

May 2, 1968

Dear Sylvia,

I want to thank you so much for your letter of April 2. I have been bogged down in a major reorganization of my file cabinets at this end, and am just getting out from under. In that process, I have managed to sort out and isolate that material on Kerry Thornley, which I think you will find is of some interest.

(Your contacts and thoroughness are so good, Sylvia, that I sometimes wonder if it is possible to surprise you with anything! I must say I was most impressed to send you a recording that I fancied was some sort of rare item, only to learn in a few days mail, that you ~~XXX~~ can pluck a perfectly typed transcript from such files practically overnight.)

Anyway, enclosed find:

- 1) Xerox copy of 12 page "Statement of Kerry Thornley dated September 28, 1967 Regarding His Warren Commission Deposition"
- 2) Xerox copy of 1 page "Statement of Kerry Wendell Thornley Dated September 28, 1967 Regarding the U-2 Airplane at Atsugi, Japan"
- 3) Xerox copy of 1 page "Statement of Kerry Wendell Thornley dated September 28, 1967 Regarding Russian Instruction at Atsugi, Japan"
- 4) Xerox copy of 1 page "Statement of David S. Lifton Dated September 28, 1967 Regarding Heindel/Oswald Conversations as Recollected by Kerry Thornley"
- 5) Xerox copy of 1 page statement, dated Jan. 18, 1968, regarding meeting at Century Plaza Hotel, LA Calif., of November 19, 1967, with Jim Garrison; signed and notarized; by David Lifton
- 6) 1 copy of page 4 of Feb 1967 issue of "Innovator" (Innovator is a newsletter put out by a California group. Was once edited by Kerry Thornley, but not at the time this appeared)
- 7) 4 pages of "Garrison Probe Data", written by Kerry Thornley recently, and approved for release by his lawyer
- 8) 17 pages of press clippings from a) Florida newspapers
b) Vieux Carre Courier, an "underground" paper published in the NO French Quarter; some misc. clippings from elsewhere
- 9) An eleven page statement, typed up today, titled "Thoughts and Comments about DA Garrison and Kerry Thornley"

Some comments are in order.

In my letter to you of March 30, I mentioned that I was preparing some type of running narrative on Kerry's plight, and how I saw it evolve from this end. I never got around to doing it, but I am always thinking about just what I want to say in it. This week, Kerry wanted such an item, for his use; also, someone at the Berkley Barb wanted to do a story, so I sat down this morning and ran through most of it in about 4 hours time. With few exceptions, this is entirely first draft. With revisions, I could probably turn it into some type of article.

I would like to hear any reactions you may want to pass along as to the opinions I hold there, some of the incidents described, or anything else about it. Right now, the only copies I'm sending anywhere are this one to you, one to Kerry, and one to this reporter at the Barb. And, of course, I'll probably give a copy to Bill if he finds it of any use. (Bill has been in such regular touch with me, as this developed, that there will probably be nothing new in it). You know, I consciously tried to reign myself in as I wrote this, yet the finished product is probably emotional enough to cause an immediate order for my excommunication to go out if it was read by any of the really pro-Garrison people.

A second "Citizens Committee" has sprung up out here. Despite its controversial origins, it has nothing to do with Donald Freed, and that stationary fiasco. It is run by some enthusiastic and level headed people. They are sponsoring me in a slide presentation, tentatively entitled: "Conspiracy or Treason?; The Case for Three Assassins". The reason for the first part of the title is that I have written up a ten minute speech with which I intend to start off that deals with the chronology of Vietnam involvement, the Rusk-Johnson relationship, and other political matters. I am interested in seeing whether it is possible to responsibly present the two theses as part of the same talk. I think it is possible, if the proper use of the conditional and the subjunctive is made throughout. Besides, one of the points I want to get across is the difference in conception between something that is a top level plot, and planned beforehand; and something that is what I have dubbed a "right wing mini-plot" and planned in David Ferrie's apartment in New Orleans, a la Garrison.

I have one request to ask of you, if I can. I recently obtained a copy of the tape where you and others appeared at the Theatre of New Ideas in New York. I started to transcribe it. Then the thought occurred to me that, in your own thorough way, you may have entirely transcribed this tape already. Have you done so? If so, could I obtain a copy? I am not so interested in a partial transcript, unless it so well edited that only really trivial material has been left out. If the transcript is long, I would gladly be willing to pay you for whatever the reproduction costs are.

And then I have a second request. Quite some time ago, you wrote a really long reply to Specter's USNR article, and to Arnold Fein's article in the Saturday review. I once had a chance to glance at the first, and I've heard of the second. I consider them both to be "critical classics" which I'd love to have copies of, if I might.

I hope I have not deluged you with too much material at the same time, and I hope it is interesting enough to keep you reading.

Best regards
David
David