

COPY.

Washington, D. C.

7 February 1968

Dr. Maurice A. Nelson
Law Offices of Elliott & Nelson
1500 Post St. Suite 1002
San Francisco, Calif. 94109

Re: [REDACTED]
& Sanders/New Orleans trip

Dear Dr. Nelson:

Hello: A lot has happened since I last saw you there. As I told you in our telephone conversation last Friday, February 2nd, 1968 I am writing you and enclosing pertinent material relative to our conversation and issues involved. So very much has happened, so fast, that it would be impossible to cover it all here in one shot

So, I will give you a fast rough sketch and let the enclosures and three follow up letter tell the rest, including a statement I am preparing covering the entire issue re New Orleans et al... Linda is sending you her statement now under separate cover.

I am sure you remember the status of things fairly well just before leaving there re Linda, the hospital issue, Gomez, Berry, & Roommates Unlimited, etc. What happened since, reads like a novel and is at least as interesting as any, except that it actually happened. Anyway, I will try to keep a somewhat complicated situation, simple. Basically, the issues are simple, as is usually the case. Its just that some people have tried to complicate them. So here goes for a capsule updating and briefing:

1. First, to review our important and now relative situation: Linda had a baby, with serious complications, on November 10th, 1967 at Children's Hospital. The situation was not handled successfully and she and I survived the situation. We decided to adopt the baby out. No papers have been signed yet. Because of the severity of events recent, she has decided to put a hold on the adoption issue, and I agree with this decision; until some things are straightened out and some large questions properly answered. She (and I) await the logic of events on this one.
2. Obviously, for reasons beyond my control, I was unable to complete my plans and arrangements regarding Joan Gomez, Roommates Unlimited, and Donald Accornero. I do not know what the current status is there beyond rumors I have heard which include Dr. Burton Berry. Please see what you can find out-current states-here.
3. On Wednesday, December 13th, 1967, I learned that a contract had been let (Mafia) on New Orleans District Attorney James Garrison, from Ron Zimmerman. As a favor, I relayed the information to Herve Morgan of ECRB San Francisco after not being able to locate or contact John Christian, who is involved in the case. Morgan and Hal Weisberg, the author, both urgently requested me to develop the information further, names, dates, details, etc. I did so and while in the process of so doing, Garrison's office made a national wire service press release on Mafia Contract aspect and my position was put in jeopardy. Garrison's people had independently verified my information and come up with much more.

... directly connected to gett...
... and...
... in New Orleans...
... and...
... and...

... I met our contact...
... of 2000...
... (Christmas Night), moved out of the apartment at 844...
... and went to Sanders place...
... stayed there for four days and nights until leaving for New Orleans
... Friday December 29th, 1967.

During our stay at Sanders place much of interest occurred. Here
is a brief summary of what happened (the rest is covered in a
separate-complete statement with all names, dates, and details):

1. I learned that Sanders had a background of communistic type activity of a subversive nature which included being a member of the Free Play for Cuba Committee (the name group Lee Harvey Oswald belonged to) and of having made trips to Cuba, Mexico City, and Viqueragua to engage in subversive activity.
2. That he is on the F.B.I. "Hot List" and his phone is tapped and his place under surveillance all or most of the time.
3. That he and associates who visit him almost daily are involved in small publications of a radical nature including Black Power movement publications and political activities.
4. That Sanders and all or most of his associates carry loaded guns at all times and generally behave like characters in a bad movie of the Hillinger variety, like - when the door bell rings, (everyone takes up positions) etc. and friends always come in with his gun drawn even in the daytime. This actually has happened.
5. That Sanders has a 10 year old Chinese wife who is a professor at U.C. Berkeley and has supported him since their marriage of 20 years. He told me on three separate occasions how he plans to leave her when he can support himself thru his work and no longer needs her.
6. That Sanders is a graduate of a Seminary and uses the approach exhibit as an entree and passport to many places and situations. He is amusing when playing the role, which he takes very seriously. He rarely but occasionally smokes, drinks, swears, or gambles.
7. He knows people connected with Margatta Magazine including Hal Verb who arranged the deal with Sanders. Sanders writes articles and is a radical political opportunist with a record of failure that would make the image presented of Oswald look like Napoleon by comparison. He dresses well and lives well (on his wife's income). The residence is a two bedroom rented house. He has one daughter by a previous marriage - a six-corrrection, it's their daughter.

