

1 April 1973

Dear Harold:

Just read the Hinckle piece in the April Esquire and naturally don't understand it. Agree with you that the chief mystery, however, is about Hinckle and Turner.

It seems to me that the main thrust intended is suggested by the subtitle on the pasted-on plug glued to the cover, where it says, after "The Ramparts Caper," "Russian Spies, the CIA and the JFK Assassination Conspiracy Hoax." In other words, any theory about a conspiracy has to be a hoax. This of course is not borne out anywhere in the article. For while Hinckle does not favor a conspiracy in anything he says, neither does he knock down the idea that there may have been one.

This could account for why <sup>Esquire</sup> ~~Ramparts~~ used the article, or was persuaded to use it, or obtained approval for using it.

As to why Hinckle wrote it, probably with Turner's help, one can only speculate. Neither has a regular job that I know of, and one or both may have just figured out a way to use some of the material they had lying around.\* It may, as you suggest, have something to do with plugging the book they have out with Asinov, although I don't see it as being too helpful in this respect. It is helpful, of course in any general campaign to make Garrison look ridiculous and incidentally further discredit any assassination conspiracy theories. No doubt many things are left out, but the one I find most interesting is any mention of the movie, which Bill still had the last time I heard and was lending to anyone who wanted to see it. Last summer or fall HV borrowed it and showed it to a group. I happen to know because he left it at the office for me to return to Bill, which I arranged to do by telephone and then left it in his car outside his house. And if Bill still has several hundred copies of the book in his basement, this of course is an open invitation to anyone interested to order it.

I cannot fit this into any larger timing design, unless it be that someone may fear that something further about the assassination (s) may be in danger of being revealed.

Will be much interested in your own reaction.

FYI, Larry Bensky is now a RPPA regular and was one of those Pacifica sent to Miami last summer to cover the conventions.. Don't know when he left Ramparts, but presume it was around the time Hinckle did, and my impression is he's been with RPPA for somewhat more than a year.

Best,

  
jdw

\*Before throwing out the rest of the magazine, the STM went through it and found a note on Hinckle in the first three ~~one~~ <sup>four</sup> of / pages which says the article is part of a book he has coming out in May via Putnam: "If You Have a Lemon, Make Lemonade." Described the book as autobiographical.