

7/15/71

Dear Hal,

Hurried response your 7/12 (expecting Bud and others). Thanks for Marcus. Forwarded today to pub, but proper procedure would be for Marcus to order from Dutton.

Prouty: glad to get this (different) clip. I've met him twice. Impressive. He has joined Bud's committee. Did great CIA expose for Washington Monthly. He is, indeed, a (successful) banker, is doing a book.

Potter: unknown to me and frankly, I have doubts. All could have come from a casual reading of newspapers alone. If the original source was a reporter, I can guess your source.

Rundown on Miller after asking you indicates dubious as source. However, this is my own analysis and fear.

I can't understand this great change in the (once?) great Eason. Or Spann, to whose producer I did speak right after publication. Lee Rashall was then out sick, had been for long time.

Aynesworth-Kirkwood comparison seems apt. I've not read K's book.

Glad to get reassuring estimate Gary.

Most credible part of Potter story to me is SVN involvement. Discount Mafia entirely. This one.

Many thanks, best to friends,

July 12, 1971

Dear Hal,

Today I learned something from a close friend who said he was convinced of the source's sincerity but was in no position to evaluate its authenticity. You can probably guess who the close friend is but this friend said he could not give the name of the source for various reasons. I do know who this source is but I have given my word that I would not disclose it (in writing). Actually from what I am about to tell you his name is unimportant for your purposes except as to further questioning him regarding the details which I definitely plan on doing in the very near future.

This is what the source told my friend: A man by the name of George Potter who said he is (was?) a CIA man had information concerning the plots to kill the Kennedy brothers and that the Kennedys were both killed by the same group in which three guns were used to kill JFK fired from three locations (one of which was the grassy knoll with the other two buildings the source could not recall) and two guns were used to kill RFK in which both exits were covered at the Ambassador Hotel. Somehow both the Mafia and Cuba were implicated but the source did not spell this out precisely.

Regarding this George Potter the source gave the following background sketch. The source and he last met back in Seaside, Oregon on Aug. 25, 1968. Potter was then allegedly dying of skin cancer and stated that he used to work for Channel 2 TV in Portland, Oregon but the source claims that he found this not to be true. Potter also claimed to have been a reporter and to have served as a pilot for the FAC (I don't know what these letters ~~stand for~~ represent) and was shot down twice over Vietnam. He said he had a brother living in Astoria, Oregon which my source said is listed in the phone book. The account given by Potter to the source was told when Potter was drunk.

I did some brief checking at the library to see if there were a George Potter located in Portland, Oregon but the 1971 directory lists no one by that name. I did not verify whether a Bob Potter is still living in Astoria. After I send this letter to you I'll be writing some contacts in the Northwest to find out if they know anything about this and, of course, tell you whatever they uncover.

I am enclosing an article that appeared in the Berkeley Gazette on 7/3/71 which to my knowledge was unreported in any other paper. This is the story concerning a former Pentagon liaison officer with the CIA, V. Fletcher Prouty, who stated that it was his belief that Oswald had not acted alone and that both Kennedys had engendered the hatred of the CIA after the Bay of Pigs episode. Prouty, according to the article, is now a Washington, D.C. banker. (I checked the Washington directory but could only find a P.L. Prouty listed at 1670 - 34th NW with a phone #338-2959. Perhaps Fensterwald can track him down or one of your contacts in Washington may be able to locate his address). Was there anything in the Washington press concerning this item or is this the first you are hearing of it?

Regarding other news here: I was finally able to get the name and address of the columnist, John J. Miller, which Harv Morgan obtained for me. He lives at 236 Upper Mountain Ave., Montclair, New Jersey and his phone is #201-744-5396. I don't know if you want to contact him directly about his item on James Ray or if you can get a friend to do it in your area but in any event there it is.

Now about my efforts to get your book publicized and radio talks shows, etc. I never heard from Jim Eason and Harv suggested that I call Owen Spann during the day to reach him. Louis Freeman was not in when I called but I will try again. I'll keep trying again until I can get something going. No responses yet on my articles on your book but I'll advise when I hear of anything.

One bright note that I was unable to come up with. There is a black book store in San Francisco known as Marcus Books headed by a great guy named Richardson and he said he'd be willing to take 25 copies of "Frame-Up" for his book store. He said if you can get the publisher to send it through Dutton he can accept these on an "open" account since he has an account with them. I am enclosing his card which gives his full name and address (on the back of this is his authorization for the 25 books). If you can get this to him I'll work up a display to help advertise the book since the publishers probably will do very little to promote it. This I promise to do if you can get them to Richardson.

Gary SCHOENER WAS RECENTLY HERE AND STAYED at my place for a few days. He seems to be totally involved in his professional career and has finally arrived and found himself professionally and I'm sure glad that he is succeeding so well. I know that the years it took him to get where he wanted were tough ones. We did, of course, discuss the case and dissected the Garrison involvement in it and it has deepened my understanding of his role. I am also going through Jim Kirkwood's book on the Shaw trial and it also HAS SERVED TO GIVE ME an understanding of the defense's side in the trial. I think I can understand what kind of animal Kirkwood is much better after reading his book than I could glean from his article which appeared in Esquire. He reminds me a little of Aynesworth and that reporter from L.A. who wrote a book blasting the critics. (His name eludes me but he's the one who did the Capitol recording hatchet job).

Well that is all that is new here. I hope that the above items can be of some help and if there is anything further you need just let me know and I'll do what I can.

Best,
Hal
Hal Verb