8. Sanders shows symptoms of being at least potentially a really dangerous psychopath (my second wife was a Ph.D. Clinical Psychologist and I have been thru analysis, so I know a few things about the subject-field, etc.) He also has apparent sexual aberrations.

Morgan had suggested earlier (before I actually met Sanders) that I have Sanders drive us to New Orleans. I thought he was kidding later I asked Sanders and after thinking it over for 24 hours (or, pretending to) he agreed. We were to split expenses down the middle, main gas and meals. He paid our car rental & expenses

In view of my series of observations of murders at El Cerrito and
 apart from the danger re left (which was real, but not as drastic
 as I had thought) I decided I should have a gun. I first add
 here that from the moment I went on into the scene, I was very
 heavily guarded except at all times. I had his .44 sn
 personally at all times by or about. I had to carry it
 me up no else had - brady with a gun and he never went into a
 (twice) without one buddy and two guns. He loved, at least,
 a .44 wept, with gas, 200 gr, 200 gr. He also had a rifle (for my use)
 high powered with armor piercing bullets, at home. I went to bed
 with it every night.

Getting back to my gun and binder I noted two important revealing
 points (along with all the others, mentioned and not mentioned):
 1. We first agreed I should have a gun and should have been able
 to produce one. Then, he agreed his mind but told he couldn't
 come up with one. First, we went with me to the rifle, for me,
 then, he decided to let me it home. In passing, he said he only
 one with a weapon. I reminded him that since the situation was so
 dangerous and I was explicit that one should be carried
 him not his. He said he would get one but it would be a
 a .44 revolver, and it would be a .44 revolver. I advised that I
 we got to a point of suddenly saying "I'll take it", I
 one rifle revolver, it had a .44 caliber (this is the
 a .44 caliber rifle revolver of a .44 caliber, it was a .44

2. I argued for a large fourth party for security and for
 reasons. We went thru the usual routine with the gun. Then
 I insisted I was not to have it. He said, "I'll take it".
 I didn't go on with some else refused to go with me.
 I argued considering the fact that Harrison had a gun and
 to leave for reasons of expense and security for other reasons.
 I finally refused.

Travel expenses (1.50) was paid by wife of the head of
 Carrison's office in New Orleans to drive around the 7000 B.L. and
 given to Hal Verb who gave it to Sanders who gave it to me. We
 were afraid that this was a attempt on us or to have it taken
 which it was. This was not even known to Carrison until I told
 would be paid when I received the money. I argued to security
 measures were in force - that would make the F.B.I. look stupid.
 Hal Verb stayed at Sanders place with us for two days and nights.
 He works in production control and is in a kind of control in the
 headquarters-Carrison N.W. complex and knows ex J.B.I. Turner who
 wrote the (you must read it) article for Ramparts-January re N.C.

We left El Cerrito at 3:30 P.M. Friday, December 29th, 1967 and
 drove straight thru to New Orleans arriving there just after mid-
 night Monday, January 1st, 1968. Sanders was or less forced us
 to skip sleep and meals. We never stopped longer than two hours.
 We had one or two meals a day and almost no rest whatsoever enroute.

It also became increasingly apparent that Sanders had a grudge against his old wife apart for the normal reasons for the trip there. We also was going to take a full statement on my background and on another story, business details on mafia situation, while driving. We got all the background data down and then stopped. We thought that was rather interesting, all factors considered, particularly in view of what followed.. Note enclosed schedule of dates/events.

