

20 June 1978

HW:

Yr 6/14/78 re Paul Avery and the Center for Investigative Reporting:

I've known Paul professionally for perhaps 20 years, first as a stringer in Honolulu and later as our stringer on the local Chronicle. He always scared me to death, frankly, a hard drinker inclined to wildness, and we always doublechecked everything he gave us. He had a sharp nose and eye and often was right, but you never could tell.

He left the Chronicle a year or two ago to write a book with another guy about Patty Hearst, which I believe has been published but know nothing more about it. Don't know what he's doing now.

If you use him, be careful. He's able, as many wild men are.

My impressions of him are confirmed by an ex-Chronicle friend.

This friend never has heard of the Center for Investigative Reporting, which is not listed in the SF telephone directory.

I think I've heard of it during the past year or two, but can't be sure. My impression is that it is a sort of rallying point for a number of relicts of Ramparts, Mother Jones and possibly even Rolling Stone.

It well could be a front for guys like Bill Turner and Warren Hinckle III. I don't know. Hickie has returned to the Chronicle to write trivia about what the 60s generation is doing now, and I think I saw some hint recently that Bill Turner has made some sort of connection with PBS in Washington. Could be with Seven Days in NY, can't be at all certain.

I have one other possible source to check which I can't reach today. If I get anything further I'll let you know.

Best,

jdw