5/31/72

Dear Jim,

Unbelievable as the Gervais story is on the surface, what you have not yet seen really stretches the imagination. Even after he is welcome to Garrison's people! They have not been in touch with the TV people who broke the story, on the initiative of either. The woman who did it was so much on the other side that she killed newspaper attention to, even reporting of Gervais' [illegible]. She is No. 1 on the state Garrison Club as of the time of the Shaw trial, held nightly meetings to try to hurt him, with the visiting scribes the honored (and influenced) guests. In fact, when the feds slipped a sleeper in on Jim when he left the "Fish" bldg (federal court bldg to you yokels), it is who who slipped it, not the feds as the facts. This is to background you for like what follows, & ask that you keep it to yourself because of the possibilities I think I see in all this that nobody else so as to have, including the Garrison people. I spent more than an hour on the phone & the Avon t is afternoon. They are merely stunned.

I think I have a story sold on this. I'm not sure, and I'm not sure if I do that I'll want to use what I'm going to ask you to check for me if you possibly can.

I also think I know Pershing rather well, and he is the brazenest bastard I have ever met. He has, if my instinctive rather than thoughtful analysis is correct pulled one of the biggest jobs ever pulled and against a combined opposition the likes of which no man like him has ever tried to best. I think he has actually done it. If I don't put the details in a story, I'll tell you when there is time. He has two legs that were in three bear traps and he is walking. In the phrase you have heard before, alone and unassisted.

There is going to be more to this story, and is going to have more. I've been in touch with the new news dir. storm (I knew the old one-he let me see their Oswald footage) so I couldn't have a better source. My hunch is that one of two things will come so just they have more footage in the can or there will be another secret-until-aired meeting. The problem with the latter is that people pretty good at following me & in the interest know Rosemary Jones pretty well. This time no secrets.

One of the current problems is accrediting Gervais, who says himself that he can no longer be believed. There are two ways my files do already that I can recall, probably more when I have time to go over my contemporaneous notes. There is a third where you can be helpful. He assumed a name right from TV, Paul Mason, which Lil accurately dopes out as coming from Perry Mason and his dick, Paul Drake. He was flown to DC from Candida about July of 1971 to get his name legally changed, after which all his tribe were fitting out with fake credentials of various kind, even to a driver's license for his wife. Now what I'd like before it can come to some official's mind how good an idea it no is for it to disappear is the court record of his legal change of name. I don't know what court in Washington this would be in, but that's where your law degree & the new license you have should help. The fake licenses can be said to have been arranged by him, but I don't think he going to Washington alone to get a name change will look that way, and there may be something in the records that will be helpful, like names. If these things are handled***

Tough as he is, this has been no rough on Gervais that he has forgotten some of the things he did, something you'd not expect of him if you knew him. He is right from a novel - and would make one. And the most incredible part is that Garrison's people are just sitting and waiting. They are doing nothing, I suppose because they don't know what to do. However, I think they'll now keep me informed. I got the transcripts from them, for example, on Louis' initiative. They even transcribed them when the job has already been done!

***Seriatim, the absence of one might be a clue. And if they are ordered in a book, that would be more difficult to change...the Bailey story is that Gervais got rescued via through a trusted friend. Jim Lesar thinks they, not he, got Bailey's okay. He then insisted that Gervais have and be accompanied by his own lawyer. Gervais hired Ed Baldwin, who is not a friend of ours, and was in their setting...then Russ Galston goes to [illegible], - hope there can be time for his coaching. [illegible] on the side of those who dealt with Gervais. I now have three that were not private. Hurried best,