

5/7/89

Dear Hal,

Your letter of the 4th arrived today. Thanks for it and the enclosures. It seems as though Shaw has two different stories: he saw O giving out the leaflets and he was in his office and didn't see it. Perhaps, of course, he has been misquoted. I do not now recall that he had been interviewed by Garrison earlier than the day he was charged but I suppose he was. N.O. has been far from my mind lately.

I'll be interested in comparing the Core 3/67 account with what he told me late in 1968, when we became friendly. I would expect no major difference, for I am satisfied he was honest and forthright with me. He also told me he prepared a memo, as I recall it. He was quite upset about O doing that. He was in touch with the FBI over it, etc. Core's responsibility was pr, and he would have been concerned over any picketing.

If Lane had anything to offer that was new it would have had to be someone else's. This is one of the things that is so hurtful to the rest of us, those who know nothing original getting the attention as the experts and saying nothing new, rehashing the past, and thereby convincing the media there is nothing new. This, alas, is also true of Penn, who probably said things you were too tactful to repeat. But he is satisfied that Gary, Vince, Ray and I are "agents" of some kind. The poor fellow has flipped. Frankly, I think it is good for the prairie not to be aired, and it is too bad that the trash is. For two years Penn has been saying we have a few days only, advising others to flee the country, etc. While there is ground for discouragement, his is aggravated by his own instability while on the spot to come up with anything solid. I took him with me on those interviews where it was possible, and he was flabbergasted, asking, when he saw it, "How do you do it?" He didn't try. I invited him in to see Z with me but he declined on the ground E then would not talk to me. He was also surprised at the radio and TV I did (and he was there for both). They both invited me back!

It is utter hogwash that Sanders "exposed" Boxley. Sanders had left the office not later than June (and that was much too late!) and Boxley was there until December. Believe me, I know how he left, and why, and Sanders had nothing to do with it. You also should know. If Box tried to recruit Sanders for the CIA, that alone warranted firing him, which the CIA did, apparently. Penn also knows much better. Sanders knew Boxley in N.O. and to the best of my knowledge, Box's picture was not in the N.O. papers. If it was, that issue didn't reach me. Why not ask Gary S, unless you meant him, and ask him to send me a copy. He knows better, too.

With Garrison running the office, there was little need to infiltrate it at the top. I have had my suspicions about one of the lawyers, but there is nothing I can do about it and it remains but an unconfirmed suspicion. I might not guess accurately from your meager clue. However, there is one man on the staff (you mention Tom) who Tom would have sought out in connection with the book he was working on. Tom is an authentic jazz expert, I'm told, and had done some records. Moo was once assistant manager of one of the better places. When he was here we took him to dinner at the home of a friend, who was playing old jazz records. He challenged Moo to identify the singers, and Moo did, ticking them off accurately, including the one that floored our host, Al Hibbing. My friend, a real buff, was much impressed. Andrews is quite a jazz musician. The first or the second Saturday in November 1967 he invited me to a jam session at which he was playing. He has mo'd there also. It is natural Tom would have looked him up. I always understood Tom's first knowledge of the investigation came from Andrews. Tom came to me through Penn, which is no black mark against Penn, for he was sent to Penn by a great guy, Matt Herron, a friend of Vince's when he lived in Phila. So, it would seem that an effort is being made to make nothing of something and vice

verse. Penn's wife had doubts about Tom in early 1967. I asked her about him, because he seemed strange to me then. As it turned out, he was also incompetent.

Is Merrick a wrist limp, too? Ix would not be unhappy if he does a play, for it would bomb. Unless it is crooked enough.

The suicide of Korth's daughter was unknown to me. Pretty awful was to do it.

III.

Glad you are going over RM. Please do not discuss any of the contents except with Paul and Jim. I'd appreciate any suggestions. There will be more to the appendix, a chapter on the DC trial (this was done before that was over!) and a few other goodies I already have in hand.

Penn was pretty open in his insensitivities in L.A. It would not offend me if you were to repeat anything he may have said, and it might be helpful to know, for it seems probable to me that these originate with Boxley, not him. While Ix have never said (or believed) that Boxley was with Garrison for the CIA, I also recognize it is possible. My own opinion is that he is sick. And, I regret to say, Penn is also. Penn wrote that nasty piece about a "task force of eastern critics" going to N.C. without speaking to me. He had been supposed to come to see me and didn't. I wrote him weekly and he didn't answer. Garrison asked Boxley to confront "them", meaning me, and Boxley refused. I was within 10 feet of Garrison and there is no mistaking what I heard. Boxley was also in N.C. during that period, clandestinely, and would not face me. Well, Penn cut me off his mailing list immediately. I have no idea what else he may have oriented. He told others it was because I hadn't paid for the subscription. Have you any idea how many of my books he sold without paying me? And then got more for which I remain unpaid? That's not like Penn, but it did happen. By the way, let me know anything you hear of Joel Palmer, including his address, and tell him nothing, not even the time of day. He and Boxley, aided by Turner, manufactured (literally) quite a fairy tale they almost pulled off. It would have been the end of everything, believe me. When you are here again, or I am there, I'll tell you. Paul knows some of it. I believe I told him then.