In New Orleans:

Specific arrangements had been made for us by Harvey Morgan via/with Hal Weisberg and Jim Block including the following:

1. That our expenses would be paid from L.F. to New Orleans
2. That we were to check into the Fourtambien Hotel in N.O.
3. That our expense would be paid in New Orleans, initially anyway
4. That we would receive assistance in obtaining employment there.
5. That we would receive assistance in finding secure quarters.
6. That my identity would be protected and full security in effect.

None of these agreements were lived up to with the following exceptions:

1. We received \$150-just enough for two one way train coach tickets from San Francisco to New Orleans with no reserve.
2. \$60.00 to cover a \$50 hotel bill and miscellaneous expenses
3. \$40.00 for one one way train ticket from New Orleans to Wash. DC.
4. A verbal guarantee of protection of my identity.

That is all we received and it took some doing to get that done.

When we arrived in N.O., the Fourtambien Hotel was full and we went to the Hotel Lafayette instead. I contacted Jim Block and was put in touch with Bill Boxley who Sanders and I met Tuesday evening at the N.O. Athletic Club. We went to the Orleans Room in the quarter and to Garrison's office where I gave a taped statement the following morning. Garrison's people said in effect that:

1. we have verified your information and find it correct mostly
2. Thankyou, you can go home now
3. They unanimously decided a C.I.A. plot was involved re mafia sit
4. They clearly did not want us to remain in New Orleans.

Linde, Sanders, and I, decided to go on to Washington, D.C. before returning to San Francisco. Details were worked out and agreed to. Friday, January 8th, 1968: We (Linde + I) had a little difference of opinion which upset Sanders (regarding Jim). We went to L.A.'s office (late) and got our expense money. It should have been at least \$100. It was only \$60. We checked out of the hotel and loaded everything into Sanders car and then had a snack in the quarter. Sanders decided we would have to have another \$50 before he would go to Washington, as a reserve (we had enough to make it) we went to the Jung Hotel on Canal street and tried to get hold of some people-long distance, and some money. We were there only a short time when Sanders suddenly changed, and I mean CRANKED. His face twisted up like an animal, with no provocation and he said he was leaving for San Francisco in five minutes and since we did not know where he parked the car and as all of our things were in it we had better be with him when he left. He left and we went out two minutes later. He was just coming down Canal St. in the car and stopped at the corner. I peened the door and before I could talk, he said menacingly, "get in, NOW, we are going to San Francisco immediately". I started to tell him-not so fast and I was going to tell him to leave our things.

7 February 1968

He suddenly shouted to stand clear of the door, and drove off very abruptly. He acted like some kind of nut - a real nut. There was no rational reason for such behavior but he had given me a call twice - revisionally. In Phoenix, while making and receiving a radio telephone relay contact to report position, status, and so on, he suddenly told me he was leaving immediately and I had better be with him when he walked out the door. Odd behavior since the call we had to make was an alternate as his contact arrangement had fallen thru and was unusable, and this was serious at that time & place.

We went to the Hotel Roosevelt Lobby and maintained constant telephone contact with the Bell Captain at the Jung Hotel, the Lafayette Hotel, and Jim Alcock in case he came back. We finally went to bed. (we went to another cheap hotel nearby). By late the next day, he still had not shown up but we learned from Alcock and Roxley that after he left us, he went directly to the N.C. Police Dept and pretended to try to leave our things. I qualify that statement: He told the police that we had refused to return to S.F. with him and he wanted to leave our things (which he knew they would refuse). He then told one of Garrison's investigators (Ivon) that we had refused to go with him and had said that their office wanted us to stay and we had asked him to take our things back to San Francisco. He later told others that we owed him \$50 gas money and had refused to pay so he took our things.

His story is so obviously phony and full of holes and contradictory it is amazing that any legitimate-intelligent person could even pretend to believe it. Why?

