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91403

August 24, 1970

Dear Sylvia (and Mary),

Thanks for the telephone call today. I was glad to hear that you view the situation with our disturbed friend as I do.

Now as to what to do about this -- how to pry this egg loose from our mother hen - is the problem at hand. I agree something - or some pressure should be exerted- and your idea sounds good. I would have, however, one suggestion for what it's worth. In order to bring maximum pressure and at the same time get a manuscript out of him, what about calling him up and laying it on the line.

Tell him you have consulted with Mary and Fred and the three of us have decided we've had enough of his games. Without going into the reasons - let him wonder what you've learned from Mary and I - tell him that in two months or one month that you expect a complete manuscript on your doorstep or else. Then tell him the or else part. I feel that if you tell him you are going to sick the press on him he will just turn this around to his benefit - use the press to trumpet his forthcoming book.

If he thinks you know something about his research - and you do - it will drive David right up the wall. He has told us how important it is to cultivate your favor so that when he heads for New York with this manuscript you will be of help to him. He also feels that his research is so unique or revolutionary that if you were not properly prepared for it that you might reject it. He would like your endorsement and considers it necessary.

Another suggestion - David's father and mother live in New York - Brooklyn I think - and they know what his work is all about. His father has been financing this project and has sent David his final stipend (or so he told me) so there might be some value in your paying them a visit. I don't know.

He has an area in this case - I think it's the autopsy as he's told me about telephone calls to Humes, Kellerman and Greer (I've heard partial tapes of the Greer interview) that are quite important. His research into the Secret Service is fantastic and started me off on my own in this area. He's a good researcher and he's brilliant, but unstable in his dealings with others.

Am enclosing David's latest letter even though some of this you will not understand without explanation. Mary probably will not have this difficulty as she knows more about this relationship.

David has a difficult time understanding inside family humor or the idea of friendship's without some reason of gain. His total misunderstanding of the "duck" episode is an excellent example - or Mary and Jim's visits.

Another example - his lack of understanding regarding my not sharing the cronologies with him. Mary told me not to let these out of my hands - or even tell him that I had them.

He can't understand that Jim Ferrell came out here to see my daughter and that they wanted to be alone alot and not sit around discussing the assassination.

Val told David exactly when Jim would get in town - she just didn't want him meeting the plane and monopolize the limited time they had. He can't understand that and thinks we were avoiding him to withhold some mythical photographs from him. Nonsense.

His letter is an almost classical example of what psychologists call a projection. When he accuses me of trying to impede his work or doublecross him - he really shows this. All of us, you, Mary -- have spent hours trying to help him while he has looked upon us as customers in his assassination store.

I got a call from Long Beach State and included Dave in on the lecture. We got a fee for this of \$100.00 a piece and he now quarrels over my not presenting my train slides. One of the reasons was that he talked a lot and didn't leave me much time.

Same thing with Baxter Ward TV show. They came to me first, and I sent them over to Dave. He was very nervous about what I was going to talk about both at Long Beach State and on T.V. He insisted that I do my train research - which I feel is not very good and would be embarrassed to restate publically. He kept after me to fill my time with this and not get into any high level stuff. I did not go into any good stuff out of consideration to Dave - but made a promise to myself not to appear with Dave at any future date, which I intend to keep. He's so busy protecting his research that he sounds like Donald Duck or a man telling a great story and leaving out the punch line.

I'm sure he has a punch line, but the games he has been playing for the last four years are beginning to get to him. It's a sad story - just the opposite of Jim Garrison. Jim had nothing and became a circus barker with it. David has something and is afraid to reveal it.

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David's "camouflage" theory is simply a projection of his own D.I. He gets you looking in the trees and in the bushes so you won't look at what's going on in the motorcade.

I'll rush this off and write more later. I suppose I should not send you Dave's letter, but he has a way of expressing himself that makes any reply of mine unnecessary. I did not answer all his points because I don't feel like writing 10 pages of self-justification. Nor am I going to answer David - his letter speaks for itself, I think.

The best thing I can do, I feel, is to go back to my regular work and in my spare time try to put together memo's on what I can contribute to the case - and circulate these for criticism.

Let me know what happens...

Onward,



FRED

CC: Mary Ferrell

Dearest Mary - hi - please excuse the carbon copy, but wanted to get our thoughts off to both you and Sylvia as quickly as possible. Say hi to everyone and we will write again soon.