

9/2/69

Dear Hal,

Glad to get your letter of the 30th with enclosures. Castillo: I think as little as possible about N.O., which is still too much. Puechner did a book of poems, privately printed last year. That one is uproarious, the only really good one in the whole thing. I have it somewhere. Glad to get Carlos' picture from that angle, though.

On Pat Welsh and my going out there to speak: I can say only I am willing. However, the conditions are different and the arrangements will have to be different. I will not only have to have my expenses, I will have to have them in advance. My trips to California, not one of which was timed to serve my selfish purposes (remember, there were no copies of WWII for the first one, nothing to sell), have put me something like a thousands dollars in debt. Everyone has the best intentions, but I wind up knocking myself out and paying most of it myself. And, because it will entail other costs, minor for others but not for me, I will ask a small honorarium. I am not to be handled by a major lecture bureau which is offering me for \$500. I told them for less I'd not do it. They may not get the bookings, but I am not going to do it for less. I have been all along, when Mark and others were getting the fat fees, none of which was ever arranged for me. Now, physically and financially, I cannot.

At the moment I have little concern about radio and TV. Unless these appearances were to pay back friends or serve a specific purpose, I'd just as leave not make any, partly for an explanat on that will follow, partly because I think it best for things to cool a little longer while we continue work that can be constructive and productive. I would rather spend that time with people working on the case, those in whom I have confidence, those I can trust. For example, this means that unless you and Paul were to have strong contrary recommendations, no Lifton, No Newcombs, no Jaffe, no Turner. I might want to do a few things like see Jeanne Hack, though, or Johann Rush, although the job Paul did there is perfect. I'd rather spend the extra time in Long Beach with Walsh and his people, for if they are to do any worthwhile work, they have to know some truths.

I still do not know the answer on my health. About two months ago something resembling a stroke or heart attack hit me. The second (and repeated) diagnosis I accept is anxiety. I know the dictionary meaning and presume I can anticipate much of the medical one, but I have not been able to get a good explanation of it and its manifestations. I want to know all about it I can, not to be my own doctor but to cope with it and better understand things when they are happening or beginning. Accompanying these attacks is something called "acute hyper-ventillation". That means I felt like I was having difficulty breathing and acted accordingly, breathing deeply, which seems to be the one thing you shouldn't do. Knowing this, I have been able to prevent what twice sent me to the hospital. However, right before the second attack, I found speaking somewhat difficult. I have not made a speech in a long time and I do not know how this would work or whether it would interfere. I suppose with a couple of tranquilizers in advance I could frustrate that. I'm supposed to be taking them but I rarely do, for I want to fight this through and out, whip it. Of course, if it is possible I'd like to isolate that or those of the generous accumulation of tensions I have this is/are causative. But, I'm trying to take better care of myself, although in the course of reading/correcting the longer than original addition to SCUP I've retrogressed a bit and gave up naps.

I don't want to fly all the way out there and come right back. I'd like to spend some time with you people in the Bay area and I'd like to be able to get to spend some time with Hutchins and his foundation and to make amends for the rotten thing Burton did to me and them last time I was out, when he told me no arrangements had been made for my transportation (they had been) and then failed to tell the local people without it I wouldn't go there, as I'd asked. And, enough time with the Walsh

people for them to drain me without exhausting me....I'd want to meet the "real estate owner" and let him see copies of the limited editions. I hope Lil will be able to make better time tyoing the addition so I can have a copy if it, including for him to read, possibly some blacks....Possibly we could have time for Brandon's scared women. And I should spend a little time with the San Diego people. They need help. My only immediate interest in LA would be if I could see Pauley, unless he is entirely turned off. He invited me to stay with him....From this, it would look like I should spend two weekends there, which means I'd have to leave on a Thursday and return the following (second) Tuesday, to use cheaper rates. I doubt if I'd stop off in N.O., on the return....The suit of which you speak is against those people and more, but it is by Bradley. I know little about it. The only ones involved I want to help are the San Diego people. That bastard Kunkin has failed to pay for books after a year and a half, and doesn't even answer letters. But he took me off his subscription list when I didn't pay him for that (Penn, who owes me about \$150 and can go globe trotting, has done the same.) But unless you think these people are serious-minded, as many of your group were, the only purpose in my going there would be to get together with you and Paul and Jim, which I'd like, and not like last time, on the fly. We have much to talk about, and it is no good, my falling asleep, as at the Whites's, when there is no Mike in front of me. Besides, I dare no longer do that. These have been almost six years more like the first trip I made there than you can know, and I must no longer go at that pace save in real emergencies. I now try and get at least six hours sleep each night and for the past 10 days I've averaged that.

