

4/25/70

Dear Hal,

Glad to get your letter of the 21st and the enclosures, especially those showing the wide attention to Skolnick's evil. Locally, there has been no attention to Gentry's book. It has gotten a big play elsewhere. With the special angle, one wonders how many masters he serves and who they may be. I'd like to see the Trib story. Gentry promised me galleys I've never seen, natch. The Truman story I do recall, think I may have saved it.

It is not only that I was the wise father, a role into which too many have regularly thrust me, I also knew about Skolnick because of the device he used to get this material from Trunzo. (There is a clue in one of the stories you sent for it discloses what I can so readily prove otherwise, that S got this from an unnamed "another" person and did not get them from the Arch.)

It is worse than the bad situation you recognize because of the inevitable consequences and their potential. There will be large headlines saying the Report is validated and there is no suppression, etc. This has already made a martyr of Groth, the Black-Panther murderer, for here S was not content to steal what I had but embroidered foolishly on it, with outrageous and easily-refuted lies. Thus Groth now appears as a martyr.

I have prepared a countersuit against Skolnick but lack means of filing it. When those of whom I sought help failed to respond I wrote the clerk of the court to see if I can file it by mail. Meanwhile, a friend who cannot get involved personally is attempting to set up a TV confrontation. If this succeeds, I can beard Skolnick on camera and be in Chicago to file a suit, perhaps get a lawyer, and also file damaged and plagiarism suits against the two stations that helped him, neither of which has responded to my letters, which should help. One even pretends it is "unknown" from the postal stamps added when it was returned! I am anxious to get this suit on file before S can be thrown out of court if only in an effort to prevent these headlines. They will adversely affect all suits, including the one I filed and those I'm preparing. The timing makes me wonder. In the suit I say he could not better serve as a government agent if he were paid to do what he has done. I may also sue his college, which did, whether or not it authorized it, appear in his theft, the first use. They called him in and gave him hell the day before they pretended to me they didn't know what I wrote them about! If I have heard nothing by the middle of the week I'll have to try and make my own arrangements to get to Chicago and on TV, and then file the suit and hold a press conference at the courthouse when I file it. I'll be armed with tapes of conversations with the stations, Skolnick and, if Russ ever finds it, his correspondence with Skolnick. But all I really need is my own work and the copy I already have on his suit. He was so careless he did not remove the marks Paul put on the copies he got for me! We all know that is not from the Archives, and the first thing I did was establish he'd never asked the Archives for anything. Meanwhile, I also know there is no SS material on Vallee at the Archives. It will be quite a confrontation if I can arrange it! But, unfortunately, it will have to begin with my reversing phone calls, which may not be accepted, for I cannot even pay for them.

The only thing not impure fiction not stolen from me was converted into fiction. This is the Hurt hit. He got the police record of the call from Bud and applied his imagination. I knew about Hurt, glad you date it at two years ago, but I never established a separate file on him. My last word about him is that he was just out of the looniel farm. I have no knowledge of the suit of which Penn talks but I hope this is closer to reality than most of his stuff and I'd

like to be filled in on it when and as possible. Penn's reference, clearly, is to the S frivolity.

A few hasty refs to your letter: As I told Gentry, LHO served no necessary purpose in the Powers affair. It is for such things the USSR has an uses radar. That Powers was shot not was not essential, though it helped the purpose of ending the summit and the detente (rather, I think, than entente, as you put it). The difference was only in Khrushchev's decibel level, for the intrusion of the plane was known and there was only one country with that capability.

I think I can use the ticket for I'll be having to go to NYC.

