11/24/69

Dear Cary,

There is nothing without warrant in your 11/20, which I read this a.m. and will now go over again. But I'm tired and haven't been feeling well thepast several days, so I do not want to stay up late. I have a large reading job laid out for tomorrow...So, there is much I may not comment on, but if I do not you can take it I do not disagree.

About Tom: thanks for telling me. I'll say nothing. Heis also incompetent. But Brener had an inside source on some of what was in the serialization. Tom is really not a nice or a pleasant guy, whether or not educated, and hasn't the sense to wipe himself. I'm partly responsible for him because I trusted him and never checked on him, taking him as per his credentials: Matt, Penn and Jim. Here I have Jaffe memos indicating he had access to some of their stuff. But Jaffe saying it doesn't mean it is so. Boxley gave me the idea he could tap it.

I will not go into the entire security matter again. You are quite correct in pointing out that I told Mary she could come here and see what I have, but that was at the very first, and I could not thereafter withdraw this offer. Also, what I might not have wanted her to see is segregated anyway. I remain unsatisfied, cannot put my finger on anything, and await the future and its clarifications. We are all different personalities and sometimes do not really understand others. The fact remains I did tell them much of what I was interested in, what I was working on then, what my immediate writing plans are, and to date have nothing but pleasaing byt really meaningless praises. I have too much to do to bother asking again, some of it I cannot now return to, and I am not at all certain I recall much of it. I do not make the effort to keepmthese things in mind, for I cannot hold what I feel I must....On Davison, I suggest we just say no more about it to anyone and see what else we can come up with. I hope I'm having some newspaper morgues checked out. But you should try and recall that as do so many on the left, those on the right tend to twist things to their own special interpretations, which presents certain hazards. I take it they know nothing.

Hal did not flash the letter to Dave. He pulled it out before many at Fred's.

I think Mary is a real conservative. She is not a nut. But she does make cracks about "liberals" when she slips, as I've heard her do. To end of me.

I think I've already commented on the Bradley things and Fred.

I was aware that since you bearded him you'd heard little from Lifton. Self-characterization, I think. You know how he did promise to drop those two suits and that I've just reminded him. I went farthur than trying to persuade. I told him that with the SD people I had an airtight defense and told him what it is, and he then acknowledged he was aware of it. They sponsored me, I said, repeatedly, I had no reason to believe he was connected with anything, which destroys any case of malicious intent on their part and the law requires this now.

If my criticism was unjustified, you have sincere apologies. But do try and keep this in mind, for we are now in the most delicate areas. My concern with Fred is not what you told him of me but how they'll twist anytuing you say, as you've seen they did with me. And I do agree it is good to have more than suspicion with Dave, meaning also anyone with whom he is in touch or can influence. I remain apprehensive because I think it unlikely those I have witten have given him some of the things that come back, which at least suggests federal activity as the source.

If your man doesn't do his own color work, there will be

Paul has not sent the Free Press thing. I want to keep up on that.

You write Mary about the indexes. She should send them to Paul, to whom I also sent all I had that he didn't. He'll distribute.

It was nice of Vince to go visit Jim, who is bedridden. I take it he told you nothing of consequence. But his depression is not new. It may be to you, or it may be greater. Part of it is conscience, tho I doubt he recognizes it as that.

I've gone over your letter rapidly, because I'm tired and haven't been feeling too well the past two day. By the time you get this you should have digested the goodies I've sent. Please make any comment that suggests itself. And I again emphasize this is the kind of stuff that ought not be breathed.

Paul has read and likes COUP add. Hal and Jim will read and then send to you. My present situation is we are so broke I cannot even get one copy xeroxed. That is a sort of carbon, but there is nothing important added and some of the errors have been corrected. Please make suggestions when you read it, though it may be difficult or impossible to correct some. When serious, I can add a note.

I'm getting the Unt stuff for Paul R. I have some we didn't have and expect more. I'll send you the entire list of citations and I'll ask Paul to send you a complete set. Some refers to Crafard (that second memo not received).