On the subject of honorarium, let me further explain that for these same years I've had no income of any kind. What there was from the first book didn't begin to pay the overall costs. The printer is about to sue me for what I owe him, which is unpleasant. I've renewed my bank debts for another year of two, but at 25% increased interest. So, I'm stilling willing to do what I can, but I want a little, a fraction of what everyone else has been getting. One other thing: Lil is going to have to go to Lock refresher school beginning in two weeks, so she can have the employment that provides for the first quarter. I'll have to drive her both ways then to and from work beginning 1/1 or it will cost about \$7.00 daily in cabs. This may strike a group of students as harsh, but I an only hope they can understand my situation is different from anyone else's, including by a \$40,000 indebtedness and no income still. The pittance Lil made was enormously important, but it was tiny in sum...But the time is past when we can associate with the Turner-Garrison-Boxley-Jones shit and survive. I want you to know that while I would not attack these people, I would be nothing less than forthright with the group....I'd like to be in touch with them, but I'd rather they phoned me some Sunday, when the rates are low. We can thereafter confirm things in writing. If you are in touch with them again, explain that my housing need be only a pad, as you know. In SF, if there is nothing else, I think Joan would provide it.

Account of Frost-Powell essentially correct, I've been intending to contact Powell when I have time and am in DC. No time for all the letters I used to write, only some. I am dubious, however...You are right on the "Hevey" bit. It was pretty conspicuous.

I resort to ellipsis from need, and with the injunction that if there is any leak I'll never again trust you with a secret. I tried to indicate it to Paul in the same manner but he has showed no sign of understanding. You sent me a clipping about a TV broadcast and asked my opinion (bullshit). I have had a close working relationship with the person involved and have gotten things of enormous value and undoubted substantiality from him. What I said about that appearance may end it. I have been asked to write a book with him. He is very close to the people about whom you may remember my writing of their indiscrete predictions and a number of suppressed documents and exhibits. He had their fearless leader phone me. This is even wilder than going out there and getting Hall and Howard to fight to get on the plane to N.O., believe me, but it is ever trickier and can have much greater significance. He says that ultimately he'll take me to another man not readily accessible. That I doubt.

When you see some of my recent work, you'll better understand. But this is a real wierd one. Earning his trust is no small accomplishment. The ultimate value is yet to be attained, and do not hold you breath until then. I am playing this very, very cool and in my own way, seeking no advice. It is too ticklish in every way, and you might ponder some. I have demurred on the collaboration, explaining why, leaving it open from my end. If I turn him off, I turn him off, but I will do this only one way, and that requires time and infinite patience. I may yet do the really impossible, wind up in doctrinal control, if you can project this into the future and a different milieu.

So you can see the urgency of complete confidence on this. You may tell only Paul and Jim, asking each to mention it to no other person, and do it only in person. That person might be in jeopardy otherwise, and you can be sure a tremendous amount of work by me would be. If nothing else.

Glad to get the Penhouse, Read it when I take a break. In a few moments I'm going to take my pre-lunch swim, then a break, then a nap or return to the COUP add. I've read/corrected about 90-100,000 words, and I'm about half way through it only. This book will be by far the largest, commercially unpublishable in complete form.

Hope I haven't forgotten anything and been unclear, that the typos are not confusing, but I do not take time to read and correct. Best regards to everyone and thanks. Also, tell Paul I'll tackle the microfilm tomorrow and will be in touch as soon as I know. I got it today.

Sincerely,

August 30, 1969

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Dear Hal,

Your letter of 8/13 received some time ago and I'm replying belatedly.

I believe I have some good news for you in the way of coming out to California and the chance of Paul, Jim Schmitt and myself getting together with you. On 8/27 a Pat Welsh who has a mailing address of Forty Miner Shop, 6049 East 7th Street, Long Beach, Calif. 90801 called me after being referred by Fred Newcomb. Welsh explained that he is a student at the college or university there and in the Fall will be teaching a course on the assassination and wanted my help in setting this up since Fred told him that I had conducted such a course at S.F. State College.

