

8/5/69

Dear Hal,

So glad to hear from you I finally installed my lastribbon (I get 88-centers on one-cent sale, two for 89!) Those things in your 8/2: You know most of what I do on the Haiti thing. Paul has a memo on my efforts to interest the DJ in what I have. They ~~were~~ were veru excited and were coming up immediately, but it hasn't happened. My hunch is that one of their hangups is the anti-Castro links. Bernabei is gathering more on Dempsey. From my brief conversations with them, the DK seems to believe or to indicate that Leon may be an important man. Some of these huys are characters in the original COUP, and I do plan to bring that part up to date. Although peripheral, I regard it as important in several contexts, one the performance of the FBI, which I will not go into here.

Your typewriter has a clear, clear face. Panasonic was, I think, a good tape compromise. Cheap Mexican cassettes are available, but if you start using them you'd better learn how to take them apart to patch. If is not too difficult. If you get them do not get the long-plays, which are worse. Before you get ex reel tape, which has other advantages, lets discuss it in terms of your needs, for I've had some experience with them. And on your Toyote, please do follow the owners' guide literally! It pays.

I had misunderstood you to say the Koldy/Kolby tape was Fred's. You now know my multiple interests. But from John I can expect nothing but more trouble. He has behaved very badly, as you know, and hid from me when I was in LA after he moved there.

One of the advantages (and costs) of a civil cuit is depositions, pre-trial. ~~Us~~. Butler they could have great value.

I wish I could disagree with that part of Epstein's writing involved in the Turner suit but I cannot, as ultimately you will come to understand. I can only hope that if the case ever gets to court none of Eostein's friends will have had access to some of our talkers who may have repeated my opinions and observations.

All I know of the Bradley suit is what was in the S-I. I've asked several people for copies of the papers. I think he is substantially correct in his belief, he was made a victim, again Turner with more than enough responsibility, but everyone else pays. I think I can help the San Diego people and I'd like to. Of the others named in the S-I, I do not care. They have earned it. This is the sort of thing so deadly to all of us, and they were part of it. When you respond to Nichols ask him to keep me up to date on that. I haven't his address and any word from me will embarrass for, like everything California and me, they also haven't paid the balance of my nominal expenses or for the books they got, some of which they did sell.

Recile went spectacularly bankrupt with an enormous project uncompleted since he went bankrupt, the largest building in N.O. I know nothing else of him or his partner. If they have racial prejudices, it would be good to know, but I have no reason to associate either with anything....I have the Castro speech, it has been translated, and I'll send you a copy of each for checking. Perhaps B has it. In that case, I'd send only the translation. It is the speech from which you provided me one of the IPA excerpts I used in O in NO. It may well say more.

Those wonderful Whites! Please thank them, for everything. It is warming to think of such fine people and the help they extend every time my precarious financial condition deteriorates a bit further, which it does, regularly. At this point I think no great effort worthwhile on Haiti, for the time can better be spent on other things. If they can think of any way of getting me a copy of the first page of the Memphis Commercial-Appeal for 4/4/68, that just might help. Ray is said to have

dropped it in "fleeing", but there is no reference to any of its stories. If it has positive intelligence, I'd like to know it. I think the silence indicates it may be a source of negative intelligence. But I do not encourage any great effort, for in some way I'll get easy access. Neither Memphis paper has answered my inquiries. If anyone out there has the transcripts of the radio logs they printed, that also is one of the things I want to study carefully.

Seems to me I've heard before of the Larry H picture of IHO at the Powers trial. I have a picture said to show Ruby and dM in it, but to me it doesn't at all. Of course, I'd like to see it. What would be most helpful, if he has it and cooperates, would be the largest clear blowup of the shirt itself, possible around one of the button-holes or some other distinguishing feature, for you may recall I made a very detailed study of that shirt. I think it was originally an expensive shirt, not of Russian manufacture....I forget so much. Was he in Moscow or Minsk at that time?

To bring you up to date: I've now done more than 100,000 words of the addition to COUP dealing with Ray. I have another small and a major chapter to do, after which I'll read and correct it and Lil can start typing it. Then I'll make a small Sirhan addition and a few notes to supplement the part you've read, where there have been developments. My intent is that a Ray/King book can be readily extracted from it, a separate book, from which I would hope to get a sufficient advance, if it can be published at all, to pay the cost of printing the entire work. I think it is really a powerful work, destroying everything alleged and every major participant in the frameup, which is what it was. I wish I thought there was the slightest chance of eliciting black interest. But they are, as I explain in the book, self-blackmailing, saving Hoover the trouble...And something not yet isolated has happened to my health. The second diagnosis is the one I'm inclined to accept (the first was exhaustion) and in itself it is disquieting: a kind of anxiety. Now I feel I am more anxious of the diagnosis that I was anxious before it! We have and have had so many problems, our financial condition presses so hard, and the evil things the Lifters have done are so depressing that, when the futility of the apparent writing today is added, I haven't the slightest idea what to try and isolate as causative. It is uncomfortable. I have slowed down, rest more, exercise regularly, taking brisk walks when weather precludes swimming and do continue the writing.

I have a few things for this addition not generally known and significant, but essentially it is a painful reconstruction and reweaving of the format with which you're familiar. It proves there was no case, that not a single bit of the evidence stacks up and much more.

I hope I've covered everything. I leave the errors to your long familiarity with them (and with apologies) to take a short before-lunch nap so I can get back to writing afterwards. My best to everyone.

Sincerely,

Hal

PS the enclosure on Penn is for information only. That he is nuts is tragic. Signs were that way two years ago. But that he can afford round-the-world trips while owing me money and, when he can pay me back without using any cash, pulls this kind of stuff, can I consider that part of the usual run of such illnesses?