It is not at all pretty, but we have to live with it. All the time Boxley was working on the case, what did he come up with? Do you know a single thing that didn't belong in the toilet? A single thing that G could or did use, or anyone? And he was on it full time, with much time in N.C. He seems to have spent most of his time not on fairy tales convincing "im he was about to be killed and the rest convincing him it was an FBI cell, not a CIA one, etc. No CIA interest or involvement at all, only FBI/ He pulled it on me, too, but I didn't buy, so he dropped it. But he did convince JG. He had nothing at all, not a single blessed thing. The one thing he got that might have had value Palmer showed me but it was not in the office! Turner was backing him up, steadily and in writing, on all the fictions. And manufactures including in N.C. And if you can think of a single solid thing Turner came up with, or even anything that was not a real heartache in N.C., please tell me. It is a very bad situation, real, and a very dangerous one, for there is too much we do not know about motive behind these things, and I deem it unjust to jump to serious conclusions. However, about the fact of who did and did not do what, there remains no question. Only the "why" needs answering.

Pst be time. Best regards,

May 4, 1969

Dear Hal,

Copy Shaw

Am sending this hasty letter to you because of the enclosed zerox copies on the Shaw interview which allegedly took place the week before he was accused by Garrison of participating in a conspiracy to kill JFK.

I do want to respond to your very long letter to me of April 22, 1969 and I don't want you to think I've ignored it. I shall answer all the questions you ~~ask~~ raised in your letter within two or three days from this letter.

With that letter I shall enclose an interesting report on Jesse Core relating to Shaw, which I am sure you have never seen before. I got it from KCBS radio station in S.F. (I don't have to tell you who this is but you can probably guess). The interesting thing about it is that little publicity was given to it at the time. I know, for I have ~~searched~~ searched all my newspaper reports of that day (3/2/67) and see ~~nothing~~ nothing on it. It's surprising what one can find by going back over old material. According to this report I have Core gave Shaw a memo on Oswald after he had demonstrated in front of the Trade Mart. I'll point out the other interesting items included in this KCBS report in my next letter.

You may be interested in knowing that both Penn Jones and Mark Lane were in town this past week each staying for only one day. Lane left immediately after he gave a talk in Oakland to fly to Washington (state). Lane had little to offer that was new and it was only toward the end of his talk that he dwelt on the trial in New Orleans. The beginning of his talk ~~referred~~ referred to the proof of multiple assassins with the use of a blackboard which must tire people by now, even those who have never heard it before. I tried to get Penn on radio and TV but he was turned down. Joe Dolan said he would call back if he were interested in having him on his afternoon talk show but never did. Jim Dunbar, of the "AM Show" (this is the one I set up for you), said he wasn't interested in having Penn on and said it was a dead issue as far as he was concerned. In fact, Dunbar said that he turned down Lane so why should he have Penn?

I did, however, hold a reception for Penn at my girl friend's home and we had about 15 people over mostly those from the class I used to hold at S.F. State College. Penn seemed awfully discouraged, talked about leaving this country. I tried to lift up his spirits but all he could tell me was that another newspaper is being set up in Midlothian and that it was obvious they (the right wing) wanted to run him out of town. He still defended Boxley and pooh-poohs the story about Gary Sanders "exposing Boxley" as a CIA man since, Penn said, Gary had known Boxley for several months. Why, asked Penn, if Gary had recognized Boxley as a man who tried to recruit him into the CIA, did he have to wait for so long before exposing him? I don't know all the details about the Sanders-Boxley episode but I do recall Fred Newcombe showing me a letter which I believe Gary Schœener ~~is~~ ~~which Gary~~ may have said that Sanders recognized Boxley's photograph in a New Orleans paper and called Garrison's office to tell him that Boxley tried to recruit him. Obviously there is a discrepancy here between the two reports and it should be straightened out. I'm writing Gary to ask him about these discrepancies.

Incidentally, Penn said he believed Garrison's office had been infiltrated at the top and he said he believed he knew who it was. I can't tell you his name in this letter but I'll just

say that even a lazy man could figure this out. I think you know what I mean.

By the way Penn confirmed to me something he had said on a talk program several months back and that was that Tom Bethell had been in Dean Andrews office during the very first time Garrison had called Andrews in connection with his probe. Were you aware of this? ~~By the way~~ Penn also told me that Bethell had been a friend of the person I'm referring to in the paragraph prior to this one before the ~~trial~~ Garrison investigation got underway. Two years before.

I see that Broadway producer, David Merrick, recently met with Shaw in New York and is interested in doing a play on Shaw and the New Orleans trial. How serious the two are I cannot say but it reminds me of a remark I read recently which said that Merrick was quite sad that San Francisco didn't have its predicted earthquake in April because now he couldn't do a play on it.

When I send you my next letter in response to your lengthy one of April 22, I'll also enclose the article that appeared in the latest American Opinion. Medford Evans is now saying that "almost certainly" the CIA was involved and winds up defending Garrison for his brave defense of his position that the Warren Commission was a fraudulent body designed to cover up the truth. It is well worth quoting and I know you'll get a kick out of it.

Have you heard anything about the suicide of Fred Korth's daughter? The report I have is that Paul Harvey made the announcement on his program about May 2nd and said she killed herself with a shotgun. I know nothing further about this and have seen no newspaper reports of this.

Well, Hal, I must run. Have to be over my girl-friend's place shortly. I will, though, send another letter within two days.

Best,
Hal
Hal

P. S. I'm going over Post-Mortem III now in the spare time I have and will make corrections, suggestions, etc.