Nichols is up to a more dignified Skolnick. I've sent Paul a little of it because he prefers to smooch such things. I'll tell him the rest, if he's interested, when he is here - and I'm looking forward to that. I hope he can spend some time here so I can fill him in for you and Jim. It now appears that Nichols is the most likely source of some of the fruit of Lifton's espionage, though he denied it. It is beyond question that he is working against me for we now have some of the proof from him. Please keep this to yourself, unless Paul and Jim are interested. He is, rather than undertaking the mission Gary asked of him with Betzner, working with Betzner's father to try and invent "errors" I made in PW relating to the son and his pictures. Were it true, which is unlikely, what would it mean? And this is a way to do good? These people are sick with and of their own failures and inadequacies. To have anything, including self-respect, they have to steal, and to disguise from themselves that they are thieves they have to convert their victim into the villain.

I have the TIME story, didn't see it for a week, have written them a letter of which Paul will have a copy, and there has been no response. I sent a copy to Sidney, from whom also silence.

Bonner is worth neither time nor attention. I made a record immediately with her, her publishers and the distributor, all of whom have been silent. If we ever have to respond, which seems doubtful, the response is ready.

Elder would do me more good if he'd see to it that the company paid me what he owed and never paid and what they promised to pay every time I was out there. I cannot longer take the time to write them. But if you could get him to write on the unpublishability of solid work on this subject, that might help. That woman who phoned on the Dolan show ended any good it could have served, for she not no practical ideas at all and has fallen silent.

I doubt any Ferrie-Vallee connection, but ideologically it is possible.

With what they have already done, it is perhaps better than the IA people are doing nothing. If this sounds like no more than bitterness, look at the record.

I'll fill Paul in on my suit(s), plans, etc and he can inform you.

When you can you might phone Gentry to remind him he promised me proofs and now it seems the book is out and he didn't send them. 981-6940. Again, if nothing else, a record. Too many things are coming at what may be a critical time. They may in each case be no more than coincidence, but it is foolhardy to assume nothing else is possible. I hope you'll keep me posted on anything that might seem relevant, no matter how inconsequential, including from some of our "own". I wish it were possible for me to get out there again, but Calif, has been a

financial disaster for me. It has cost me about \$4,000, all in all, incredible as this may seem. Raymer alone owes me \$2,500. San Diego has never finished paying me, LA never did, you know of some of the rest, the LA Free Press has never paid and with Stanley Marks is up to another plagiarism. John has 5,000 copies of O in NO. Need I continue? And with all the money so freely spent on speakers, you can account for every "honorarium" I got!

Meanwhile, with the resources, we now have the possibilities for the application of intellectual Judo we never had before, one of my catchers about this apparent gangpp, all these "coincidences".

Best to everyone and thanks for what you sent.

Sincerely,

April 21, 1970

466 - 24th St.

Oakland, Calif.
94612

Dear Hal,

Today's Oakland Tribune has an AP story out of New York concerning the U2 affair in which it is alleged that Oswald could have helped the Russians down the spy plane back in 1960. This looks as if this might be Curt Gentry's work since from what you once wrote he had been doing a book on Powers. The AP story I have states that the book will be Powers' autobiography, entitled, "Operation Overflight" WITH Holt, Rinehart & Winston the publisher.

I'm sure that by the time you receive this letter it will appear in the papers there. What has been the reaction there, if any? On the face of it there would appear to be little credence to this even if one were to assume that Oswald had as a mission some intelligence mission with the CIA while residing in Russia. Otherwise, if I can believe the reports I read long ago that the Russians had turned over their entire files or dossier on Oswald to the Warren Commission why wouldn't the Russians have exposed Oswald for just such a deed. The matter of the U2 affair was not child's play at the very time when the Russians were seeking an entente. Certainly the Russians knew that Powers mission was to upset the summit conference which it did and this meant that Powers had to know what he was doing. The Soviet intelligence apparatus is not stupid from what I

can gather and to have cooperated with the Warren Commission just doesn't make sense if he were a U.S. spy helping the Russians. Oswald could have performed a quite different role and still be an agent which the Russians had only guessed at but were never able to prove suggesting that Oswald's role might have been a limited or narrow one possibly as a result of the Russians having suspected him in the first place.

