

Jan 9 1969

Dear Gary,

Got your letter of January 7 today.

I am recovering from a severe bout with the flu and will be running outside to buy some drugs and some food, so I thought I'd write.

First, thanks a million for all the information contained in your letter. I may have more detailed comment in the future.

Second, our exchange confirms my confidence that, on a subject like this, letters are really better than phone calls. I would have spent a good hour on the phone explaining that whole hypothesis, your resultant notes would have been sketchy, and anything you passed on would have been second hand. This way, we saved a lot of money, and you are able to think about it, duplicate the letter etc. I mailed a copy of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ a carbon of the letter to Vince Salandria, Paul Hoch, and Sylvia Meagher. I have no objection to your mailing copies to Harold Weisberg. I was very much tempted to mail Harold a copy, except for the fact that I am so embroiled with him over Thornley that I feel he can scarcely consider anything I do or say objectively. He feels, for example, and made it a matter of public record, ^{one of} (His CC letter that I was engaged in a scheme to mislead Garrison and frame J R Heindel, which is utter nonsense. What I was afraid of, was that if I mailed Harold a copy, he would then immediately ask himself "Now why did David do that; and why is he saying this?". The result would be a theory that I am either the perpetrator of (or the witting or unwitting dupe of those who are the perpetrators) of a scheme to "frame" Garrison for "stealing" the Z film. Therefore, I limited the mailing to people who I was sure would not indulge in that sort of thinking, if they thought my hypothesis incorrect.

Now, the main reason for this letter. I asked Tink Thompson if he could get me a debate of his Specter debate a few weeks ago, shortly after it occurred. He said that he did not have a copy, but that it would shortly be aired on lots of UHF stations (Educ. TV, I think) in the future, and that he would tape it at that time. Do you have a copy? I would love to hear that, and, if you have a copy, and sent it here, I would duplicate it and have it back to you in three or four days. I have two very fine recorders: one SONY 800 3 speed half-track, and a Sony 350 stereo tape deck. I can make fine duplicates right here at home; its no trouble at all.

Please let me know; I feel sort of stymied about getting a tape of that, and was even considering writing Arlen Specter for help! (After all, if he did so well, he might not mind!)

I know that each task one undertakes ~~XXX~~ consumes time and more time; therefore, please consider sending me your copy, if you have one. I'll not only get it right back to you, but send back an extra copy, for your trouble, so you'll have a spare.

Meanwhile, thanks again for your very informative letter. I'll have more to say, and I will be gathering together the photos I promised you, my headsnap memo, plus my Ray Marcu correspondence--- which I will try to get out, in the next week. (And, of course, I will have to answer Harold's letters; God knows what theories he will generate if I don't!)

Regards *David* David

Box 392 Mayo Hospital

January 14, 1969

Dear Dave,

Thanks for your letter of January 9. I sent copies of it to Vince and Harold, although as I noted before, I consider it an extreme hypothesis. Given your views on Garrison I can see how you reached it, but I suspect that there are some physical reasons why it can't be true. As I think I pointed out before, it has been my impression that LaMarre showed up with the film (Z film that is) prior to Jim's getting it from Life. Secondly there is the time problem of getting it to Franch, getting it copied, etc., before he had to return it to Life. In addition, there is the problem of customs, which I thought of between my last letter and this one. Should Jaffe or anyone else have been caught with the Z film it would have been all over. There is also the problem that assuming the CIA (and possibly other agencies) are watching Garrison and his investigators, then they could not help but find out about it and thereby gain important material to use against him. What counts here, Dave, in my mind at least, is not that he and his investigators are constantly watched, but rather that we all know that Garrison is certain that they are. By the way, one of the interesting things about Jaffe from what I have heard is that he always seems to be followed, or possibly imagines that he is. I can't picture Garrison trying such a wild thing and at the same time realizing (especially since he is a lawyer) the consequences of getting caught at it. Furthermore, it is important to note that it doesn't take a lawyer to realize that Jim's firing of Jaffe, etc., would do little to convince a jury that Jim wasn't responsible for something which Jaffe did, whether or not it was true.

Although my above objections are based mostly on logic, there are some other things which now lead me to conclude that your theory is quite unlikely. Something I forgot to mention in the haste of my last letter was that Harold Weisberg told me after he came back from N.O. that as soon as he heard that the Z film was in "Farewell America" he asked Lou Ivon if it were possible that LaMarre et. al. had gotten access to Jim's copy of the film. Lou Ivon, who is about as honest a man as I have ever met, and for whom I have the greatest respect, said no. In addition, Harold, who wanted to satisfy himself about this possibility after the question was raised, called both Lou Ivon and MAMU and both said that it was impossible. The important thing here is, however, that Lou has control of this and other security items, and gives full assurance that they have never been out of his hands. Even Garrison could not have gotten the Z film without Ivon knowing, so it would seem that your theory is wrong due to the irony that although Garrison's office had the film and screened it, Jim himself never had it to himself for even a short one, let alone for the long one which would have been required for your theory to be correct. But, with or without Jaffe's help, it may be that the government will try to provide proof of a theory something like the one you so carefully proposed. I say with or without Jaffe's help because he is, like LaMarre, of unknown allegiance. Since, like Boxley, he was on the payroll, anything he did without Jim's

knowledge or OK, such as his public association and articles about Broshers, association with "Farewell America," and god only knows what else, can cause Jim endless trouble publicity-wise. Legally Jim, fortunately, is not in such bad shape, since I suspect that such an insinuation can be disproven. By the way, I would be interested to know Sylvia's reaction to your theory. She can sometimes provide some pretty keen insight, although on the subject of Garrison she is very biased and doesn't always reason that well.

In regard to Thompson, I do not have a tape of it as I did not actually see it myself. My parents and many of my friends in Philadelphia did and it was their impressions of it which I recounted to you. (Although they differ in their feelings about the case, everyone gave the same description of the "debate.") The best bet is to keep after Tink about the tape. By all means try to get one from Spector. I would be very interested if he replies, and if so how. In fact, I would greatly appreciate copies of any correspondence in this regard. You could even check with the UHF stations out there to see if they are, in fact, going to show it, and if you could have a copy. Or, if it is to be shown you could tape it yourself. If I had a copy I would be glad to send it. By the way, Vince doesn't have a tape of it either. I asked him for one myself since I missed it but had heard so much about it. I haven't had enough time or interest to go to the trouble of trying to get one from another source.

I will check with Ray Marcus about the possibility that he has color negatives of the Z film from Life. They would be a great help to me.

Best of luck in your work.

Gary