

Dear Jim,

7/17/73

Your Friday's mailing came today. Sorry I threw away two pages of Szulc on Hunt. Sorry also that I dropped the paper-knife while cutting the sheets of 3M and that I left a little out on the right end of one. It is comprehensible. These were made from an over-exposed xerox. I sent you the printed copy, which I got after the xerox.

Glad to have an excuse to unwind a bit before bed. Lil has settled down with the galleys, her first peek. She promptly forgot about gift horses and complained about the lines omitted in copying.

I got an early start this a.m., getting much done before breakfast, didn't take the walk I need because of rain, and got the paper read and clipped before the hearings began. (Sorry about the occasional pale places on the worn-out ribbon. The stud runs through.

Between sessions I knocked out about 2,000 words, then, with a mower finally working, mowed until dark.

Before you decide if you can conjecture further with me, read the two missing pages. Second half of the box is the first.

I think CIA is going just a bit further than disassociating from Hunt. I think they want to hurt him a bit, and I think they have cause to worry about him. More if he were not so rabid a political nut. I'd go so far as to say perhaps playing a few of their psychological games. Consider some of the personal crack and the certainty that they have, among many profiles, those of shrinks. And many who don't have to be shrinks have to know him well. (Do any of the names in the galleys mean anything to you? I'm sorry I didn't make a list of them. It might interest us and it might interest Sussman, who has been receptive to suggestions. (Turns out I also know his secretary. She dated a reporter friend of mine in a distant city, then moved to DC.

Also, you might, after you read the galleys, recall what Hunt omits that Szulc has, his post when assigned to Piggery. "Montevideo." He hid it when it is in his published bios. No need. But Szulc has his embarrassment that could have come only from CIA, what he got caught at in "Montevideo." He says, instead, that big shot that he wants to be believed he is, he was having a cup of coffee with the President. In those days, by the way, there was no El Presidente in Uruguay. They had a committee of 8 or 9 who rotated, as I recall.

The crack about not knowing what an available woman is for is addressed to what I know I and I think both of us diagnosed in his fiction, substitution. That was guaranteed to hurt him, esp. when he was already calling for his mouthpiece in the wee small.

Your 7/12 raises the question, did he know GL in those days, you say 1961, but at least a year earlier and not likely after 1/20/61. You'll have an independent opinion after you read the galleys. I think it probable. When you wrote these you didn't know you were getting the galleys, which should be there before this. I am reasonably certain that, given what we know of both, he and GL had their heads together. Not impossible after fiasco, either.

Your ref to The Invisible Government tells me I was careless or you didn't get one of my letters. I had this and several other citations, to Schlesinger and Sorensen. I'm sure and I think Six Crises. Howard is to copy the appropriate pages from it for me. He also goes into this in the Reader's Digest piece, which I do have and have read. He and Hunt, he much less so, are fuzzy on the Pal Beach briefing during the interregnum. I believe with neither is this an accident. JFK never approved any kind of US intervention or any use of air power. Hunt slips in the galleys and says JFK was only told the plans. That he imposed strictures even Hunt can't completely hide. JFK didn't sell the brigade out. CIA and the military did. Both knew no exile invasion could succeed. As I ~~was~~ will say in Tiger, it was the one one to entrap JFK, to engineer a failure and then work on his to succor the valiant few.

Now let me back up a bit with another conjecture. First, the marks on the galleys I sent you are NOT mine. They are on the copy Sussman gave me. They coincide neatly with Szulc, if you will note, so I suggest that the Post's copy was made from Szulc's. We know of one other copy only, UPI's. We don't know if it is its or Szulc's.

As I remember it, I noted earlier that this is not typical publisher practise. First of all, they try to seal the subsidiary rights. Next, the timing is off-much too early. I believe I thought that Hunt might have insisted on it, as he insisted on the same:

...ected kind of blackmail, it was still stupidly
(... understood.) So, let us consider another possibility,
... proofs.

The copy Sussman gave me was made on a Royfax machine or one like it, used in newspaper offices because it will take a half page. I can't see a special reason for a machine like this in a bureau, although there might be a need. I also believe that if Szulc had made the copy, he'd not have used a Royfax, and if Sussman made a copy from Szulc's, he'd have given them to his secretary and she'd have used the newsroom copier. I can't say I've resolved this. By the way, the set I sent you was made on a Royfax, and what is missing was on my original. The machine is one that cuts paper from a roll. The sizes are identical. When the copy was made, a sheet or the original was laid on the bed and the cutting-point was set from it.

But for theorizing, who had an interest in letting this out now?

We know Hunt may have. We know the publisher should not have. Because Hunt seems to have gotten the pitch from Buckley's whitening out his voice and altering the transcript, witness Hunt's silence on the point thereafter, I think it most likely that the agency got and used the proofs. The collateral rights are now shot, the edge is off the book, and there is nothing Hunt can do.

Hunt isn't blackmailing the Agency with this book. They are not worried about his badmouthing now. It may even make them look better. He is blackmailing GL. GL was blackmailing the Agency. Another ring around a single Rosey. Here please note that when Dean quoted GL on WG blackmail, reference was to Hunt alone. And Hunt would deal with Colson only. What was explicit was that he'd talk. He alone could. Thus \$1,000,000 was no problem, esp. when it would be someone else's.

With Hunt's wife dead and him in jail, the odds are shifted much. He now has and should know he has a survival problem. He and GL can stand each other off, he by securely depositing what he can say about GL if anything happens to him and GL by being in a position to see to it that what can happen does if he talks. It is, I think, at least a reasonable speculation. I'd like your opinion(s). Before you decide, add to what you know and think of GL what he has written to which I've referred, more than Wise and Ross, RD, 6 Crises, 1000 Days, etc. Hunt also knows what he was really up to in the WH and with Bennett, another tale I'll tell soon. The research is completed. Enough, anyway.

To simplify and wrap up, we were more right than we knew to dope him out as they key at the outset. He was and is. My hunch is that Buckley is his depository.

All these wheels and one hub. My, my!

Best,