1. He checked with the N.C. Police Dept. They informed us that under no circumstances would they have accepted any of our belongings from him or anyone else since for all they know it could be stolen.
 2. He told Ivon that they wouldn't take it because of our pet cat Boris (Six year old Chinese-Blueblood with Certificate) who we very much love and who happens to be worth about \$100.00 with papers. This was an obvious lie in view of what the police told us re Boris.
 3. He tried to make it appear he was trying to leave our things.
 4. He told others that we told him to take our things with him (and leave ourselves stranded without anything in New Orleans?)
 5. He told others that we owed him money and he was holding it. (you can commit Grand Theft and take someone's property across ~~str~~ state lines without due process? since when?)
 6. He owed him \$25.00 approximately (less) for 1/2 the gas and never had the opportunity to either discuss it or pay it before he pulled his little caper. He lied thru and thru on this.
 7. He knew what my files contained and that I had a meeting scheduled in Washington, D.C. with an important journalist which was relevant to the contents of said files on a security matter.
- The possibility of a deliberate planned conspiracy must be considered. The reactions of Garrison people in N.C. and S. F. were interesting.

7 February 1968

In New Orleans, on Saturday, January 6th, 1968, after determining that Mr. Sanders was not in New Orleans, but definitely left, and was enroute to California or parts unknown, we took the following action:

1. We tried to file charges to have Sanders apprehended and our belongings returned. We got one big run around on this one. The D.A.'s office said we first had to file a police complaint. The police said we first had to file a complaint at the D.A.'s office. and so it went.
2. Finally, we called Hal Weisberg in Frederick, Md. He gave us to local (N.O.) T.V. persons who we spoke to. They asked if I wanted to go on the air and tell the story. I said I didn't believe it would be wise. They suggested going to the F.B.I. I explained the complications there. They came up with their own F.B.I. contacts and the arrangements were then made for this.
3. Shortly after 8 P.M., Linde and I went to F.B.I. Headquarters in New Orleans and talked to Agent Holloman, who among other things, was supposed to be a Cosa Nostra specialist for the FBI. We told him only the basic essentials. He said it was not under F.B.I. jurisdiction but the act did constitute Grand Theft and we should have the locals issue a warrant and have Sanders picked up when he got home and extradited to New Orleans. But it got back to the issue of filing the local complaint in N.O.
4. On Monday, we went to the German Consulate in New Orleans and reported the matter including the fact that some of Linde's passport papers were in one of the attache cases stolen by Mr. Sanders. They sent advisories to the consulates in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. Nothing could be done in New Orleans. In the meantime, we were spending and losing time, energy, and money, of which we had precious little. On Monday, January 8th, we got an additional \$40 from Garrisons office and boarded a train (8:30 P.M.) for Washington, D.C., arriving there at 3:20AM Wednesday the 10th. Events in D.C. are covered separately here.

SUMMARY OF THEFT ISSUE:

1. Linde and I are struggling to survive in San Francisco and to recover from birth issue and do something if possible with my business and are just about to be able to finally do something.
2. As a result of a favor to a friend, I get pulled into the Garrison investigation and because of his press release I am put in jeopardy and really pulled into the situation beyond my desire or control.
3. We go to New Orleans to give information pertinent to Mr. Jim Garrisons life-personal security on the basis of specific arrangements and understandings which when we arrive are not followed.
4. Our escort thru a ruse (possibly pre-planned?) takes off with all of our belongings and files and even our pet cat and leaves us stranded late at nite in the middle of winter with a few dollars in our pocket and the clothes on our backs in New Orleans and we are not able to do one damned thing about it then or later.
5. In consequence of this, Linde and I are forced to go to Wash. D.C. and then New York City where by circumstance described, we are separated from (1) all of our belongings and files, (2) her baby, (3) my business, (4) any possibility of recovery of any of it.

We have consulted with friends and two attorneys here on various aspects of situation overall and have some good new ideas and advice on what to do about it. Schedule of priorities as follows:

1. Getting the money sent from Germany, in hand (\$1,000.00) now.
2. Getting our belongings back from Sanders.
3. Getting situation with Gomez and Roommates fully resolved.
4. Consummating situation with German Consulate in Washington, DC.
5. Arrangements for leaving country (we are going to intermediate location first, in Canada or Mexico and will be in Wash. D.C. & possibly S.F. before doing so).
6. Consummation of an opportunity which could bring us as much as \$10,000 cash almost immediately, here. (NYC & Wash. D.C.)
7. Consummation of opportunity involving high level (friends of friends) Radio, T.V., Newspaper, and Magazine publication contacts for story(s) on our New Orleans trip and related.
8. Special moves involving the F.B.I. if our property is not quickly recovered.

