

10/30/69

Mr. Prescott S. Nichols
1787 Neale St.,
San Diego, Calif. 92103

Dear Nich,

In the past year I have written George at least 6-8 times without response. Once I phoned him (not home), once he phoned me, after the New Orleans fiasco, to ask questions and promise what he has not done. Two things impel me to write you now, when I have a few minutes, for writing you has been on my mind for a week and a half.

The good news first: Bradley will not press his suit against you - the people or the committee. He has been here to see me, we have what I believe is a good relationship, and I am now satisfied he will not press his suits against several, of whom you (plural) are part. I believe he also will not push against Penn. The difference is that in your case I was able to persuade him that I can provide you with the required, substantial defense against the legal necessity on his part, of proving malicious intent. I do not ~~remember~~ know whether you recall it, but when I was asked about him, when I appeared under your suspicions, I freely said I had no reason to believe he was in any way connected with the assassination. Thus, you gave both sides, and he cannot prove malice.

Sorry the ribbon on this ancient machine has decided to stick with the first white frost, making my bad typing worse than its usual bad.

In the case of Penn, who is by nature a fine person but who long ago crossed the line into paranoia and has done and continues to do strange things, I was able to persuade Bradley on a different basis: his chances of collection are slight because Penn has no money of his own and the size of any possible award cannot possibly be worth the cost and effort because damages will be measured in terms of circulation, and Penn's paper, including freebies, is in the neighborhood of only 800.

If he shows any signs of pressing his case against you, please let me know immediately. I think he will concentrate on those of me and I think he has a good chance of success, for there is little doubt he was wronged. There has been so much sycophancy, so much irresponsibility - and it takes so much time trying to diminish the consequences and clean up behind them.

When I phoned Melvina and when I last wrote George, Internal Revenue had begun a full field audit of me. There need be nothing sinister about this and I do not believe it is connected with the work I have been doing. Now there has been a strange and rather long interruption in it, and again I do not suggest or believe it need be or is in any way sinister. They have lost part of their copies of the files on me. This does happen, and I believe the auditor who has given me this explanation when I asked him to finish the job.

I am without apprehension about the outcome, for our books are in good shape and they are honest. There may be some problems from what may not be usual, and here you figure in it. One of the things he decided to spot check is the cost and return from my trip under your suspicions. It is here that he stopped work. He says he will be back when his people have found the lost files (I can imagine them having been borrowed by another agency). They will not make sense to him, despite the inordinately low expenses on that trip. The reason: the return does not cover even the air fare. I am aware of the problem you people ran into. However, you did assure me in advance that I would get all my expenses back and enough of an honorarium to cover the expenses of the side trips I would make with this as a base (perhaps sometime I will be able to tell you how extraordinarily important these were).

George told me that when you could you'd make up the rest. By phone he said he was sending me \$100 on this. When I never got it, I wrote him about it, one of the immediate possibilities being that the letter with the check got lost in the mails. That was not less than six months ago. Not only do we urgently need this money, for we remain, as we have been all these years, without income, and our indebtedness is in the area of \$40,000, but at this particular juncture it would look good for our books to be more comprehensible to the federal auditor. Should he decide to check all my other California trips, he will find this true of all of them. In not one case did I get even the promised return of my expenses, and when the small honoraria were added, the disbalance is about \$1,000. I had made this clear to George when he first spoke to me. It is the only such case, of all the places I have gone, and it is bound to stir a suspicious mind, no matter how true and legitimate. I do hope you will take care of this, and soon. A year is a long time, with the best of intentions.

While I am writing so long a letter, let me bring you up to date on ~~other~~ other things (not for publication). As George knew, I had done three more books by this past winter. Since then, I have completed a quarter of a million word study of the Ray/Ring case. The chances of commercial publication are now slight. Two of the books are on the autopsy and what relates, and the third on this aspect is researched and will soon, I hope, be written. I cannot exaggerate the ultimate significance of what I now have in my possession. Hopefully, I will have some aspects of it in court soon. I have some of what was thought destroyed, receipts for the destruction of other things, a fair amount of the suppressed evidence, etc.

When I was there, I had begun to get ill. George's necessarily hasty diagnosis of a minor manifestation was in error. It was out of his field and I am without criticism of him for it. When I got to N.O. I did get a correct diagnosis and temporary treatment. However, on another aspect, I also blacked out temporarily, and in the course of falling, demolished a harpsichord and sustained a lingering and probably permanent injury. A state of anxiety has set in. It is not easy to cope with, particularly with the pressing financial problems, which affect our lives and my work. However, my work continues, at slower pace. One of the costs is not taking time to correct my awful typing, for which I apologize.

Among the books I have researched is AGENT OSWALD. When I complete the autopsy work, I will return to it. I have enough now, but I hope to develop still more material on the subject. The "False Oswald" part is particularly rich, from personal investigations in New Orleans. A trip to Dallas (at the end of my trip to San Diego) was quite fruitful. Surprising who talked to me and became friends. And made it possible!

George, who stayed too busy and now, from Bradley's account, has additional personal problems, never did anything he promised. When I was there he showed me part of Lifton's unending campaign against me. He promised me copies but has

supplied them. They are, without exception, false, and in almost every case are both contrived and the opposite of truth- to his knowledge. He arranged the cancellation of the Recede debate with Liebeler, for whatever purpose and from whatever motive is in his sick mind (the best characterization the record justifies). He has been more circumspect since then, but has not ceased. Once, when greeted with silence, he got a little overconfident and challenged Gary Schoener (Box 392, Mayo Hospital, Univ. Minnesota, Minneapolis), to confront me with his libels, never dreaming Gary would. I supplied Gary with overwhelming and irrefutable disproof of all of it. Dave has been silent to Gary about this, but not to others, for reports still reach me, etc. He is up to and has accomplished no good. I would like to be in a position to address myself to all of his manufactures and I would like as complete as possible a record of them for my files. So, I ask you for this fifth, if you are in a position to supply it. If you have any doubt of my representation, I invite you to consult with Gary, who not only asked me for what I had but also confront those who are in this with Dave, from what I had sent him from my files of relations and dealings with them. You have some very strange people in California.

After and a little before the New Orleans fiasco, I tried to background George, as, you should recall, I tried to prepare all of you for what by then I regarded as the inevitable. I do not know how much of this he communicated to the rest of you, how much of it he believed or believes. However, there now is a remote chance I will be not too far from San Diego. If and when this happens, let me know if you'd like to get together, and I'll arrange it. I have the invitation. The problem is money. This time I'm not leaving until I have the actual cost in advance.

Has Paulley turned off/been turned off entirely? I think, if he has not entirely lost his interest, he would like to see what I have on the medical parts of the story. George never responded when I raised this with him. I do not now recall whether I wrote Paulley directly. I would like to know because there is only so much I can carry with me, and if I do get out there, I'd bring some of it to show him.

My best to all of you, especially Diana, who was so very pleasant all the time.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg