

8/3/70

Dear Hal,

Many thanks for your letter of 29 and the valuable and surprising (Dolan) enclosures. If the Kevin-Skolnick tape is of 4/14, I have it and have written Paul so informing him. Anything else would be of great interest, but too much money and time were wasted in transcribing that refuse to waste even a few more pennies in duplicating what I have. I'd much like the tape, however, for some day I'd like to relax by making a talking-record kind of spoof of him/it.

You say Mrs. Thoresen pleaded guilty. The store said not guilty.

The name of the raided outfit is approximately ~~XXXXX~~ Erquiaga, as it has come back to me after I wrote you. I wrote Steve, who has a file. He has not yet responded and I really do not expect him to.

In your draft of the proposed statement, I thin the description of the assassinated leaders should include two things: that they were providing effectively leadership toward peace and the achieving a degree of the rights and equality so long denied minorities, especially the black and all poor, and a first-amendment question, of the authority for any Congressional committee to inquire into an area where Congress cannot legislate (the only justification for hearings), writing, whereas it has for so long been so silent about the bombings and other violence from the most extreme of the rights, so much in the chairman's own home state, where it has never stopped. Here I was thinking of Eastland, who is chairman of the full Judiciary Committee, not McClelland. Then there is the Birmingham Church bombing. You may get a few other ideas from COUP (Tats, athy, etc).

Dolan: nothing but unlimited respect. He should be great in court, and if he is willing to give himself to these who need legal services, this is the truest dedication to the law and all basic American principles. Please convey my sincere respect and wishes for a successful new career, as he choses to measure success.

My suggestion is in accord with your hunch: steer clear of the Sirhan bit, where most are nuts, including some of your friends who were once mine. If Jonn figures in any of this, + have no indication of it-aside from what you heard last time I did the Dolan show, when a woman said he'd done a book.

I'll be writing Paul shortly about the status of the suits. He'll tell you. Briefly, a new one may have been filed today. +t is not as I preferred it but it is as I agreed. Another is virtually complete and could be filed this week.

My very best to the Whites. If they have any Skolnick tapes, I'd appreciate dubs. And if the dateline on the original story, I believe 4/6, can be learned, that could be of some interest. Was it filed from Washington, for example? A copy of the wire copy could be of potential usefulness.

Good luck to everyone.

Sincerely,

July 29, 1970

466 - 24th St.
Oakland, Calif.
94612

Dear Hal,

It was good to hear from you again. So little has been happening I was beginning to despair about the prospects for any of us ever getting the truth out. But your letter gave me encouragement with the news about the several suits you have going with Bud.

I am enclosing my complete file on the Thoresen case which was largely gathered by Bruce Lewis when he used to be in my class at S.F. State. There is also an article dated yesterday about Mrs. Thoresen pleading guilty in the shooting of her husband which is all I have of the recent stuff on him. I'm sorry I didn't keep a file besides the one I've enclosed, however, I have asked the Whites to send me what they have and as soon as I obtain this you will, of course, be getting it in the mail.

As for the bust of a major arms outfit beginning with an "E" which you requested I must have missed an article on this because I have no knowledge of it. The Whites said that they would search their files to locate it. And perhaps my friend, Tom Sanders, may recall this for he is more up on things like this than I am. Incidentally, speaking about Tom, he has been subpoenaed to appear before the McClellan Senate Subcommittee on Gov't Operations on Aug. 11 or 12 in Washington.

Their subpoena, which I read, asked him to bring all papers, effects, etc. regarding his work as editor of "Black Politics" and particularly his knowledge of the identity of one of his writers, George Prosser, who is a pseudonym for someone who writes under that name. He is the one you will recall who wrote articles about guns and how to defend yourself. It is obvious that they would try to implicate Tom in some kind of conspiracy which the Committee alleges is occurring across the country causing the rash of bombings and terrorist acts such as the burning of banks or public buildings.

Charles Garry has agreed to handle Tom's case and will undoubtedly tie it in with the suppression of dissent or unpopular causes as the Black Panthers. Tom has also asked me to prepare some kind of statement to the effect that we can introduce the assassination of political leaders as one that the Committee had not looked into when it should have if it were truly interested in finding out why terror exists in this country and how it operates. I have in mind some statement that would go like this:

"The ostensible purpose of the Committee is to investigate the causes for what it terms terrorist acts being conducted across the country undermining our way of life. But if this Committee were really interested in learning about the nature of violence and where this violence originates from it would have better directed its attention to examining the series of successive assassinations that have cut down our political leaders, both black and white, indicating some conspiracy within our

midsts that will stop at nothing to achieve its aims.

That the committee should instead "investigate" some writer who seeks only to better the lot of his fellow citizens by publishing articles examining the root causes of the ills within our system reveals it as one with harassment as its aim and bankrupt in nature."

That's just a very rough idea of what I have in mind and I'll have to clean it up a bit. If you have any ideas about this, let me know.

By the way in today's Herb Caen column of the Chronicle there is a rather surprising item about Joe Dolan quitting KGO to take his bar exams and then joining none other than Garry's staff! How does that strike you? (Item enclosed).

I asked Paul to zerox and send you some stuff on the Skolnick thing and you should be getting that soon. It consists of transcripts made by Fred which he sent me and I am sending to you. I hope they come in useful.

One final thing: I got a letter early this month from Ivan Dryer, the writer who is doing a series for the L.A. Free Press on the Bobby Kennedy/Sirhan thing which I'm sure you're aware of. He wanted me to set up a rally for his group known as the "Echo Park Commission on Law and Order" but I haven't answered him. I doubt if I'll get involved, since that is a full time job to undertake and besides I have serious misgivings about the entire thing. Somehow, I detect the hand of Jonn Christian in all of this but according to the Whites when Bill Turner was on Jim Eason's show recently he said that Jonn had "disappeared"!

Well, that just shows you, Hal, that life goes on.

Best,
Hal
Hal