

10/18/69

Dear Hal,

Glad to get your letter of the 14th. From the top:

No word from Welsh and I expect none, for it could be a great burden for them, more than they can afford or more than they may think it worth. I'll keep you posted, if there is anything.

Jim's perplexity, if that is the word, came through when he phoned me. His producer told me he was going to spend the whole show with me. I'd asked so I could pace it. Suddenly, in the middle, it was all over. Jim apparently found some of what I'd said unpleasant because he'd gone whole hog. You may recall how unwelcome it and I were when I tried to tell it like it was and everyone now knows is. I'm disappointed Harvey also hasn't answered. You know my fondness for both. If you speak to or see them, my sincere best, please.

Dekker: 360 17th, 94612. 452-2409. Also invited me to stay with him.

Brandon's story is the women are afraid, not him.

Doubt the Helgade angle is worth the time. We're past that now, and there is enough official confirmation.

That Burke, unless my failing memory tricks me, I'd forgotten about but have something on somewhere. I think it is Albert, with a "Dr." He is far right, a nut, or both. Spend no time on it/him. Also dated.

Agreed on Stan. Also fine fellow.

I have not seen the DVA film since I discovered it. Those I've turned this over to, including leads, have not seen fit to lend me copy. Lenn, who owes me \$150, refuses to pay with extra hrs, copy film. But it is my recollection that there were two sequences outside the drive-through doors, both at least a little while after Ruby shot LHO. Now Ruby is said to have gotten to Dekker's office before Oswald got to hospital. Which means he left pretty soon....The French on Howard sounds like undiluted Jones. Also identical. Your question about Hunter is legit, but remember he had been a Dallas reporter.

Thornley is a tricky guy. I am not confident he distinguishes between right and wrong, truth and fiction. Dave will ultimately be very much hurt by all of this, regardless of what does or doesn't happen to Thornley. KT tried to get a job with Butler as soon as JFK was killed. He tried it just a little too soon, for INCA was about done then. Their misuse of the assassination gave them life. Which pretty well disproves KT's statement he didn't know LHO was in N.O. It was the debate that sent him to Butler. I have not checked my files. This is recollection (and don't s read it). Source: Butler. Another reason I wanted one of you to speak to Jeanne Hack.

I never conducted any investigation of Shaw per se; I'd heard of the Thornley landlord (at least one) who was Shaw's friend, and I had heard that KT had met him. I never checked it. I had other KT interests.

Bernie/Broshears. I wouldn't spend a minute on any of what either source (the other Johnson, now murdered) said. Neither is within any definition of credibility.

I have Nat Enq. 10/19. Also Saga. Been in touch Warren Smith, who

actual wrote the piece. It is Renfro Hays, no relative Hanes. Good piece, but if that is all they have after all that work, it is more than their understanding that is handicapped.

Lil is in last chapter retyping ms. Expect to take to NYW Thursday.

Been to Archives and have new sensations cannot go into this way. We are preparing to file suits.

I still have notes to COUP and addition to do. After that I plan to return to autopsy writings. Several interruptions in immediate future, tho.

COUP, complete text without appendix (which is big) will be not less than 500 pages, about 600 words per! I'll be sending Paul copy soon, before first. Bud is reading what is done to prepare himself for work in England, where he had to go. I'll give him balance next week and he'll send to Paul, as I had promised Paul. He will xerox, he says, but this may be too costly. I'll need zeroes for copyrighting, but do not know how I'll get done now. Cannot pay.

Tired, gotta stop. Best to everyone,

October 14, 1969

466 - 24th St.  
Oakland, Calif. 94612

Dear Hal,

Received your letter of October 7 together with your reply to Pat Welsh of Long Beach. I hope he is able to plan something for you as he indicated to me when I spoke with him on the phone. My letter and your letter to him will, at least, make clear to him the conditions that would have to apply if he agrees to have you out here.

