

advance on a book on Danister, which is what he told me he was there for. Then he decided to move there, to remain in M.O. (He seems to have left very quietly). He worked with Barbara Reid, at Moo's request, and with Boxley. As he and Boxley were reconstructing Nancy Perrin's career in New Orleans they made the grossest possible errors, leaving out what was inconsistent with their preconception. When Barbara asked about this, she was told to forget it, that it made no difference. They then told the office she was an agent for the other side. Now Joel first raised an entirely different and superficially credible Nancy story with me. He suddenly abandoned it, knowing I also was working on it kept very secret from me that he and Boxley (and Turner) were working on it. There is more of this I will not go into now.

When I finally learned the incredible thing they were manufacturing and had sold Jim on, I asked him about it over the phone. He invited me to his home. Without prior announcement of it I took Fensterwald along. There is a witness to this. After three hours what it boils down to is that they had nothing he would, as a sub reporter, dare give a city editor, leave alone as an investigator give a public official. None of it stacks up from what he told me, and this also he acknowledged. The sirtight alibis mean nothing because "motive" is against fact! Nancy shifted from a murderer to a "conspirator" in the murder. There are things that might have meaning, like a telegram sent "Banner" (Eddie Braner, but that was withheld from the office. The things Penn specifies also are missing from the files and no one has ever heard of them. These are the things that jeopardize their creation. They led witnesses into identifying Bradley, so they say, as having been in New Orleans at a time he was known to have been out of the country. They led witnesses into (or so they said-the witnesses dispute it to "ou and "oo) that there was "engineering equipment" in an apartment (of which the entire account is fiction). Then they led them into identifying this "engineering equipment" as "communications equipment". It was empty beer-cans and cigarette butts. They never checked the available records (Louis checked this out himself) and misrepresented those they pretended to have checked. Example, a loud eleamor in the form of a question about the delay in getting Perrin to the hospital. They simply omitted the known ~~ixx~~ existing records show he was where you'd expect him to be, in the emergency room, and give us the time he reached the hospital the time he reached the ward. His ought to be enough. But I tell you what you might guess, and if you do you are to share it with none but Maggie, and then in strictest confidence: I connect him with a ~~maxx~~ of great current interest to me, a man I regard as having very seriously hurt us. A man you both have met, not one of us. I cannot, by this medium or any other at this point, tell you more. It is not mistrust of you. Louis knows. Joel acknowledge that if they were wrong, it would or could ruin everything, that his case did not hang, but he insisted merely that it was right. It is simply that Perrin did not die, a seaman was substituted and that Perrin, who had been a writer (he could barely write his name) became once the assassin on the knoll. No time for more.

Jaffe's memo (please try and get him to give me everything. If anything is sent to Louis now it will have no meaning, for he has no time to be interested in anything but the preparation of the ~~xxx~~ case in chief, the prosecution case.):

Item c could, in itself, be a vital part of a move for a mistrial. They produce Steve's letter saying "our office" and thereby tie Garrison directly with the things said in the movie. This would be much stronger than the credit line.

Their use of the Coudert firm in New York ends any possibility of JFK sympathy or any kind of progressive or even liberal leanings. I know that firm from way back, as the representative of the pro-Nazi French. Its member, Frederick B. Coudert, was a very reactionary Congressman from NYC's silk-stocking district. It is my recollection they were Vichy-French...Please send anything else you recall or can get. Gotta get to N.O., work. Sincerely,