issue of April 26, 1968. From Jim's notes, he is 4'5", bald, and 47 years old. Between 1951 and 1963 he was chief of French Intelligence in the U.S.

By the way when I visited Eason a few days ago he told me that he had spoken to Bill Turner about the Hepburn book. Turner told him Hepburn was Lamarre and that the book might be an attempt to embarrass American oil interests in favor of French interests. Turner also told Eason that Hepburn (Lamarre) was with French Intelligence in Indo-China.

Almost forgot to tell you about my meeting with Turner of several weeks ago. He told me that he had once spoken to Thornley's girl-friend whom he once lived with and that she told Turner that Thornley picked up money from a post office box. He also mentioned what you told me about Thornley having a post office box on the other side of town. This girl-friend said that when Oswald's name appeared in the newspapers that Thornley said to her: "He wasn't really left-wing- he was more our (kind of) guy." (I wasn't sure when the stories on Oswald appeared - before or after the assassination. My recollection is that it was before since Thornley had taken this girl-friend to an anti-Castro meeting which was in a clothing store on Decatur Street in New Orleans. (although the reference here is probably Bringuier's place his name was not mentioned).

Some other things that Turner said to me were that John Christian had mentioned to him that Bradley had been "checked out" by the FBI in October, 1963. (In looking over the transcript of my phone conversation with John of 2/23/69 enclosed, note that Bradley's name appears in the very beginning of my talk. Although it isn't in the transcript the other name of the trinity was Drennan).

Turner related to me that Nixon's Urban Affairs man, Moynihan, who is a Johnson holdover, may have helped to write Hepburn's book. Whether this is true or not Turner said that when Ramparts contacted him to find out if this were true, he "turned tail and fled." Another rumor that Turner passed along was one having Bobby Kennedy "seeding" the Hepburn book to the sum ~~of \$10,000~~ of \$10,000. I gathered from this that he meant both the film and the book. (A little hard to believe when you realize the film is hardly one to put Kennedy in a good light showing all the alleged women he was cavorting with).

Well, I do have more to write you but now must attend to some personal affairs. However, you will probably get a letter shortly because by then I'll have met with "the fat jap".

Hope all this keeps you posted on the latest and that it can come in useful for your purposes.

Best, in the meantime,

Hal
Hal

P.S.

~~I'm sorry I couldn't include the Kapruber analysis with this letter. There was a waiting line at the office making and it's 25 pages long. I will get these Monday & mail it Monday night under separate cover.~~

In case you should want to write to some of the names discussed in my letter here are the addresses and phone numbers:

(1) DR. FRANK MINYARD — LISTED IN December, 1968 New Orleans Telephone Directory at:

- OFC CALIF COMPANY BLDG ---- #522-4364
- OFC 13152 CHF MNTUR HWY. -- #254-9032
- IF NO ANSWER DIAL ----- #523-4563

(2) DR. GARY R. FOGG — Listed in Fresno, Nov. 1968 Telephone Directory as:

- MD OPHTHAMOLOGIST
- 1053 R ----- #266-0547
- RES 1527 E. STUART AVE... #439-7836