By the way, since you do write Fred, why not mention casually sometime that once I'd mentioned getting worhtwhile help from a high-school boy named Dave Zitch and all of a sudden he stopped writing me, never responding to letters, etc. I am satisfied Fred/Dave turned him off. If you can find out, it would help our understanding of what they are really up to, regardless of how they chose to represent or interpret it. If you do it delicately and carefully enough, perhaps Fred will tell you. I do not suggest you tell him Z has turned off to begin with, just that I'd said he had helped and what does Fred know of him?

Best,

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November 20, 1969

Dear Harold,

I will be leaving tomorrow for the U. of Minn. at Morris to speak on the assassination, so I do not have time to write as much as I would like. I will be gone overnight, and then speak Sunday night also. I have heard from Nichol's photographer offering to do work for me and telling me his fees, which is OK with me, although Nichols had left me with the impression that the work would be gratis.

I had better tell you about Brener because I think that I have given you a false picture of what I do and don't know. In strictest confidence, Mary is quite close to Tom Bethell, and Tom has written a book which Mary has proofread, and that is why I said that he is probably not the guy behind the Brener book, since he already has his own. In addition, Mary, who read at least part of the book while I was down there, made some comment about it not having come from Tom, or not sounding like Tom, etc. Apparently Jim sent Tom to stay with Mary in Dallas and although Mary considered Tom completely incompetent as an investigator, she developed a real liking for him. From what I was able to determine, Mary not infrequently develops a strong liking and motherly attitude to people of generally more aristocratic bearing, etc. One of the things which gave me a big buildup to start with was that I was "from Mayo brothers." Needless to say, I quickly put her straight. In any event, and for whatever reason, she is very close to Tom although she has had very little contact with him for a long while. She has tried to call him a number of times and mentioned it in letters, and I think she may have finally gotten a hold of him. She says that she doesn't know if he will ever publish the book and that his is one of several which seems destined to someone's hidden file cabinet (her own in this case). She says that from the totally of her knowledge and her personal contacts with Jim, the staff, and theinvestigation, the book is a pretty fair account of things and pretty accurate. She voiced no idea as to why Tom hasn't submitted it for publication. To be very honest, I am breaking a confidence by telling you these things, and it feels funny because it is the first time I have knowingly done so. I am fully convinced, by the way, that Mary is being completely frank when she says that neither Tom, nor Boxley, nor Jaffe (the three of Jim's people who lived in her home) have ever been near any of her things, and that at least the last two have never even seen her chronologies which she offered to me at the outset.

On the question of my "immature attitude" in terms of giving out info, although I do not dismiss what you suggest out of hand, I don't think that it is the case. Being a psychologist and also someone who knows you well enough to know that you are perceptive, I am slow to deny any such comments, especially if they come from you. I do not take offense at them, but at the same time don't feel that you are right. I was not suggesting sending the stuff to Mary because of belief in her trustworthyness, but because I have already asked her about him--and this happened when I was down there. At the time you had already stated directly and unambiguously in a letter to me (which, for that reason, I assumed was completely candid) that had she visited you in Baltimore, there was little that she or Arch couldn't have had, and either nothing or practically nothing they couldn't have seen. Despite that comment, even had I had much of what you have given me which is obviously to be kept secret I would not have shown it, and of course, I didn't have it with me anyway. But, in thecase of Davi#son I felt that she might be of real help due to all she had done on names and people, especially those connected with Oswald (due to their looking, in the beginning, for a left-wing plot).# Since from what I know Dave has many of Paul's memos, and this was in memo form, I assumed that this might even be out. Obviously I would not have mentioned it on the phone or given it to Fred and others, and in fact told Mary to keep it in security since, as she realized, any leak could alert Davi#son. This is the same reason I feel that Kara-pat, and others like them, should be kept quiet until we know all we can find out. But I talked to her about Davison, not because I felt that I had to show her things, since I had already overwhelmed her with things, but because I felt that she might know something or be able to help.

Now that it is out in Joesten's newsletter, I am not clear what further security could be preserved by keeping it from Mary, especially since she gets his newsletter. Rather than have her duplicate, perhaps there are things she can contribute.