And have you any way of tracing or getting the original of the picture you sent me of King hanging in effigy in NSRP offices? That can now be important, as I will not now undertake to explain.

August 2, 1969

Dear Hal,

Received your letter of 7/26 and am replying not only to that one but to your other letters you sent which I failed to respond to until now. I'm sorry I couldn't answer before but I waited until I bought this typewriter to write you. That robbery that took place in my apartment early this year cost me plenty and it is only by saving month by month that I was able to get the typewriter. (I also purchased an inexpensive Panasonic tape recorder of the cassette type and a ~~xxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ radio which also was stolen I needed to replace). I intend to get another tape recorder of the reel type but I'm saving for that and won't be able to buy one for at least a few months. If it wasn't for the expensive car payments I'm making on the Toyota car I bought I would have had all these things I needed much sooner.

Now about the Kolby bit I mentioned in my phone conversation with you around July 2nd. Here are the details gleaned from my notes. Kolby's name was mentioned to me by Jonn Christian when I visited him at his apartment in S.F. on Sept. 3, 1968. He told me then that Kolby called someone at Melvin Belli's office in S.F. to inquire if anyone were interested in invading Cuba via a takeover of Haiti. The exact time of the call I did not note in my notebook but it would appear to have been around late August, 1968. The man who took the call at Belli's office referred it to Jonn Christian who then referred the whole matter to our old friend, Jim Rose. (My guess is that Jonn did this after consulting with Bill Turner. But I have no evidence just a guess. I can find out for you if you want to know, in any event). I did not get the name of the man at Belli's office who turned the call over to Jonn but it sounded a lot like "Saylinson" (phonetic).

Jonn then let me listen to a taped conversation between Kolby and Rose where Kolby discussed his plan to invade Haiti and asked Rose for help in his scheme. Jonn said that Kolby was a friend of Howard Davis whose name came up in my conversation with Jonn. (I'm reasonably certain that the name of Davis was not on the tape but my recollection is that somehow a meeting was to be arranged between Rose, Kolby with Davis being present. If my memory serves me correctly, the meeting did, in fact, materialize).

According to Jonn, Kolby is from Miami and worked (or works) at Mount Sinai Hospital. He is alleged to be a homosexual. At one time he was connected with Special Services while serving in the armed services.

I tried to call Jonn about this and your request to have him return the O in NO books he has in storage but unfortunately his number is not in service at this time and he left no future phone number where he could be reached. He changes addresses and phones more than a chameleon changes color. However, I've written to him regarding these requests and will await his reply. (In case you didn't have his address he was using P.O. Drawer, Postal Drawer 24455 Westwood Village 90024).

Incidentally, I also phoned Bob Truehaft as you requested and his secretary asked me to call back on Monday, Aug. 4 before 2p.m. when he is due to argue a case in court. Of course, I shall let you know the results of this phone call.

The idea of a suit against Butler necessarily would involve Frawley and I am sure that Truehaft would dearly love to get at him. When I meet Truehaft I will show him the Butler series in the Village Square.

I noticed you said that Gary Scheener loaned you a copy of the ~~Village~~ Village Square. Since you don't have one, I am mailing you a copy of Vol.2, No. 1, which you can keep as your own. I hope it will get to you shortly.

Mentioning legal suits brings to mind Bill Turner's suit against the "New Yorker" magazine article for the hatchet job Epstein wrote in July, 1968. If you don't have any copies of the news stories on this I'm ~~enclosing~~ enclosing a zerox for your records.

This suit also brings ~~to~~ mind the suit that Edgar Gene Bradley is making against the various critics mentioned in the N.O. States-Item on July 10, 1969. Do you know anything more about it? I noticed that Prescott Nichols of the San Diego Committee is named by Bradley. I received a letter from him a few days ago but he did not mention this. He said his Committee "has been in a state of flux of late" but that he did intend to publish a newsletter.

Now for a few other items of note which I've wanted to mention but didn't have the opportunity until now: Did you see the article in the N.O. States-Item about Sam Recile being called before a federal jury (dated 6/3/69)? The article stated that a federal grand jury was conducting an investigation of "bankrupt" real estate promoter Recile and his partner, Frank Spalitta. Apparently this stems from an investigation begun in May, 1968 when Federal District Judge Heebe asked the U.S. attorney to look into Recile's bankruptcy. Perhaps going back into the newspapers of May, 1968 might give a better indication of what was behind it but I know nothing more than this article states.

You asked if I had a copy of Castro's speech of 11/25/63. No, I don't but I will ask Bernardo whom you met while you were here if he can locate a copy. He is competent and can make a translation for you and I will ask him to do so. He is often used by KPFA for translations of Spanish texts or tapes and I know he would be glad to help you.

You also requested some information concerning the Haitian affair in which Kolby was mixed up in. I'm enclosing several articles which you can keep for your reference. These were all provided for by the Whites who were only too happy to respond. They send their regards. I hope some of these names mentioned in the articles are those you've been interested in. Let me know and I'll see what I can do about the names of those you're particularly interested in.

Well, the only other item I have that may or may not be significant is what Larry Haapanen told me he claims he has a copy of. He says that he has what appears to be a photo of Oswald present at the Gary Powers U-2 trial wearing the same sport shirt as the one he wore in Minsk. Since I haven't seen the photo naturally I can't comment but it is interesting to note that on May 1, 1960 (the same day as the U-2 flight) Oswald expresses disillusionment being in Russia in his diary if memory serves me correctly. Perhaps this is another of those unusual coincidences but it hardly seems likely for Oswald to be ~~expressing~~ expressing disenchantment on the very day that all Russian citizens and their friends would or should be outraged.

I'll close now as I want to get this into the mail. I'll write soon again and let you know what's happening here.

Best to you and
your wife,

Hal
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