I am enclosing a number of articles relating to the whole Skolnick affair of which Paul has told me the sorry business. Jim White first told me about it on the phone April 7 when he said he got it over the ~~phone~~ AP wire. As he began filling me in with the details I began to suspect theft of your research but it wasn't until I checked with Paul that the suspicion was confirmed. It is a sad and contemptible state of affairs which the establishment press could make merry with. Witness the opening lines to a Time piece dated April 20 on Skolnick ^{which} begins: "That conspiratorial army of would-be historians who specialize in the assassination of John Kennedy may have a brand-new plot to play with." (If you don't have this article write me and I'll send you a copy).

Included in the articles I've enclosed is one by Penn Jones dated April 6, 1970. In the last paragraph he mentions a "suit" filed in California concerning Oswald being in touch with DISC in Raleigh, North Carolina. By coincidence, where I work this agency sends orders and they have their main HQ in Philadelphia. They obtain all the necessary materials needed by the government from soup to nuts. You name it and

they can order it. I asked Mr. White if he knew of this "suot" and he said that he had come across no story on it. He called Bill Turner to see if he might know but Turner was out of town. Mrs. Turner answered instead. She was to call him that very night and Mr. White suggested that Turner get in touch with Skolnick since he was then in Chicago. It should be interesting to see what Turner learns from Skolnick and when Turner returns Mr. White will be in touch with him.

But the really interesting thing about this article is Jones stating that Oswald ^{was} being in touch with a "top agent" of DISC in Raleigh, North Carolina. I had recalled from memory that Oswald was supposed to have a phone number in his possession of someone in Raleigh and I checked my notes on this to refresh my memory. I came across a reference to a James D. Hurt of Raleigh in a letter you wrote to me on January 29, 1968 and you asked if I knew anything about him. I didn't at the time but it appears to me at some ^{LATER} ~~later~~ date somewhere you mentioned that he was a phone number Oswald had in his possession at the time of his arrest. (I don't recall if this was his arrest in August, 1963 or the one after the assassination but the latter seems to be the one if memory serves).

You asked me about the KKHI program that Judy Bonner did. I did not hear it nor have I heard the tape which Paul prepared for you so I can't really comment on it. However, I can comment on the nature of the radio station. It is primarily a classical music station and therefore must have a rather limited audience. I doubt if more than a thousand persons heard it, if that many. She may be seeking to get as

much publicity for her book as possible and this could have been another interview or review of her book by one more station in the Bay Area or it might be that this could have been the only station interested enough to take her on. I suspect the latter case to be so but I'm speculating on the value of her book as seen by these radio stations.

You might be interested in knowing that since Paul Elder sold his book store in S.F. he is now writing a daily book review column for the S.F. Examiner. You might keep this in mind in case you want to send him your work. I'm sure he would give a good review.

By the way in that Vallee story it is interesting to recall that Ferrie is alleged to have made a few trips to Chicago and I have one article claiming that a Garrison investigator knew about these trips. According to the Winnipeg (Canada) Free Press story of May 17, 1967 "an assistant DA" is quoted in the Giesbrecht bit as saying that Ferrie could have made that trip to Canada in February, 1964 where Giesbrecht allegedly saw him and is also quoted as saying, "We know he's been out of the country and he's been working out of Chicago a little, too." The most likely person to have been quoted is Louis Ivon and the next time you speak to him you might ask him about that and see if this at all relates to the Vallee thing.

Well, other than what I have just typed there is little else new here. I did get down to Los Angeles last week-end and saw Ray Marcus and ~~EXXKEE~~ called Maggie on the phone but there is nothing happening down there to speak of.

Nothing new from Dolan, either.

Best,

Hal Verb

P.S. Almost forgot. I'm enclosing a Greyhound bus ticket good for one way between Baltimore and Newark, New Jersey which you can still use. I never got to use it when I was there to see you last December. As I recall it is good for one year after being issued. If you can't use it, give it to Paul when he gets there.