Note: My confidential files, stolen by Sanders, contain, among other things-important, back-up papers and documents on a project I worked on involving an important weapons system. He knows this. If recovery cannot be quickly effected, I will have to make a full report to the F.B.I. to protect myself and the security aspect of what that project and those papers represent. For many reasons, I would prefer not to have to do this. It could get very complicated, particularly in view of reasons for New Orleans trip etc. (as you know, the F.B.I. & Garrison are not too friendly). That is why I have held back on this move which if made, there will be plenty of action-for everybody-particularly Sanders and CO.

Also, Sanders and Hal Verb were to take care of my car (get it off the street. I gave Verb a note. They both lied to Morgan saying they couldn't find the car (Sanders was physically with me twice when I stopped by the car, once to remove my nearly new spare tire to put in his car. He is driving with it now on his left rear (unless he changed it since-Uvalde, Texas). Needless to say, there are many and varied ways I can prove whatever needs to be proven re preceding even without my files.

Please do what you can as quickly as possible. Three letters will follow this, immediately, with enclosures covering other issues, all-much shorter than this one. Also, Weisberg is out there now. I told his wife to tell him to contact you, & Ron.

7 February 1968

Note: I will not make final moves with S.F. and/or police until I hear from you there. Have not made irrevocable move as same so far; just preparation and laying the groundwork for later.

Note: Lock's attorney advised heading to El Cerrito to El Cerrito (see copy enclosed) putting filing complaint issue on record re filing charges against Sanders from origin of theft-New Orleans and then having S.F. attorney take action for us there whether New Orleans acts or not. S.F. & El Cerrito police should be contacted, Sanders arrested, and my property (& Linda's) taken into custody and returned to me. Also, some things were left at Sanders place.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY HELD AND STOLEN BY THOMAS WILLIAMS SANDERS FROM HIS TO RICHARD L. RYE AND LINDA A. ROTCH:

A. STOLEN FROM US IN NEW ORLEANS:

1. One Brown Mans Suitcase with Gold Initials "L P" under handle
2. One Old Brown Leather Suitcase with outside straps-two
3. One White Ladies Overnight case
4. *One Very Thin Black Attache Case (with very important papers)
5. One Medium sized Olive Green Attache Case
6. One Large Black Attache Case-Modern Type
7. One Large Black Attache Case-Old Type (Linda's personal files)
8. One Large Red & Black Plaid Cloth Suitcase with broken zipper
9. One Steel Fireproof Strongbox-Grey-about 6" X 8" X 12" keylock
10. One Cardboard box with miscellaneous belongings.
11. One Six Year Old Siamese Cat (pedigree w/papers) named "Borris"
- 11A (with Red Harness and Leash) One Black Flitebag (pilot type)
12. One Tire in very good condition and worth about \$25.00
13. Other items which I will have to get from master check list and forward to you when I can locate it.

B. BELONGINGS LEFT/STOLEN AT SANDERS RESIDENCY IN EL CERRITO:

1. One large cardboard box containing personal belongings-mixed
2. One Large Brown Suitcase-Old Type w/straps outside-Brown
3. One Old Type Leather Grip type case-Brown.
4. One suitcase-brown-Linda's description written somewhere.

* There was one hundred dollars in cash for reserves hidden in a checkbook inside this case which Sanders did not know about unless he overheard a certain conversation I had with Linda re it. I did not want anyone to know I had it including Garrison's Office as they would have gladly let me spend all my own money for trip. There were five twenties and I have the serial numbers written down somewhere. Haven't been able to locate it yet but I think they are with things I have with me.