Naturally, I'd like to get together with you as I am sure that both Paul and Jim Schmitt would like to and, if necessary I'll even take a day or two off from work to see to it that we can spend the maximum amount of time together. I'll tell ~~Paul~~ Paul, of course, and he'll let Jim know of Welsh's plans. Although I would agree with you that radio and tv time in the bay area isn't of prime importance I won't overlook the opportunity to get you on perhaps a program or two. Even though there seems to be little activity among Kennedy assassination groups and buffs there is a continuing interest among a certain cross-section of the population here that manifests itself in one way or another from time to time. And, of course, I can always alert friends who will do likewise when something appears on a radio or tv show. For example, I spoke to Jim Eason recently and he said he is still getting his ears plastered over the Garrison debacle and he asked about you. I said there was a chance you might be in the bay area and although I didn't ask him to have you on I am sure he would do so. He told me that he is so busy now running between various studios and is currently working on a tv program for himself that he has very little time for himself. He still would like to know what's going on and I do call him from time to time. This week he asked me to call him back about getting together at his home which I asked him over a week ago. Before I used to call him and he would be in a position to know the very week I called about getting together. So you can see how busy he is. He could stand a little encouragement from our side because he seemed despairing at times when I spoke to him. The result of the inevitable letdown, no doubt. If he hasn't answered any letters from you it's most likely that he is awfully busy. I'm glad to see that he is getting radio time for his is about the only voice on the air these days that speaks sense and identifies with the younger generation.

Now to answer the questions you raised in your letter to me dated Sept. 20, 1969. To begin with about speaking to Dekker who lives in Oakland. I tried to contact him by phone but the operator told me that there is no listing for a Ken Dekker at 360 - 17th St., and so I did not speak to him. However, I will make it a point to see him this coming

weekend. What address or phone do you have him listed under?

As for Brandon of San Rafael, I've called him several times but each time he is out on the road and hasn't returned my calls. I'll again try this weekend and ask him about those two women so that I can speak to them personally. At least this would, if they agreed to talk, not involve Brandon directly anymore because I realize that his business makes it impractical to meet more often than I'd like. I'll see how he takes your suggestion and advise you afterwards.

To answer the other questions in that letter of 9/20, beginning with the fourth paragraph on the first page and numbering each successively these are the answers:

(1) My note in letter to you of 11/30/67: This reference is to a Heinie (phonetic) or perhaps, Heine as you indicate in your letter. If you will recall this name was mentioned by the caller who phoned in to the Dolan program anonymously back in December, 1966 when I was listening in on the other end. The caller said that he knew a man by the name of "Heinie" (my spelling) or "Heine" (your spelling) who was in a "teletype outfit". I had speculated whether Heinie could be Heindel. Incidentally, another thing that probably slipped your mind about this call was that the caller said he knew Nelson Delgado. If Delgado can be located I'm reasonably certain he could identify this caller for what that could be worth. Then again what about the possibility of Delgado knowing about this crypto clearance and "black box" business the caller mentioned to you. As far as I know only Lane has contacted Delgado and this had, of course, nothing to do with your concerns in this matter. What do you think of reaching Delgado about this?

(2) My reference to a book "Who Killed Kennedy" mentioned on page 5 of my letter dated 11/30/67. This was a booklet of 32 pages which appeared in the Daily Cal (University of Cal) student newspaper. Sorry I don't have copy of the ad. I wrote to the address given in the ad which was Bex 64, Glenville, Conn. 06830 but the letter came back marked "no such address". The ad supposedly stated that the book (or booklet) was "suppressed and subverted by the CIA". (If suppressed, one wonders why the book would need to be subverted?). However, long after I got back this letter I recalled seeing this "booklet" at either Fred Newcomb's home or perhaps it may have been Ray Marcus or Steve Burton. It was put out by a bank and written by a TV moderator whose last name was Burke (not Allen Burke). I don't recall his first name but just hurriedly reading through it I couldn't find any reason for believing it to be "suppressed" or "subverted" by the CIA. The writer did not seem to be particularly informed about details of the case although, as I recall, it was written early in 1964 or 1965 when there really was no reason for him to be as informed as we are now. Burke had a TV program many years back in which he offered political commentary but I don't recall the name of the program. I could write those names I've mentioned to see if they have ~~the~~ pamphlet and will do so if you want me to but I think I could better spend the time in other areas. My judgment of that pamphlet was that it had little of real value for you to concern yourself. It actually was a speech given by Burke and reprinted as a pamphlet. So if the CIA "suppressed" this it appears they goofed twice.

