1.3. Use a talk with weent by phone the other night. Iditon apparently had boasted to his some time ago of his breaking-and-entering and his acquisition of super-important can information, though weeht's recollection had become value as to exact details. He did not remember at all, interestingly enough, a call it will histon read his an autopsy report on an unneadeletersyles deniar that he ever suggested may injection of air or the like. Could be have forgotten much a conversations or could anten beyonted it all? I just don't know what to think.

accounts of his planets for your letter of the 28th hold was nost interested in your as jud accounts of his to go to a hazarine if his family result interested in your a jud accounts of his to go to a hazarine if his family result in the cone certains that he would be defeated to less that had he done so anyhow, then of the simple service of trath and justice, the nervice here here as a less that had he done to have of the to pass—nor, indeed, the many other horrors we have witnessed, not since LBJ abdicated in 1968 but, rather, since Lifton acquired his decisive information in October 1966, which I imagine we all remember quitewwell.

By the way, I meant to ask you a facetious question in my preceding letter but forgot to include it. What significance would Al Newman (or Garrison, for that matter) read into the strange fact that your street number is "4640" while Mary Ferrell's is "4406"? I shudder to think!

I think, Fred, that you may have misunderstood my question about why the lawyers did nothing when they became aware of Lifton's "find." Your analysis is directed at the reasons why the lawyers and/or the Commission did nothing, before or after Lifton's find, to expose what does indeed seem to have been a coup d'etat, by the palace guard or the next in succession. On that score, I generally agree with your reasoning. But what I really was questioning is why, given the stakes (protecting the institutions of government or the government as the national institution, and also protecting individual careers, reputations, and places in history), nothing was done to thwart disclosure by Lifton of his find—by compromising the evidence itself, if it could be done, or by destroying it (a fortuitous fire or explosion), or by destroying Lifton or all possibility of his future credibility. Even, it occurs to me, by beating him to the punch and disclosing the find, with suitable "explanation" which would disara the weapon and render it innocuous.

What does puzzle me is that they should sit around year after year, wondering if and when this explosive information will be made public, as if resigned to take their medicine like little gentlemen if need be.

You say that you do not know what you would have done had you been in the shoes of the Commission membersoor lawyers who understood the situation and backed off. Perhaps in the context of 1963-1964 it did pose a really painful dilemma (although, for myself, I believe that I would not have hesitated for one moment, then, later, or now, to disclose and let come what may). But with the hindsight that we now enjoy, it seems apparent that it was the suppression that set into motion a chain of disastrous events which have moved the country to the brink of disintegration and civil war. Can any of us believe that the cover-up, and the railroading of an innocent pawn, "saved" the country from any fate worse than we now seem to face?

I will of course gladly read with interest your presentation of the nature and the level of the plot, as you have reasoned it out. But you should not belittle your own abilities as a writer. Your letters are sufficient to demonstrate a distinct gift for organizing and expressing ideas and for communicating information, as well as for formulating cogent arguments in support of a particular position. I do enjoy your letters, as I also enjoy Mary's, for style as well as content.

I would love to spend some time with you and Marlynn and Mary but from here to July 1971 I am riveted here, by a heavy program of work at my office. Perhaps next summer....but it is far too early even to be tentative about. Much affection,

P.S. Had a talk with Wecht by phone the other night. Lifton apparently had boasted to him some time ago of his breaking-and-entering and his acquisition of super-important new information, though Wecht's recollection had become vague as to exact details. He did not remember at all, interestingly enough, a call in which Lifton read him an autopsy report on an unnamed person, and denies that he ever suggested any injection of air or the like. Could he have forgotten such a conversation? or could Lifton have invented it all? I just don't know what to think.

ent dasogqasetstat \$4el tdeer, herinique, inida we coitsutia these and you as tud anequase initation itself to the service of the service of

by the way, I meant to ask you a facetious question in my preceding letter but forgot to include it. What significance would Al Newsan (or Garrison, for that matter) read into the strange fact that your street number is "4640" while Mary Perrell's is "4400" I shudder to think!

I think, ired, that you may have disunderstood my question about why the lawyers did nothing when they becade aware of bifton's "find." Your analysis is directed at the reasons and the lawyers and/or the Commission did nothing, before or after bifton's find, to expose what does indeed seem to have been a coup d'elst, by the palace guard or the next in succession. On that score, I generally agree with your reasoning. But what I really was questioning to why, given the stakes (protecting the institutions of government or the government as the national institution, and also protecting individual careers, reputations, and places in history), nothing was done to their thant disciosure a lifton of his find—by compromising the evidence itself, if it could be done, or by destroying it (a fortuitous fire or explosion), or by destroying lifton or all possibility of his future credibility. Even, it occurs to me, by besting his to the punch and disclosing the find, with suitable "explanation" which would disarm the weapon and render it innocuous.

bitat does puzzle me is that they should sit around year after year, wondering if and when this explosive information will be made public, as if resigned to take their medicine like little gentlemen if need be.

You say that you do not know what you would have done had you been in the shoes of the Comission membersoof lawyers who understood the situation and becked off. Perhaps in the context of 1963-1964 it did pose a really gainful dilemma (although, for myself, I believe that I would not have hesitated for one noment, then, later, or now, to disclose and let come what may). But with the indesignt that we now enjoy, it seems apparent that it was the suppression that set into action a chain of disastrous events which have moved the country to the brink of disintegration and civil war. Oan any of us believe that the cover-up, and the railroading of an innocent pawn, "saved" the country from any fate worse than we now seem to face?

I will of course gladly read with interest your presentation of the nature and the lovel of the pict, as you have reasoned it out. But you should not belittle your own abilities as a griter. Your letters are sufficient to demonstrate a distinct gift for organizing and say or suppositing information, as well an for localisting cogent organizating in support of a particular position. I do enjoy four letters, as I also ealoy Nery's, for style as well as content.

l would love to apend some time with you and darlynn and wary out from mere to buly 1971 I am riveted here, by a heavy program of work at my office. Testmys most maner...but it is far too early even to be tentwive about. Such Siection,