

Dear Hal,

5/16/95

Just this morning I was telling myself that as soon^y as I got to a good place to stop in Mailer's Tales I have to write you. Then in today's heavy mail is your 5/13. The publisher's silence gave me some problems that at my age and health and trying to work as much as I do are not easy. I wrote Gary Aguilar because he has office help, as you do not. First I wrote him about the forgotten index, then about copies of the book. I asked him to make copies of the index for you and others/out there and sent him a copy. By the time I got copies of the book it had been in the stores for almost two weeks. I got only 20 and I need three times that many. So I asked to be told who was willing to wait for a copy and who already had it. I'm surprised you do not have the index. I now have copies and I again asked for others to be told I have it but would like addressed envelopes. And you have not heard of that, either. It may be hard for you to believe but making the packages takes time and it does not take much to tire me too much. So also, with my bad typing, is the envelope a problem. Not a word from Gary. He's p'ed off because I asked a question he does not want to face and because he cannot give himself a satisfactory answer. That is why I never heard from him and he does not respond when it is in his interest, too. But there is nothing I can do about that or about my more limited capabilities. My writing remains my top priority and to give you an idea of the speed with which I'm doing it I've more than 60,000 words on paper on Mailer and his worse than trash book. I'm sorry that having written the letters I did I have to wait before packaging and mailing any of the very few copies I have of the box of 20. Which is much too few. I had intended to send one to each person who helped me but for that to be done one really needs the book fast, before people can buy them. The first person who phoned me about a copy phoned shortly after the publisher phoned to apologize for the accidental omission of the index. He then told me that books would start to go to the stores in a week. After they were in distribution! I'm embarrassed by this but there is nothing I can do about it. If you want me to mail you one, of course I will. But I cannot understand why your store does not have it. The distributor is Publishers West. The top man there is Charlie Winton. They are officed near you. Perhaps Emeryville.

What I'm getting done about Mailer is powerful. And it will speak about much more than Mailer.

I am glad to get what you sent and even what I do not agree with you are right, I should know. But I'll read that as I can. ^{cannot all of it} Thanks for it. I did rush through Doug's very worthwhile paper I agree with your added comments and more but it is a fine beginning. However, there is much that is public he has not considered and he is a little off on some. Of the latter, he apparently did not understand what I said about the time of Willis 5 in WW II. At 2202 he is walking off the curb having taken his unintended picture and the camera is coming down from his eyes. So his picture is a little earlier.

Little Rosemary did stop moving when he says but she did not look up to the

sixth floor window or up at all. She seems to look more at the knoll but I've not studied that. He also is lagged in on hardened ammo and with doubt at least one shot that impacted was very soft. He seems not to use Perry in his work. I think that is a mistake. Perry is a long-time hunter and knows ammo and bullet wounds. And in his assessment of the front neck wound Doug eliminated what I think cannot be eliminated, it size.

You will waste your time if giving a video copy to ARRB. First they will say their task is not to solve the crime but to get existing records disclosed. And on that they've done ever so much less than they could and should have by now.

I did not know Stone would be the speaker at COPA. He is ~~as~~ blind enough not to even learn what NEVER AGAIN! does for him or what I've finished but have not read, Wake up the Watchman. he also know nothing about the crime, about the status of his "research coordinator."

Unless we have medical appointments or had has to shop we are almost always home. Wednesdays I have blood tests and then p.m. I'm usually home by 9. Thursday I've been going to a local mall to walk. My walking acapability way down and I am at risk for falling. If I'm still doing that in October I'm usually home by 8:30. So as of now either days looks fine.

You figured it out right, it was Paul Kangas. From ^{my what} you say I'll say nothing. I do not want to get started with any nut like him. But he is using my work and name without authorization.

Anything crazy "ailer" says I can use but I'm been working at an intensity that does not give me to time to listen to tapes, much as I'd like to.

I'm not surprised Russell's carbon copy of Manchurian Candidate was cancelled. Nutty ^{to sign} of sight it to begin with. And that gave it two pages in the Catalogue and were to do it in hardback, not soft. Sense of values?

