

Telephone call from Tom Bethell, 11:45 p.m. Friday 11/3/67

He called mainly "to hear a sane voice"--very upset, in aftermath of row with Mark Lane. One of the asst DAs was looking for Ferrie file, Tom found ML reading it, blew up at him, resenting fact he was there to "help" but was only reading all their stuff without showing any files of his own. That he has files is clear from naive remarks by Mrs. ML, suggesting that DA's office will be interested in files ML will show them (which he never has done). Rather, he has been soaking up and xeroxing their stuff. Tom suspects him, all the others in the office resent him equally, but are too scared to make an issue of ML with Garrison. Garrison is placating ML in every way, apparently fearing ML may do a Gurvich, sooner or later.

ML told Tom he had permission to read and xerox the files. Played dumb on stuff Lifton had given him to give G., pretending it was only a clip of a Drew Pearson column. Lifton stuck by story he gave ML real stuff but did not fuss, felt he had probably forgotten to turn it over, not deliberately withheld it. Tom feels he must confront G. re ML and if he does not go along with Tom, he must quit. I told him he had a strong ace, and not to forget that he had it--i.e., G. cannot afford a second Gurvich.

Ed Epstein has SSD, was rather sneering about Tink as "latecomer," said there were four books coming out but he intended to read only SM's....Jones Harris hasn't been around lately, because of ML's presence...Tom rather likes him...Dr. Nichols was there with important drawing, they are sworn to secrecy, but it proves no bullet from TSBD window could have struck neck at all...He does not seem to know what to do with it, feels it has commercial value, probably wants to make some \$ out of it...