

Dear Hal,

9/20/96

Your 9/11 is interesting, as is the delay in reaching me. It came today. I enclose the envelope. No signs of any misdirection.

Tom Samoluk is I think a nice guy. He is the information officer of ARRB. He was here in their earliest days.

I think it is likely that the Judenrat in Belin had him demanding to be heard. He is consumed by the impulse to self-justify and is eaten by the knowledge that it is impossible. His testimony will be very vulnerable and it will be largely propaganda.

From my experience with him Marwell is as your source indicates, whatever his earlier career may have been.

But ARRB has been letting the looniest appear and "testify." I'm surprised that Belin is so late getting to appear. There may be something that impelled him. He is a natural witness for them not only from his WC career but because he ran the Rockefeller Commission. I doubt he wanted to appear in any interest other than his own.

The name Loftus is familiar but I cannot place it.

It was my understanding years ago that the Secret Service gave all its relevant records to the Archives not to have any involvement especially not in FOIA. Of course there could be records it did not transfer that did have some relevance.

I think the Loftus I recall was a Washington writer. If he is formerly of the CIA he was not "high" up in it. But that was a time in which they did use writers, reporters, etc.

When you formalize your COPA plans please let me know what day you will be here. There may be a chance that Aguilar may want to come with you. I do not know if he was serious or how serious he was but he said he hoped he'd have time to come up. Last two years Doug DeSalles and Barb from Oregon did come. And last year they said in advance they wanted to go to the same restaurant here for those fine crab cakes. Which cannot be beat.

A stranger from Mandeville, LA is coming tomorrow, a doctor. That is where the mental hospital in which several who appear in the WC records were patients along with one who got out and said he was going to kill Garrison and instead beat his mother up. I was her guest for several weeks. Best accommodations I had in H.O. Plus my later step-brother you may recall from O in NO practised not far from Mandeville. This man did not say what he wants to talk about or ask and I did not ask him. It could be like so many, just interested in the subject.

Look forward to hearing more from you. Thanks and best,



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Dear Hal =

I thought you'd be interested in a few recent events which I've learned about. I did intend to send you some xeroxed items but I simply can't get to a xerox machine so I'll postpone sending you the xeroxed items in my next letter.

I guess the most important news for now is that ^{IN LOS ANGELES} on Tuesday, September 17th the ARRB will be holding hearings & several will testify. After talking it over with a friend of mine (Rex Bean) who is also quite knowledgeable about the assassination, we both decided to attend the hearings. Although we'll be going down separately we'll both go to the hearings in a rental car which he'll meet me with at the airport on Tuesday morning on September 17th.

After speaking with several individuals I've learned who it is who will be testifying on the September 17th. I'll list the names I know of but there may well be others who will also speak.

(See next page) →

These are the six names I've learned who will be testifying (I'll know the full agenda, of course, when I attend the hearings). The six are-

- ① OLIVER STONE (if his schedule allows it).
- ② WESLEY J. LIEBEER
- ③ DAVID LIFTON
- ④ DAVID BELL
- ⑤ BOB TANNENBAUM
- ⑥ JIM DI EUGENIO

I know nothing about what each will speak on. Of course, a transcript will be made of the speakers but this will most likely be released at a later date. I'll try to obtain a copy when it is available & send you a copy.

In the meantime I'll take good notes about what transpires and fill you in after I return from L.A.

In speaking to someone in L.A. on the phone for what it is worth, I'll relate what he told me about the upcoming hearing & also the ARRB. Since this is hearsay & I didn't hear it from the original sources themselves you'll have to judge for yourself the reliability of the accounts. However, my source is and has been reliable in the past and I have no reason to doubt his allegations. They are, as follows:

(1) The first of these is that according to Tom Simoulek (of the ARRB) DAVID BELL has been "pestering" the ARRB to appear before them & provide testimony. Simoulek (who, I believe, is the ARRB archivist) claims that Bell persistently either called by phone or wrote

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letters to the ARRB and possibly this is the reason time is being granted by the ARRB to let him speak. (Whether Belin is representing his own interests or someone else's is open to conjecture but on that score I have no leads, perhaps by hearing what he testifies to may provide the necessary clues).

(2) The other account I have is highly speculative & should be considered in this light. My source was in touch with author JOHN LOFTUS whom I'm sure you've heard of. (If I'm not mistaken at one time both Loftus and DAVID MARWELL of the ARRB once worked together). Anyway Loftus told my source that he believes Marwell to be a "point man" for the ARRB. According to Loftus Marwell pops up all over the place in different situations and deflects attention from important concerns - exactly what one would expect from a "point man." So it is no wonder, he shows up as an executive director for the ARRB. One account given to me by my source (whether it came from Loftus or my source) is that recently Marwell got in touch with the Secret Service and "discussed" certain things. Then, one week later, as my source indicated some 325 Secret Service documents turn out to be "no longer available".

There is a curious little footnote to

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the Loftus account that I should add here.

There is a certain restaurant I usually eat at on Friday evenings. I dine there with two friends of mine, one of whom is intensely interested in the assassination. In fact he's read some of your books. One evening about two years ago ~~the~~ the three of us were discussing the case and someone overheard us & came over to our table & sat down & said he agreed with virtually everything we said. He then (without giving his last name away) said that his father was pretty high up in the CIA & had discussed the case with him... He ~~left~~ left & didn't give his name out.

Then about a year or so later a friend of mine who knows of my interest in the case called me & said he had been talking to a co-worker (in the Longshoremen's Union) who told this friend who called me that he once was in a restaurant & talked to a guy who "seemed to know a lot" about the case. My friend gave me the fellow's last name & it turned out to be = LOFTUS! This "LOFTUS" told my friend he would be interested in speaking to me again. I do have his name in my files but never followed it up. I really should though.

I don't know if the LOFTUS I met in a restaurant is related to the JOHN LOFTUS (writer). Perhaps they are but I do not know.

When I get back from L.A. I think I ought to look into this. I'll let you know if I do.

Hope everything otherwise is ok. I'll be writing you soon again.

Best,

Hal