I suspect that if your boomstore does not have NEVER AGAIN! they did not order. What store?

Dooley was behind the scenes, not one of the front names in the CIA's dealings with the WC. I think Jerry Policoff spoke to him in the 1960s. I'd like to see that assessment.

Please tell anyone. not the Kangases tho, who may want an index to send me a self-addressed envelope with three stamps if they do not mind my folding it and four if they use a manilla. I do want to save all the effort I can. I need to. And I can save the time of licking stamps and running out of them. And I've marked the calendar. Please ask Paul to let me know if he has the book and if he wants the index. I'll read the welcome enclosures when I can. Bit by bit. thanks and best

Herold

Felt too weak to wrk this morning so I've gone over all you sent except the New Yorker, which I had, thanks, and the NR Review by "ailer. Good to see all of it and I've saved almost all of it. I ~~may~~ ^{may} write Patricia Holt, depending how I feel later and after thinking it over more. I do not want to take any time not worth it from the ~~writing~~ ^{writing} the way I feel

Livingstone is as crazy and as baselessly self-important as ever.

I'd heard of what Cakebread has been saying but had not seen it.

Hal VerB
P.O. Box 421815
S.F., CA. 94142-1815

5-13-95

HAROLD WEIBERG
7627 OLD RECEIVER ROAD
FREDERICK, MD. 21702

Dear Hal:

I had intended to write you much sooner than this but so many things came up I just couldn't do it until now.

As you can see from the many enclosures within this envelope there is a lot to look over. Much of it is, as you & I would readily agree, not well established and really wildly speculative. But, again, it is part of the record & I think you ought to know what is out there being printed.

There is one document which I do believe is important and that is a 38 page document (it is not numbered) by Dr. Doug DeSalles based on my "FIRST SHOT" paper which I delivered at the COPA event last October, 1994 in Washington.

This is a first draft by Doug & he wants me to look it over and comment on it. (You'll see attached to the abstract, some of my minor disagreements. Otherwise I think he did a great job - especially on

his analysis of the Bronson film & his establishing that the Bronson still (of the limo) taken at around 2-230 was in reaction to a first shot which had to be around 2-189 to 2-191 & not an earlier shot of 2-160. (I know it is no surprise to you but the number of critics who said an early shot at around 2-160 missed includes Bishop, Groden, Losner, Erica & of course, there is the HSCA comments on this).

I'm still going through Doug's abstract and I'm adding more to his work than he has. I suggested to Doug that we (& whoever else wanted to participate) do a serious documentary video on this first shot evidence & offer it, for example, to the ARRB. Of course, others would be offered the same video. I also suggested a booklet could be written & circulated wherever possible. He thought both ideas good. Doug also wants me to present my expanded version of the "first shot" theory to the next "COPA" event in Washington next October. Of course, I'd be glad to and I think Walt Brown & Aquilar would let myself & Doug present it.

Speaking about the next COPA event, I guess you know that Oliver Stone will be the keynote speaker. (It must be ironic for in Stone's film, he has Garrison stating that the first shot missed).

By the way, mark this down in your calendar - I do intend to be out on the ~~East~~ East coast in October &

I will be staying in Washington from Tuesday, Oct. 17 through Monday, Oct. 23rd. The best times for me to see you would be, of course, either Wed., Oct. 18 or Thursday, Oct. 19. Those would be the only days I can do this. I hope this will work out for you.

Enclosed within are all the articles I could find on Mailer's book on Oswald. In case you didn't have a copy of the "New Yorker" article, I enclosed it. You'll note that the "N.Y. Review of Books" prints a Mailer article on Ruby but doesn't state it is from Mailer's book! An oversight, or ---??

By the way, I finally figured out who the individual is when you mentioned to me that you thought his name began with a "K". The name must be = Paul Kangas. His most recent address I have is: P.O. Box 422644, S.F., CA. 94142. The phone numbers (which appear to be answering numbers only are = #415-890-0153 & #415-991-8448).

