

3/3/69

Dear Paul and Gary,

My resolve to get more rest has been less easy since the not unexpected decision became a reality. I find sleeping, rather returning to sleep once I awaken, more difficult (the sleep is first quality, what there is of it). So, again I get a very early start. Before returning to the physical assembling of the appendices of the books I have recently published, I want to note what occurred to me in bed last night, in confidence, so the unusual but, alas, characteristic switch will not only be within recall but because I think you will both relish it.

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The first indication of how completely selfish Garrison is came in early November 1967. He had promised to hold a press-conference for the introduction of OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS and I went there for that purpose and to see in what other ways I could help him. Also, to bring him up to date on the work I had done. In that time between our first visit and this one, I had written and published PW and written POST MORTEM, plus a few other things. Well, he didn't hold the press conference. He reserved that for the Turner rehashing of the book, without attribution, much later. As a consequence, while I made local radio and TV, the papers ignored it and the book remained largely unknown in the city about which it was written and in which it had no distribution. During one of our meetings, I outlined to him what I had in PM and expressed the opinion it was not only valuable backstopping for him and his case but, with public knowledge of the facts, could advance us all very much. I asked if there was any way in which he thought he could help. I did not ask him for money. His response was that he had enough trouble, including financial troubles, of his own.

Here I digress, to make other notes and give you other things that may relate to our relations. On that occasion, his boys seemed to have word or fear that a "hit" might be attempted on me, so they checked me into a room with a connection to another, either Lynn Coisel or I being "Anthony Dunn", the other name I do not now recall. It was on this trip that I began to learn the many things I regard as important, and I turned them all over, holding nothing back. Those were long days, long nights, work, nothing else. I have yet to go sightseeing in New Orleans. As I now recall the sequence of events, he failed to hail Pena before the grand jury to testify to the FBI participation in the Cuban meetings, with Ferrie, why, to this day, I do not understand. Pena then turned off. However, when his lawyer (also a traffic-court judge) pulled an FBI dossier out of his desk one day and told Orestes he was keeping back company, Pena got indignant, invited me down, and promised he would give me another book. Not, perhaps, entirely in the way he intended, but partly in that way and in others he was as good as his word. Garrison and/or his people and what they did turned him off again. One of the things he resented was Mark trying to take him over. He threw Mark out (but in an effort to have a local source for Jim, even knowing this and the relationship between Mark and Gary Sanders, I took Gary to him and put my stamp of approval on the incompetent, who thereafter did nothing except, perhaps, help turn O off. Well, one night O and I were together - and he was very kind to me then, even chauffeur-ing me around in his purple Cadillac - when Jim called and then joined up. O, very politely, for he is himself a cocksman, cautioned Jim about one of his girls. "She talk much", O said, and his knowing it was enough proof. Somehow, from that moment, though there seems to be no connection, Jim became steadily more distant.

On that November trip I gave Paul the appendix to O in NO, somehow stayed to busy or forgot to give him the ms. of PM, offered both to Maggie in LA, but she copied neither, so far as I know. About March John Nichols was at a scientific meeting at Walter Reed and I spent a long evening with him. I took all the appendix to PM and showed it to him, including what I had gotten after the book was written but not yet (or since) added to it and the ms. for him to take n

He whistled and flipped. After he read the ms, he asked if he could keep it long enough to read again, and he did. Except for him, at that time, the only people who had seen any of the contents may have been Vince and Sylvia, to both of whom I communicated some of the content (by a remarkable coincidence, the two or three things Thompson has that I had not by then published are among these).

When, in December, things seemed to have straightened out and the trial was imminent and they asked me for material, I started copying like hell for them, wearing out my copier and taking an enormous amount of time. I couldn't get to copying PM and the appendix, so I took it along. They copied it. I gave Oser and Alford, the lawyers on that part of the case, personal copies and explanations, and a personal copy for Louis, not for the office but for him to have, for he had no connection with that part of the work. I had already arranged for Wecht and Nichols to be their expert witnesses, had arranged for Wecht to go there early and meet them (I was to have met him at the airport but had to stay for the Washington proceeding that very day).

Well, the rest you know. The one major thing that seems to have come to light in N.O., the one major contribution to knowledge of any kind made with that enormous expenditure of time, money and media space, seems to be part of the content of the book Jim would not lift a finger to help. In fact, he didn't even ask to read it. I am sure you recognize the basis of the Finck cross-examination. I had called this material to Moo's attention before the end of the case in chief, when it looked like they were ending it ahead of schedule, telling him it would be a major thing in court.

Perhaps Nichols was there and helped, for Oser's cross-examination, especially when you consider his limitations and handicaps, was really excellent. But can you imagine what we really could have gotten from Finck if someone who really knew the material had been at Oser's elbow?

Before the end of the trial, I made a few efforts by mail to pick up some of the very promising material with which they did nothing. I doubt if by this means, especially now, what holy water I can command can neutralize the vampires, but I try. It may be that some will be motivated and will come across. What connects fairly directly to Shaw or people close to him is what interests me most. I am satisfied he should have been found "not guilty", but I am by no means certain he is innocent. Orestes never did tell me everything. One of the things he wanted me to establish on my own was Shaw at his place. He gave me the names of people who could do it. Jim did nothing with it. In fact, he even introduced me to a pair of them. Ferrie also used his place, even taking his boys there, in violation of liquor regulations. One of the barmaids told me Martens tried to hold her up once. I think O had more on the Cuban end he did not tell me. When I can, there are other things in the same direction I will also attempt. Ampolsk (I sent you the memos) is one. I think that means something. I will send you both copies when I do. If you ever get a glimpse of anything that might relate, please let me have it, for I'll probably do that on impulse. Now I must get back to work on the app. Gary, I may use your originals on the P stuff and, if the copies I gave you are not adequate, will replace them from the Archives. I want to have all those documents available for use in COUP, in the event we can get it published for wider distribution. We must make some of the material available about these fascists so that they will be known, including to those they attempt to tap for funds. It now looks like if I do it will be larger in size and cost than PW.

Hurriedly,

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