

Gary - I promised, and never sent, the result.

David

11818 1/2 Dorothy St.,  
L.A., Calif. 90049  
May 12 1968

Mark Lane  
c/o Mrs. Joseph Field  
1115 N. Beverly Drive  
Beverly Hills, Calif 90210

Dear Mark,

I called your home last night in New Orleans, and spoke to your wife, not realizing that you had already left for California. I think that it is very important that while you are in town, and before you leave, we get together and have a completely private tete-a-tete over the Kerry Thornley affair.

As you may know, I have known Kerry Thornley for 3 years, and consider him a close friend. Furthermore, as you probably are aware, it was I who brought Kerry to Garrison's attention this past September, thinking that certain information he possessed concerning Oswald (in the Marines) would be useful to Garrison's investigation. To that end, considerable time was spent in the preparation and execution of four notarized statements, which were then sent to Garrison.

After that, Garrison came to Los Angeles and met with me alone for extended periods of time at the Century Plaza hotel. He wanted me to get Kerry (who had moved to Florida) to come to New Orleans and "cooperate" with him by "identifying" John Renee Heindel, who was the subject of some of these statements. Garrison told me at that time that he wanted to prosecute John Heindel for perjury. I tried to arrange a telephonic get together between Garrison's office and Thornley, which effort subsequently resulted in a nasty dispute. On October 30, 1967, Kerry mailed Garrison a very blunt and short letter, expressing the fact that he wanted nothing further to do with him.

Less than three short weeks later, on November 19, Jim was back in town. We again met at the Century Plaza hotel. He now had a brand new hypothesis. Kerry had been rapidly shifted from the star-witness-to-be list, to that of CIA agent/bad guy, who had met with and presumably conspired with Lee Oswald in the fall of 1963. The ostensive vehicle for this shift of position from star witness to culpable defendant was nothing more than a theory of the assassination postulating Kerry's involvement invented and promulgated by Warren Report critic Harold Weisberg, and some testimony from a local New Orleans character named Barbara Reid, a close acquaintance of Sciambra, one of Garrison's investigators. (Today, Weisberg booms in over local talk shows in Tampa by "beeper phone", chasing Thornley on his own time in what is apparently his own effort to keep the waters as hot as possible for him in Tampa and give him a bad press. Can you beat that??)

Garrison personally charged Kerry with perjury, after his testimony was taken by the Grand Jury. There was no indictment returned by that jury.

Gary

When Garrison's office sent out the teletype on Kerry, after Garrison filled out the forms swearing that Kerry had committed perjury, the Florida authorities arrested him and put him in jail. There he stayed until he could make \$3000 bond. Although it may not be apparent, the powers of Garrison's office are not inconsiderable when thrown against a man of Thornley's very limited financial resources.

Thornley has now been arraigned.

In the past few weeks, I have tried to contact several people who are connected with the Thornley aspect of the Garrison investigation. Like a bunch of lily-livered liberals, each one is afraid to buck "the boss". Each assures me that he really hasn't looked into the matter, and that I should surely be speaking to someone else. Vincent Salandria, however, has written a letter to Garrison's office, and promised me a copy. In it, he urges that I meet with the staff down there. Unfortunately, another person who knows and has had dealings with Garrison informs me that if I even let on to Garrison that I strongly believe in my friend's innocence, he will ignore me, and that the only way to reach this man is to present to him a false front indicating "ambiguous feelings" about the matter.

If this is indicative of his mentality, no view has any success of reaching the inner circle unless it is already in accord with his own. Disastrous policies are born and executed in this manner.

You are not only the man most prominently affiliated with this case you are also prominently affiliated with that investigation. A man's life and liberty is at stake here. I want to bring some of the facts of which I know to your attention and discuss this matter with you before you leave town. I only ask that you make your own private assessment of the situation, and then do anything you may want to do and/or can do in perhaps restraining Mr. Garrison in this matter.

I prefer a completely private meeting because I think it will insure a more frank exchange of views, than when third parties are present and "positions" tend to be defended for their sake.

Kerry's trial is yet to be. But I do not think that the adversary system of justice is necessarily going to keep him from going to prison, especially in the face of a DA who is apparently convinced of the validity of a false theory of his involvement. I hope the day is not reached where I will be visiting Kerry on the weekends in a Louisiana prison, his punishment for sticking to the truth as he sees it, and for not altering his testimony to fit Weisberg's theories, and Barbara Reid's conception of the reality of the event.

I am almost always at home, and anxiously await your call. My number is 826 1065. If you cannot reach me, send a telegram to be hand delivered, and I will get it immediately upon my return. Please let me hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

David S. Lifton

Memo regarding my letter to Lane of 5 10 68

1. The letter was hand delivered by me to the Special Delivery section of the Beverly Hills post office. They assured me that the letter would be delivered before 5pm, May 10, 1968.

2. On Saturday, May 11, Lane spoke at the Lindy Opera House here in LA. I managed to see him in the lobby after his talk.

I tapped him on the shoulder. He turned around, recognized me, and said: "David, I got your letter. I know all about this. I will call you tomorrow".

I replied: "Mark, I will stay at home all day and await your call".

He said: "You don't have to stay at home all day. I will call you."

3. There was no call from him at all the next day, Sunday.

4. On Monday, I called Maggie Field's home, and left a message for Lane, reminding him that I had not yet heard from him.

5. He never did call. During this period, he appeared at various book stores to autograph his new book, one right here in Westwood Village. Two people associated with the citizens committees here both carried messages to him that I wanted to speak with him about the Thornley matter and that it was urgent. He reassured each he would be in touch.

During this period time, Lane appeared on various radio and TV programs. He was in town for about a total of four or five days from the time he got the letter, and for three more days after he assured me, on Saturday night, that he would be contacting me about that matter I raised in my letter.

*Garnes*

11818 $\frac{1}{2}$  Dorothy St.,  
L.A. Calif. 90049  
Dec. 16, 1968

CERTIFIED: RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Mark Lane  
617 Dauphine St.,  
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mark,

On May 10, 1968, while you were here in Los Angeles, staying at the home of Maggie Field, I wrote you at some length concerning the plight of Kerry Thornley.

The letter is quite self-explanatory, and I am enclosing a xerox copy.

The day after you received this letter, I saw you at the Linday Opera House here in Los Angeles, where you had just given a talk. You said to me: "David, I received your letter; I know all about this." You then assured me very emphatically that you would be in touch with me the next day, Sunday.

I did not hear from you on that Sunday, nor, for that matter, for the remaining part of the week while you were here in Los Angeles and appeared on several radio and TV shows (nor since, although I understand that you have been in and out of LA on more than one occasion.)

In attaching a copy of the letter I sent you last May 10, I want to point out that the matter is as pertinent as ever; there has been no change in the status of Thornley's case since I wrote. I again repeat my request that you look into this matter and speak to me about it at your earliest convenience.

I am on the assumption, as I write this letter and when I wrote you last May 10, that you are still driven by the motives that seemed to me to be in force when I first heard your very inspiring lecture on the JFK assassination, in New York City in September of 1964. Paramount among these motives, it seemed to me, was the concern that justice might miscarry, and an innocent man be harmed.

I hope that nothing more than a busy schedule and your campaign for Vice President of the United States has prevented you from looking into this matter, which I feel certain must weigh on your conscience, as it does mine.

I hope I will be hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely yours ,

David  
David Lifton

*Curry S.*