

638 Royal Street,
New Orleans,
La. 70130
June 21, 1971

Dear Sylvia,

I feel a little guilty writing after so long a period, but better late than never. As you will see, I'm back at my old address on Royal Street.

I'm concerned about Mary Ferrell, and I wondered if you could shed any light. I had not heard from her since Xmas, and wrote about a month ago, but got no answer, which is most unlike her. I know that shortly before Xmas she was very worried about the possibility that her son, Jimmy, had contracted meningitis in the Army, but, as I understood it, this turned out to be a false alarm. If you have heard from her lately, I would appreciate hearing from you as to whether she is well.

I would also be interested to hear if you ever got any action out of David Lifton on his magnum opus. I wouldn't mind betting that he's still sitting on it. (I haven't forgotten our bet, by the way.)

You probably heard that a federal judge here blocked the further prosecution of Clay Shaw by JG on perjury charges. Garrison then attacked the judge in the worst possible manner and taste (some think he was hoping he would be cited for contempt,) and Garrison has said he will appeal the judge's ruling, which was very strongly worded, saying, in effect, that the whole prosecution of Shaw had been in bad faith and that G had a financial interest in it.

Only today, Bill Alford, an exec. assistant DA, resigned the office and charged that ~~the~~ case fixing was rampant, organized crime flourishing, and, in a rather delicious metaphor, likened the office to a "house of ill-repute" where "business is good and everyone comes out smiling." He said that Garrison has only been to the office 5 or 6 times since January 1.

My case was due to proscribe last Tuesday, but on the very day it would have been over and done with, G set trial for that day. It was then duly continued on motion filed by my lawyer, and thus runs for another year. My lawyer was rather fed up about the whole thing and toyed with the idea of going to trial, but then thought it best not to, bearing in mind the allegiances of the judge.

I had a short article published in 'The Nation' about the Partin-Hoffa case, and I have just sent off a much longer piece, which I sincerely hope they print. I have had no luck getting the Lewis book published, and I'm now going to start on the rounds of the University presses, which I'm sure is my only hope.

I would love to hear from you again. I hope you are well and happy; I'm wondering if you've found another project. I must say the New York Times story is quite a shocker, although, on the other hand, hardly different from what most people had suspected.

All best wishes,

Tom