But, in that paragraph you raise more serious issues than my carelessness or lack of maturity. First of all, Hal's flashing the letter may have a bit more to it than childish indulgence, and may involve his trying to prove something to Dave about you. This is pure hypothesis, but Dave has constantly put me in positions in which I felt like doing just that and had to actively resist the desire to do so. Convincing them of something, which is impossible anyway, could have no purpose anyway given their predispositions, so I never seriously considered it, with the exception of trying to point out what Dave was up to to Fred which didn't work.
But, the second issue, that of Mary, is more complex, and is becoming increasingly disturbing. When I was there, the ### emotional feel I got as both a person and as one who deals with every type of person including psychopaths who lie and take you in, was that she was sincere and genuine. I did not go there to sit in judgment but had to given the things at stake. I liked her although we have differences in political view which are marked, and despite her hangup on social ### status. (The latter is a very big item with me and is something which through my tennis career at the big clubs was always eating away at me. You don't know me quite well enough yet to know of this, I don't think, but I tend to think of people as equal and identify with underdogs in general.) Arch was more difficult, and it was much harder to relate to him. He is a very old fashioned southern racist and an excellent example of how a cultured and intelligent person is still suspeptible to such irrational views once he has lived with them all his life. In fact, at his house we got into a big argument on the War in Vietnam, and some on blacks. I did not hide my views down there, although naturally I was more silent than I would normally have been. Arch is a real conservative and very consistent at it; Mary is not#. She says that she voted for JFK, for instance, because she felt that a Catholic (she's one) should have achance at the White House. Sue, who is the real extremist, was easier to get along with than Arch, perhaps because she was more silent on her views and he tends, although he's quiet, not to be silent and to take things very seriously.# My generally WASP appearance and innocent looks, except for the beard which people strangely forget, helped probably most of all. The fact that I am reasonably intelligent and cultured helped a lot too. The archives work (i.e. we spent hours just discussing that one big archives order of mine, and all of my old files, such as Martinsburg, and strangely, a few very old items such as the 3 versions--5 actually-- of LIFE, Oct. 2, 1964) and other ### Items convinced them that I had done a lot of work. Mary has great respect for your work, although the others don't like your books. Mary says that they are not well organized and hard to read,which I agree with, but like Rich Edelman just wrote me, and like I felt myself, to a real critic there is no question but that you are on the front lines, have done the big work, and uncovered an incredible amount that is important. Mary passed off Lane's book as I did and felt the same way I did--that your books have the real meat in them. By the way, speaking of the rambling style of your writing, I'm sorry about this letter, but I'm just trying to tell you things I haven't had time to write you before to try to fill out what picture I've already given you about the visit.
<u>But</u>, all is not rosy. I am prfoundly disturbed, and please take that at face value, that Mary has not sent you the things she promised. The one item is certainly a bit of consolation. She was very open with me, but she has not sent me things yet. Her not sending me things doesn't bother me because she is overloaded with the things I left, but it will a few months from now. You should know that she did not want to keep all those things because she was afraid that it would take her forever to return them, and also because she is so poorly organized in general (although definitely not on specific research problems) that she was afraid that she would misplace them. She said that she would trust Arch but not herself to keep them safe in that respect. But, something I thought that you knew, and maybe you don't also relates to this. When I was down there Jim Schmidt send a long list of things he wanted done, and Mary got right on it immediately, and mailed them to him just a few days later (names, etcc, in city and phone directories, info on certain addresses, etc.) and then continued to do further searching on related topics. So, basically, although I would never consider mentioning what you asked for, or that she hasn't come through for you, I would strongly advise you to ask for them again and see what happens. She seemed sincere in wanting to do things for you and this would be the best way to find out by ruling out the factor of forgetfulness or what have you. But I am very concerned about her failure to make good with promises to you, and am going to be disappointed if she does not because of what it will suggest. For now I do trust her to keep stuff in confidence and do feel that she and Arch are very seriously concerned with getting to the bottom of this. I also feel that Mary definitely does not care which side of the political fence. Sue, by th e way, is most certainly not publishing any book, and neither

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are Arch or Mary as best I could determine. In fact, Arch and Mary are frustrated, because they want to give their stuff to someone, but as yet have not found anyone they can trust completely not to misuse it. I think that we will eventually get to see much of it because I think that we are trustworthy and that they will realize it. Sue, once you have met her, seems to be the last person in the world to sit down with the drudgery of writing a book... Sue is a close friend of the Hunts and Rothermel, and she grew up with Hunt's kids. Mary and Arch don't know them.