(3) The manuscript of Oswald in N.O. is intact and is at my friend Tom Sanders in his cellar. The next time I stop over Tom's I'll pick it up and return it to you.

(4) Stan E. Primmer never returned to the Bay Area as far as I know. Paul kept in touch with him more regularly than I and may have his latest whereabouts. It would be good to have him back in the area again for he can

do excellent work. You can ask Paul for his address.

(5) Mario Bermudez mentioned in the INCA pamphlet. You'll get a zerox copy of this under separate cover. Sorry, but I'm not near a zerox machine now or I'd enclose it with this letter.

(6) My reference to the 11/28/63 S.F. Chronicle story on the Paris-  
Presse article about two men in a window at the time of the assassination is probably, as you state, the Hughes film which was misrepresented by the FBI.

(7) My letter ~~to~~ 7/6/67 regarding the French magazine "Planete". (This magazine had an article by George Langlois in the Jan.-Feb., 1967 issue). Again, I'll send the zerox copy to you. It probably was wrong of me to state that photos appeared in this article never appeared before in any other publication. At the time I wrote this I had only glanced at the article in question and I thought that the photos that appeared on the first page in the article had never appeared elsewhere. But these are re-enactment photos and were taken by Holmes-Lebel which is probably a French photo agency. (Incidentally, one of these photos is cut off at the bottom so it is difficult to tell what the complete photo contains. You'll see what I mean when you receive your copy). It would appear, however, that these may be re-enactments conducted by French photographers. Another interesting thing about this article appears on page 59 where a listing of the numerous deaths of figures connected with the Kennedy affair appear. Although I can't read a word of French this appears next to the name of Tom Howard who was Ruby's lawyer as you know: "Tom Howard, dernier accompagnateur de Hunter, est mort d'une crise cardiaque dans un hopital. Aucun rapport d'autopsie n'a ete publie." This apparently refers to Howard's death of a heart attack and that Howard accompanied Hunter to Ruby's apartment after Ruby shot Oswald. I bring this up because I have had a continuing interest in the Hunter incident and his death at a Long Beach police station. Why, of all reporters, did Howard choose to go along with Hunter to Ruby's apartment. Was this their first meeting or did they know each other better than that? Hunter wrote that "within minutes" of Ruby's execution of Oswald two attorneys seemed to have talked with Ruby but that nothing of any consequence came out of the discussion. One of these attorneys was Howard. Only a schoolboy would believe that Ruby would not have had something to tell Howard just after the shooting if only to protect himself. I'm fairly confident that Howard was told something and that Hunter knew what this was but elected not to write about it probably because of the legal consequences after speaking to Howard. Just a guess on my part. But another question that I've never satisfactorily have answered is what appears in the DCA film which shows a man who some claim to be Tom Howard leaving the ramp entrance in the Dallas basement moments after Oswald is shot. If this indeed was Howard leaving he had little time to talk with Ruby and seemed awfully anxious to get away while police were running in. Why hasn't anyone made a blow-up of this sequence to once and for all determine if that is indeed Howard?

(8) Films on Japanese TV: I wrote all the major and minor TV stations to ask about film footage on the assassination. None of them offered any significant help with few answering. The reference in my 6/4/67 letter most likely seen on the Japanese station is that of the Nix film.

(9) My 3/11/67 reference to a woman who transcribed radio Havana. She stopped doing this back in 1964 or 1965. She said she couldn't do it anymore because her health was failing and she wasn't as accurate as she used to be. That speech by CASTRO ON 11-23-63 is her work. Therefore, it is out of the question for her to have done anything on King murder. She is in her 60's and I haven't seen her in more than two years.