Kangas & I do not get along very well together even since I exposed him as a deceitful fraud when he & others held ~~a~~ a meeting at Aguilar's office. Aguilar after that exposure will have nothing to do with him.

Kangas has a post office box at the same post office building where I pick up my mail. At first he was openly hostile towards me but in our few encounters he is cordial enough.

-A-

I also ran into Kangas at a talk given by Norman Mailer here in S.F. on May 8th. Kangas, in the audience, had asked Mailer if he had seen Stone's film "JFK" & what he thought of it. (Of course, I knew that Mailer had seen it & written about it for "Vanity Fair". Obviously Kangas was totally unaware of this. But Kangas doesn't read up on the case. Once in a confrontation at the post office when he and I were picking up our mail, he accused me of being "a rat, fink" & when I discussed something about some evidence in the Warren report he actually ~~boasted~~ boasted to me that he had never read either the Warren Report or the Commission's volumes. To add to this invincible ignorance he then stated to me that Oswald wasn't an important figure in the whole case, anyway!!

That's the kind of person Kangas is so if you do contact him anything he says cannot be trusted.

By the way at that Mailer 5/8/65 talk I got to ask him a question & I was debating his points about Oswald being the lone assassin & Oswald not being a US-agent. The audience was hostile towards me (It was a very adulatory audience & they, apparently, didn't like to see one of their literary giants tarnished in any manner).

Mailer's less than adequate reply to me was to state he still believed Oswald did it & that he saw no evidence to indicate Oswald was an agent. At the very end of his reply to me, he asked "If you have any evidence to show he was an agent, I'd like to see it!" At that I shouted out loud: "I'll see you later!"

I did see him afterwards (he autographed the book for me). I gave him two articles I had written which were on my "first shot" evidence and the other article was on the evidence for two simultaneous shots to the head (the fatal shot). But I also gave him a note indicating my strong disapproval of his handling the Oswald New Orleans radiodebate. I pointed out that on page 590 he had entirely omitted Oswald's "I was under the protection of the U.S." remark. (Mailer's book has three dots indicating something left out). In my strong note to him, I asked: "Aren't you just as guilty as the Warren Commission as having left out vital evidence?"

You might also be interested in knowing that Mailer was on a KGO station being interviewed. A researcher friend of mine (Bill O'Neil) who also attended the Mailer talk said he taped it & will send me a copy. Bill said Mailer was making the most ridiculous statements about the case & was not being countered for his remarks. Bill will send me a copy of the tape & when I get it, I'll

send you a copy. I know you're writing a book on Mailer & it should be useful.

I also thought it rather interesting that after Mailer lambasted Posner in Dallas last year.

He said Posner was a "sloppy writer" & "cut corners". In addition he said Posner got Oswald's attempted suicide in Russia incident all wrong. Yet, despite all this, who does Mailer use as a reference point? None other than Posner! And, of course, he also cites Epstein & MacMillan as authorities. The final blow is his use of Schiller. With "friends" like this, who needs enemies?!!

I'll close now with a few more notes on things you may ponder on:

(1) NBC contacted me (from their Burbank TV studio). They wanted to see some of the videos I'm doing for my 14 hour series ("Assassination Update"). I sent them two videos - one on the JFK case & the other on Malcolm X. They sent them back to me - said they weren't interested. They wrote "Your material wasn't right for our show." This is about the standard & stock reply I've gotten whenever I try to get into mainstream media.

Walt Brown told me that Dick Russell's book has been cancelled by Carroll & Graf.

By the way although I put in an order for your book, "New Again", from my local

-D-

book-store, they said there was still no word except that it would be out in May. As of 5/13/95 still no word it has come in.

One final note: while reading a book, "FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY" by Christopher Andrew, I came across this - "The CIA assessment of Oswald was prepared by Arthur Dooley, dated March 20, 1964 (declassified August 1993)."

I've not heard of Dooley - have you? According to the dust jacket blurb the author Andrew is described as a "guest lecturer" at the CIA.

Well, that is about all for now. I want to get all this in the mail to you.

Best,

Hal Vukobratovic