Fred's statement about Mary having given Gene things is probably a typical Fred exaggeration which is meaningless. I would attach no significance to it. Mary did give him stuff on right wingers--those in whom he is interested--but knows nothigg about Mark. I doubt if she would give him things to use on Jim, and she probably convinced him that Jim was a sick man and little else. Just don't take that as coming from Gene, since it is such a typical Fredd comment. He has always, like Dave, gone way out to try to keep up subtle criticism of you, and can't get off that boat. I read nothing into it. Mary likes Gene and his wife, but thinks he is not too capable or bright, not sophistocated politically, and a guy who likes to get involved in litigation. Her opinion of him and comments about him are reminiscent of the ones she made about Bethell, except that she thinks Bethell is intelligent.
The sentence about you contacting N.O. before Gene got there means nothing to me, and I took it at face value, hoping that you could explain it. I will try to delicately probe this area, but it will be almost impossible to get down to the bottom of it, because just asking about it will seem suspicious to Fred. How in the hell, if this is true, could they know it? I can't understand how it is possible. Furthermore, is it true? Did you send a memo on it or a letter on it. My stuff is just in too much of a mess to check, but I do remember a memo or letter saying that Gene had called you, and perhaps you mentioned contacting N.O. in there. If that is the case, and you really did contact them, and did write about it, then the info on it came either from the govt. or someone else who got a carbon of it leaking it. I am confused and incredulous.

"This stuff" referred to the testimony transcripts, which Dave called me about that one night and which Fred mentioned in those letters I sent you, or set you exerpts from. This all relates to the phone call and that incident. I thought that it was all clear in the letters. This whole present business and set of info deals with Dave's one phone call to me, and Fred's two letters which followed. As far as Bradley being sent to you by Fred, I strongly suspect that this is Fred's grandiosity. I told Bradley on the phone at Mary's that if he had time he should drop in on you if you had time#, after calling first, because you might have some subjects which both could discuss. I had previously, during the lengthy debates with Fred and Dave, pointed out that both you and I had questioned the Bradley stuff as a matter of course, especially given those who were backing it (Turner). I continually tried to prevent his stereotyping at that stage because once they were formed he would be no end of trouble. I failed and he is about as irrational as they come, but that's water under the dam.

The accident was OK in the end. The two pedestrians insisted that it was their fault, which it was, and had the additional problem that the husband was out on drugs or alcohol, and that's why# they didn't get out of the way, after they walked right in front. Minor car damage, but they're fine, and I am more relaxed and didn't get a ticket or lose my license, and my insurance rates didn't go up, so even the smaller details worked out.

As for contact with Dave, I think that you have a totally wrong impression of what contact I have with him. I had not heard from him in months when he called the other night, and that call had to do with items unrelated to work on the case as such, but rather with his attempts to get testimony transcripts and find out if Mary spilled the beans. I write to Fred periodically, but neither has forgotten the big debate on the subject of you and both tread lightly. I have not written to Dave for many months. Most of my contact with him has involved the great debate on you, etc. With Fred I have largely discussed Fred's own work, and certainly

never sent him anything that should be kept quiet.

Agreed on Bradley. I assumed that was the case without knowing. I think that your attitude and public stance vis a vis Mark is a good one and certainly did not expect you to give Gene anything on him. I did hope, however, that he would trust your objectivity knowing that you did not agree or support Mark's public ravings, and therefore accept your advice on who not to sue--ie. the San Deigo people, Penn. I am so used to Fred's distortions that with the exception of those key and informative paragraphs which I earlier discussed, and which you commented on separately, I took them with a grain of salt.

Do you have the recent press story on the SS's announcement that they will start files on all people who oppose political leaders or who challenge US postion, etc.? If not I will xerox and send. It should be in Coup. It is the final step of what you discuss in there.