Again: Subject: Mr. Thomas (Tom) Williams Sanders - 6009 Jordan El Cerrito, Calif. (his place is almost impossible to find) (415) 237-7101. Hal Verb: 981-4070- 781-9878 - LC.4-8785 - 567-5534 I don't know which number is his residence or office. Also, Sanders drives a lite blue 1964 Ford Sport Coupe with brake on right side (ex-driver training car) Lic. No. Calif. MHC 933. Harve Morgan-KCBS San Francisco-Sheraton Palace Hotel 982-7000 Residence-Tiburon (non-listed) 5070 Paradise Drv. (415) 435-0061.

Please look everything over carefully and see what can be done. I will call you in a few days. Thankyou very much. Very Sincerely:

Riem

February 1968.

P.S. Here is a brief summary of some points I left out. noteworthy.

1. Summary: Linda and I are in D.F., stuck in our own way in pretty desperate circumstances, trying to survive. She has just had a baby under incredibly difficult circumstances, and I am trying to run a small business where my two-bit punk business partner is trying to cheat me, as he cheated many others. Clients are all I've given important information re Garrison-Rife contract from long time responsible friend to relay to a mutual contact and since he is not available I go to Morgan, his associate, who then asks me to develop the information further, stressing how important it is. I do this, and while doing it, Garrison's office makes full wire service press release without letting anybody know in advance. I am immediately suspect and threatened and advised (by several sources) to get out of town. Morgan arranges for cover and move to New Orleans where our escort thru a series of ruses, takes off with all of our belongings and files (See page Four, last par., after "\$60" & Page Five, #8 re why didn't Sanders leave our things in a locker and the key with one of Garrison's people if he was trying to leave everything?) We go to D.F., police, and F.B.I., German Consulate, and Hal Weisberg etc. What happens? Nothing: lots of telephone calls and conversation, but-no action or results, just one big run around. We wind up on the east coast stripped of everything and separated by 3,000 miles and \$300 (air fare for two) from (1) Linda's baby, (2) our belongings, (3) my business, and (4) my car and other things & contacts. We are the victims and the victimizers imply that we were wrong etc. An outrageous crime is committed and nothing is done about it. Lies (by Sanders) are accepted as face value as truth, and truth which can be substantiated is called lies-implicit. We have had it. And so has Sanders and company when we get the machinery (legal) rolling.
2. Linda has a nervous breakdown in Washington, D.C. and calls Harry Morgan and begs him to do something and tells him she is on the verge of committing suicide. Later, Morgan accuses me of putting her up to effecting a ruse, a phony call, and worse, says he is not involved or responsible for anything and gets real nasty with me, accusing me of trying a trick on him etc. I tell him off (and later by letter) Fortunately, we have a few honest friends who know the score and who like me, are really getting mad about the abuse Linda and I have been subjected to by these people who may soon have cause to regret their statements, actions, and lack of any really responsible action at all.
3. It is apparent that one of the primary reasons these people think they can act the way they do and get by with it is based on the fact that Linda and I are not married. What unmitigated hypocritical gull. If two people are about to be or have been murdered, raped, beaten, ROBBED, or injured, does a police officer ask to see their marriage license before going after the attacker? Does our lack of a license give Sanders a license to commit grand-theft or worse and be immune to prosecution, due process, and the rights normally afforded anyone? I know I am right and this issue is one - of the reasons back of the peculiar refusal to act by so-called responsible persons and authorities on the issue. Well, I won't say what new, but I have a large surprise for them, which I will spring at the right time. I just want to be damned sure (this time) that they have plenty of rope. Of all the rotten, insane, illegitimate, "reasoning" I have ever encountered anywhere on anything, this situation takes the cake, pie, and pudding. And, now we have money, and more coming. So, they had better get ready for the legal reasoning because we are going to see justice done if it takes every last ounce of energy and money.

Richard A. Rye
420 Lexington Avenue
Rm. 1634
New York, N.Y. 10017

3

Mr. Harold Weisberg
ROYTE 7
FREDERICK, Md.



PAID BY ADDRESSEE

MAN-9