I told Welsh I would assist in any way I could and gave him a list of names of people he could refer to. I included Fensterwald's group in Washington (he hadn't heard of it) and particularly mentioned you. After telling him about your knowledge of the case (he had, of course, heard of your books) he agreed that it would be good to have you appear as a guest speaker there. I said that if you agreed that this would have to be on the basis of paying for the plane fare involved and he agreed. I am sure he can do this for he appears to have done this in the past. I believe both Turner and Penn Jones have already spoken before a group he set up since he mentioned Turner's unique theory of the assassination which Turner told Welsh over the phone he didn't want to talk about until he met him. This sounds like some of the old Boxley bit and the "chalk" thing. I could be wrong about both Turner and Jones speaking previously but he did state that both were scheduled to speak before November of this year. Welsh also invited me to speak and said his group would be willing to pay for the plane fare and a night's lodging. I'll be writing Welsh shortly but, in the meantime, I believe

it would be a good idea for you to write him a letter. Since he is apparently new at this and may not know of the intricacies I think you can clue him in on how important it is to have very responsible speakers appear before his group.

Some other things he mentioned which I cannot vouch for but I'll pass along to you. He said that about two or three weeks ago on the David Frost TV show Adam Clayton Powell said he knew what really happened in the JFK assassination but was too fearful for his life to reveal the knowledge he had. When Frost pressed him Powell refused to say more and Frost then told Powell that he would be considered "irresponsible" if he didn't tell what he did know. Powell did say that he had (or had access to) unpublished volumes not even members of the Warren Commission saw. Of course, Powell could be just trying to be publicity conscious and may have no such "volumes". In discussing this episode with Paul it was his feeling that Powell's reference was to Archive documents rather than volumes but I recall that Welsh was insistent in saying that Powell's allegations referred to volumes and not documents.

In any event, I think it might be worthwhile for you to contact Powell since he must spend a good deal of time in Washington these days and even if he couldn't say anything of significance about the JFK affair it is possible you might be able to present your knowledge of the King assassination and the contents of Coup D'Etat to him. It's worth a try, anyway.

One final thing that Welsh said and I know nothing about it is that Clay Shaw had instituted law suits against Bill Turner, Ramparts, Art Kunkin, the L.A. Free Press. Are you aware of these?

As a passing note: in his conversation with Bill Turner Welsh said that Turner practically swore by the contents of "Farewell America" so you can see how important it is that we do contact Welsh at as early a date as possible so he won't be easily led astray.

To strike a lighter note, I'm enclosing a copy of an article that appeared in a literary magazine known as "Smith/8" which is undated and I believe is published by Horizon Press. It's called "The Truth about the Kennedy Assassination" and written by Ray Puechner. Funniest thing I've read on the case, yet.

Also enclosed is an article that appeared in the 7/21/69 issue of the N.O. States-Item in which a photo of Carlos Castillo appears together with a female companion. The article states that he is the proprietor of a Mexican restaurant which is exactly what you said in previous correspondence to me. As you wrote it was Carlos Castillo with whom Thornley was with when he "celebrated" JFK's murder. Think he is worthwhile following up or have you exhausted this aspect of Thornley's "celebration". In any event, I thought a photo of him might prove of some help in the case of witness identification in future interviews. Who knows, maybe his female "companion" may know something? My guess would be that the handle-bar moustache is of rather recent vintage.

Also enclosed ~~xxx~~ is the article that appeared in "Penthouse" Paul wrote you about together with some marginal notes I made. One note, in particular, I'll call your attention to is the one at the bottom of page 36 where I make reference to Shaw's apparent avoidance of the name Harvey and him just referring to Oswald as Lee Oswald. It could mean nothing but when his name has been so immortalized under his three names in just about anything that has been written about him why is he here avoiding the name of Harvey. You'll recall that after he was ~~first~~ arrested by Garrison one of his first statements to the press was that he never knew of any such person as Harvey (emphasis mine) Lee Oswald. This was even brought out in the trial and I noted it when he first made his statement back in March, 1967 puzzling over its significance (if any). In one case we have him (Shaw) emphasizing Harvey and in another avoiding the name Harvey. And as noted in the N.O. trial Oswald did fill out an application form using that name as his first name. (Was Oswald acting under advisement in choosing this name as an ~~alias~~ alias?).

Well, anyway, this is all the news I have for now. Let me know what's happening and if there is anything you need I'll try to get it for you.

Give my regards to your wife. Hope you're feeling well.

P.S. What do you make of Ray's latest charges?

Best,  
*Hal*  
Hal