

MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

January 22, 1969

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12th St.
New York, N.Y. 10014

Dear Sylvia,

Your remarks about my Martinsburg work were kind. I don't know whether I mentioned it, but I have a taped interview with Mrs. Hoover, but no copies of the transcript I made. She adds very little heresay to that already provided, and a few more pieces of observation, including something in which I put little faith--that on one occasion when Dr. Fernandez was drunk, he said something about the CIA in Washington. It is interesting, though, that someone else who has no knowledge of Mrs. Hoover's observations or suspicions, told me a similar story. In addition, Mrs. Hoover does not know what the CIA is, except that she has heard the word before and knows that it has something to do with the government.

Your observations are acute and I am in agreement with them. As you say, the whole thing is inconclusive. I also agree on Mrs. Hoover's account of the thing in the living room. I do not think that she purposely lied, but probably that she let her suspicions carry her away. I am convinced that she found the paper and still hope that she can produce it. She sent a huge bundle of things to Garrison which either never arrived, or which ended up in a waste basket. There is one thing of which you may not be aware which would amplify your comments on the town's attitude toward the Cubans. It seems that, like most Americans, the people there don't have the slightest idea what a communist is like, and therefore tend to class people different from themselves, or from a place like Cuba which is now considered "communist," as communists. When I first met Mrs. Hoover at her door, she said: "How do I know that you are not a communist?" She had me there since there is no way one can prove a negative like that. Even my offer of copies of the FBI reports on herself didn't do the trick, so I used my ace in the hole--the FBI reports of what her relatives said about her. Even then I had to almost force her to let me in. After a few minutes of conversation, everything was fine, but for those first 15-20 minutes I thought ~~that~~ all of my effort was for naught. Since that time, she has enabled me to speak to others in the town, and I was very lucky since absolutely no one else knew anything about the incident, the paper, or the FBI interviews.

My projects along these lines now include checks on Mr. Fernandez and his kids. I feel that there is a chance that he may have had foreknowledge in a similar fashion to those Cubans who had such knowledge prior to the Bay of Pigs. This is difficult work for an amateur who has neither time nor money. Even given ~~##~~ my lack of experience I could have done much more and done it faster had I had time and money.

In regard to "Farewell America," what you and Dave suggest is, of course, possible, and I can't really comment on it except to say that it would not be difficult to test empirically, since both Jim's copy of the Z film and the one in Farewell are quite distinctive. If you see the film I would be greatly interested in your observations, since no matter what links there~~##~~ are with Garrison, there may be links with the government also, and you are knowledgeable enough to spot inconsistencies, etc. #

The other evening I had a long conversation with Dave on the phone which was quite enjoyable, although I'm afraid that he supplied ~~me~~ with more info on Garrison than I supplied him. Not only does being in the Midwest put me out of touch, but I have never been in touch with Garrison. I do occasionally send stuff to Lou Ivon, but generally do it through Weisberg. I essentially work away and do much public speaking, but find out little about Garrison or his work. When speaking publicly I have~~#~~ no need for such knowledge since I speak of Dealy Plaza and related topics. Because I am the only critic of the WR in this area of the Midwest, and since I pretty well brought such things to this area, there is little danger that I will suffer too badly if Garrison's ship sinks, although the Shaw trial gives me much chance to speak publicly and make those rare TV appearances so as to be able to show slides on TV.

In the future I will send you more material for any comment you may have. I will be sharing stuff with Dave also so I am sure that from time to time he may communicate some of it to you. I have agreed to go in with him, and you (?), Paul Hoch, and others on a big order from the Archives. There is still much in the Archives worth viewing.

I find it hard to believe that if Bobbs-Merrill has really tried to get your book into paperback they have met with failure. As vulgar as it may sound, with the Shaw trial such books will be in demand. In any event, the title is a good one and should sell the book. Obviously, I am speaking in the vulgar terms of the market because surely there are some publishers that would handle it for this reason alone. Have you tried any publishers yourself? We need a book like yours available in paperback so that people can afford it on a large scale. I could sell hundreds but here given 6 months, and have sold a number of hardbacks, since it is really the only book on the case which is solid and complete. I'm afraid that in hardback it does little good in terms of reaching people.

Take care and stay away from the flu.

Gary