On Mary and Arch again, they are unusual people, and shy in some respects. They are collecting this data but they do want it to be used, but are very fearful that it will be misused and harm people's reputations. For instance, they are very suspicious of all the Russians in Dallas and especially DeMoh, Gary Taylor, and Bouhe, but wouldn't want their stuff released, but rather used for further work. Although they didn't say it, I gathered that they were somewhat suspicious and distrustful of you before they met you, and this may explain why they didn't call, etc. At present I feel very strongly that you should, in a non-demanding manner, ask for all the items you want, and then wait for the response, and judge it from there. I do not justify their present apparent failure, but feel that the benefit of the doubt should be given, especially when Mary was so open with me, and did that stuff for Jim Schmidt, and may be doing more for him. Lifton and Fred drain time, and she doesn't have that much with a full time job and a family, plus friends who continually call and drop by, so it is hard to decided what is going on. But I did not give Mary things, save for many old things of mine which are old hat to you but about which she might have some unique info, based on emotion or anything of the sort as far as I am concerned. If I had there were many items of yours I could have used to help sell the present state of your work on knowledge, but I didn't even consider and didn't take it with me. I think that you sold me a bit short by judging from a description of what I took ### as a great mass of files. I have very big files for someone who tends not to do memos and to avoid big expenses on documents, etc., and just the old stuff, much of which was new to her, could have filled twice the number of file boxes I took. In many areas she can probably render help, and some of it would be invaluble from what I have seen. The only question which remains in my mind is whether she will, and that is prompted by your experience, not mine. So I really don't feel that your criticism was justified. I have given Lifton nothing of security value, and the same goes to Fred. Just writing to Fred for all this time has not compromised anything of yours, or mine for that matter, that I know of, and it has kept me up on Fred's work and some stuff which has real importance in my mind. As for Fred's basic character, he like Dave was on his good behaviorufor a while. I do not judge by what others tell me, because if I did then I would have avoided you due to Mark's comments, and avoided Mary due to grapevine type of stuff, etc. But I don't feel that I give out security stuff after initially finding a person credible, and can't recall having done so. So basically, I don't feel"burnt"by Dave or Fred because nothing in my mind was lost, a few things were gained, and I got to understand and be able to explain to others from first hand experience what type of people they were. Furthermore, I got the opportunity, which you would not have had otherwise, to discover accidental and other types of leaks to Dave, which seem a bit relevent given that he is carrying on his own intelligence operation of sorts.

Be morespecific on the photo work you want done. My man does not do his own color, but we may be able to get a discount. I will have to know size, how many, etc. If I am in a positionat the time, and ;you think them important, may be able to foot some of the bill.

On Rich Edelman, I sent one letter on Dave, and then a second, very long one, laying it all out. Rich is very much on the ball and should accept my comments at face value. My letter was 100% consistent with yours, ironically, although I had not seen yours at the time.

On Hunt, I'm afraid that my files are in such disorder that I can't be sure what doc's I sent him, but there were only about 3 pages, and you also got copies at the time.

ON your letter to Paul, the Free Press thing, which I heard about, overwhelmed me with disgust. Sahl is just unbearable.

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The recant stuff about the slaughter of that Vietnam village was disgusting, and so reminiscent of the 3rd Reich that I don't think I'll# be able to sleep tonight.

Masterman is in touch with Joesten from what I know. Agreed on Dave in your letter to Paul and I hope it sticks. He definitely told me on the phone that he would sell those extra transcripts he had xeroxed. The Z film deal, by the way, has netted them a fortune. While they charge something like $10 a copy, they get it for something like $3 a copy. They have made hundred's on it and I found out by accident when Fred thought that Dave was cheating him. Fred, by the way, although he seems to respect Dave as a critic, seems to have a basic dislike of Dave deep down which I thought that I had detected, and which Mary mentioned indirectly. I just can't immagine relating to Dave close in the way they do out there. He is hard enough to take in letters and on the phone.

If you write Mary ask her about the indexes to #### to reports which we don't have. She says that there are 5 or 6 that we don't have. Tell her I mentioned it to you.

Thanks for the subscription to the Guardian. Everyone in the house is getting a look at it.

Vince, who sounds a bit depressed and who is feeling much pressure with the school dispute on in Phila, just wrote and mentioned that he spent last weekend in N.O. with Jim. He is soundigg a bit old and worn out which is a real change in the time I have known him.

Well, I'd better close. This is twice as long as I had time to write. I have to catch up on sleep before the trip to Morris. Best wishes to you and Lil.

Gary