(10) Neither Paul nor I taped the Nov. 7, 1966 CBS radio program done by Harv Morgan with Ball, Jenner and Liebeler. Only Harv (or CBS) would

have this tape and the chances are that by now this would have been destroyed.

(11) On Thornley knowing Ed Butler: This is a reference to a tape I heard at Dave Lifton's apartment on Feb. 25, 1968. Somehow Ed Butler's name came up in a phone conversation Dave had recently had with Thornley. All that Thornley would admit to on this tape when asked if he knew Ed Butler was that he "knew a man by the name of 'Ed' who was tall, taller than me, prematurely balding...he used to wear an old coat." That was all he had to say on Butler. Dave won't let me have this tape. However, I took notes immediately after hearing the tape and the quotes I've given you are accurate. Didn't you state that you had some evidence that Thornley not only knew Butler but may have even hired him? If so, Thornley is lying. But I'll never be able to get that tape. But, I'll vouch for what I heard. You'll note that Thornley doesn't come right out and state that he doesn't know Butler but just muses about a man he knew as "Ed". If he did know Butler, it's a cagey way of not getting tripped up. Of course, Dave appeared not to be in a position to judge the truthfulness or lack of it since he was highly prejudiced in his favor as opposed to Garrison. Another interesting thing on this tape is Thornley's admitting to having met Shaw twice but had "forgotten about it". This took place while Thornley was either entering or leaving the apartment building he lived at. Shaw was, according to Thornley, a "best friend" of the apartment manager. Now, for someone who didn't know Shaw at all how could he know that he was a "best friend"? It makes one wonder.

(12) My 6/1/68 reference to a "Bernie" as a member of the Crusade to Free Cuba. My source is not what I would consider of high reliability but I'll give it to you anyway. It came from Broshears or more precisely from a memo Steve Burton gave to Jim Garrison dated 4/13/68. According to notes I took of this memo this is what Broshears had to say with respect to "Bernie" (These are quoted sentences): "Broshears denied knowing Clay Shaw but a look of surprise crossed his face when I asked him about Alton Bernard. He referred to this person as 'Bernie'. (Burton presumed that Broshears knew of Shaw as Bernard Alton. Steve didn't let Broshears know that Bernard Alton was an alias Shaw was alleged to have used).

"Broshears said he hadn't met 'Bernie' but that Ferrie had spoken of him. Broshears felt that 'Bernie' and Ferrie had more of a business relationship than a friendly one. Ferrie told Broshears that 'Bernie' was a tall, French-looking man who was dark complected like a Cajun. 'Bernie' had been a member of the FPCC and, later, the "Crusade to Free Cuba." Burton then ~~point~~ pointed out that one was left-wing and the other right-wing but Broshears couldn't explain the discrepancy. Broshears also said that Ferrie received money from 'Bernie' for an undisclosed reason."

Of course, all this by Broshears could be a figment of his imagination but you can take it from there and see how all this fits in with what you know. We both knew what Broshears is capable of so I'll leave it at that.

(13) You wanted copies of pamphlets from the "Cuban Freedom Committee". I thought I had already sent you this but under separate cover I'll mail this to you. You'll get these within two or three days after this letter together with the other items I'll zerox for you.

Incidentally, I'll also send along a zerox copy of an article that appeared in the National Enquirer of Oct. 19, 1969 written by Robert E. ~~Johnson~~ Johnson. It's entitled: "James Earl Ray's Chief Defense Lawyer Claims U.S. Govt. Agents Killed Martin Luther King".

One more thing before I forget. The October issue of Saga magazine has an article on the King/Ray case. I believe it's written by Renfro Hanes (brother of Arthur). If you don't have a copy I'll zerox one for you and send it to you. Let me know.

I'll close for now. Regards to your wife and take care of yourself.

Best,  
Hal  
Hal