

5/8/71

De r Mary,

Glad to hear of the improvement in Arch. Hope it stays th t way. Less than two month ago the doctors gave Louis (Satchmo) Armstrong up, but yesterday he was discharged from the hospital.

What I sent and you returned was for your information only. When you call it deplorable you have no idea how great the understatement. You have a small personal concept of the situation. I have prevent a number of disasters, all at great emotional cost, and I have taken what I would from few, simply so that we may succeed in what we all want. You may or may not have understood it, for such people as Sue consider me in a certain way, but mine is close to the most conservative position on the assassinations, esp. that of JFK. I have rarely been wrong, in even slight detail. I have spent more time on it than anyone else, and there are some things about it I feel I understand better than anyone else. Bud is a raving maniac on it. You ought hear some of the things he says and believes.

Worse, and I believe entirely out of character for him, he has been incredibly dishonest. He has come to be like Garrison, to believe that he owns everything, I suppose in part because he has spent so much of his personal money on it. To the best of my knowledge it has been a total waste and largely hurtful. He has violated confidence time after time, associated himself with those he knows can't be trusted (as you ought know who he considered before you for his board!), has blown the work of others in ego-tripping and by violating his promises. There has to be an end. For me it has come.

My health, my nerves and my work can accept no more of this.

Nor do I think we can survive it. I am at this point: if the potential for hurt to me (I'm satisfied I've blocked the Boggs thing) is reached, I'm going to do a book I think I can get published by a large publisher: The Mardi Gras Solutions to the Political Assassinations. The part on Mark I have done. I did a fast book on him after appearance of Citizen's Dissent, one of the more disreputable trashings. But nobody has ever seen it. My purpose then was because he had done enough to cause a mistrial in the Shaw case. I refused to let Louis Ivon see it, close as I was to him then. I think you'll know who from "our" side will be in it. And there will be some from the others. I think such a book would sell. But my real purpose would be cathartic: to purge us of all this insanity, to restore our credibility, to make what we all want possible. These who like Bud want much and haven't the vaguest idea of what the real facts are today are a greater impediment than the government.

And Smith is but another Sprague, differing in that he does know more of the fact and has less difficulty knowing what might be fact. He is as far out and as underinformed. The errors on the most elemental things that come out of there are incredible, as in a draft of a motion in the spectro suit, where many mistakes were made, where the enormous work I had been asked to do was totally ignored (because it was mine, I'm sure), and all of this in court, all when I'm on tap...If Lil knew only what you know, she'd never let him him set foot in the house again. The only rational one there is Jim, who is great but whose work denies him the opportunity of learning the fact.

Best,