

24 March 1975

Dear Harold:

Your mailing of the 21st came in today, confirming that the Sahl deal is (or was) off. Let's hope his ex-producer comes through.

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In case he does, and if you still are ~~shown~~ to touch base at San Francisco, you'll want to know that Hal Verb says he wants to see you.

He called last Saturday, the 22nd, and asked if we knew you were supposed to be in town. I said yes, we understood you might be doing a show of some kind in LA early this week, but that we did not know how firm it was or when you were supposed to make the trip. He then said (without saying how he had heard about your coming) that it was true he hadn't written to you for a long time, that he had simply been too busy with his job and taking care of the store on top of that to take on anything more, but that if you turned up he definitely would like to see you. I said I'd let you know.

After your letter of the 21st came today, I called him ~~again~~ and told him the arrangement you had been counting on had not panned out but that you still hoped to make the trip sometime soon. He repeated that he would like to see you. I again said I'd relay that to you.

I told him one reason I called him was that I didn't know whether you yet had informed everyone here that you weren't coming immediately, and that he might need to relay it to his source for the original report that you were coming this way. He said, yes, that he would do that, and ~~that~~ volunteered that the person who had told him about your coming was a man who is very good with tapes, can ~~copy~~ tape anything. What this is supposed to mean I have no way of knowing, and I asked him no questions. He volunteered nothing further. The rest of conversation involved only his theory that the story about the salvaged Russian submarine is designed to distract attention from something else, and my replay that yes, a lot of that sort of thing seems to be going on.

I think that in view of these meager details, and considering the background of the whole question of Hal, any initial meeting between the two of you should not involve us. He gave no indication of why he wants to see you, but if it involves explanations (which could just as well be done directly in a letter) for what he has and hasn't done, then that is a matter between the two of you and should not be subjected to the presence of anyone else. I've not told him this, as the conversation didn't get anywhere near such a stage. But we both feel strongly that anything you and Hal have to work out does not and should not concern us.

At the end of your letter you ask if we "want Assassination Tapes?" and that you have an extra copy. I don't recognize the term, so have no idea what it is. Can you explain briefly? Thanks.

We note no further mention of Lesar being co-opted. Any developments?

Best,  jdw