11/4/69

Dear Gary,

Having had to interrupt a long letter to the Archives to take Lil in town, I further delay it for theprompt answering of your long 10/31, twice postmarked at Apls. There is much of potential significance in it, much of benefit to me and to help my understanding. First I'll respond from recollection, after reading the letter, then I'll skim it again.

By way of explaining some of what will follow: you know I trust even people I know I cannot trust when I believe it is for the common good. Ofttimes I indicate my beliefs and prejudcies to some including you more than others, so you can decide for yourself whether you credit them and so that, if you do, you can be informed.

My reasons for asking that what I get not get to Dave are simple: he has not only blocked my access to material, including what he did not get, but he has turned off those who were working constructively with me. This is entirely inconsistent with serious, honorable purposes or intent. If he does more than deny me what he has made available, I see nothing worng or unfair in doing the same. But as you so well know, he has gone much farthur.. I add to this what I believe is reasonable belief that he has hurt us and will hurt us more, that he is raving mad with his brilliance of mind, and I simple do not want him to know what I known because he is quite capable of making delib rate wrongful use of it, to hurt all of us. I believe him capable of goinf to all sorts of people and warning them about what in his sickness he may regard as "plots" again us, etc. I cannot inflict this attitude on others, but when I ask Paul not to ever give Dave anything he gets from me, I am within my rights and I am disappointed if he does otherwise. He hurt us greatly with the absolutely innocent passing along of the Sibert O'Neill report (for which I had plans that were damaged) although I had directed him to it in confidence, yet he continues.

Each of us has confidence in his own judgement and underseatnding. I cite this report as one example of my seeing and understanding what others miss. Another case, the executive sessions. Paul wrote me it was ho, hum, the idle vaporizings of the old maids, nothing of consequence. He said much the same of the N.O. Finck testimony (which I tell you is of the greatest imprtance). Paul is a very, very bright guy, one of the most decent young men I know, brilliant in many ways, and he has done an enormous amount to help me. I have done what I can to help him also. But as I made quite specific in so many different letters, I place a restriction on everything I send him, that it may go to Hal and Jim only. If he will not agree with this, much as I would regret it, I will send him nothing further. If you were here, I think I could show you waht is quite comprehensible. The prospects for the greatest harm to what I seek counterweighs all the good that can come from informing him if he passes this along plus the great value of what they send me. I know what others do not know and I reserve the right to make my own decisions. I insist that others respect my rights to what is mine. I will not send any more transcripts to Sylvia or Paul. I will get more. I regard Sylvia's repetition of our conversation and my opinions to Lifton as a breach of faith and trust, the greatest stupidity, and she will not have the opportunity again, for I will restrain my disposition to pass along to her what I can. She is not doing any work anyway. But I simply will not have this. Remember, I wrote you not to write her long letters. She doesn't want them anyway. If it means I wind up alone of this, I am resolute and will be inflexible. I have a record on which I place my own trust. You are familiar with it. I shudder to think of it, but in all such cases, my judgements and estimates have been accurate, even when they began with no more than hunches... You have the Receda case. There is in the light of it no possibility of imputing innocence to Lifton. The one doubt I've had is the questions, is this

any more than his sickness. It can be both sickness and more. Evidence accumulates that it is. You have taken no note of it, but I called your and Paul's attention to the fact that his printing of the Liebeler memo clearly is of a copy not an Archives copy. There is little point in his stealing from L what he can get at the Archives. Therefore, I must consider the possibility Liebeler gave it to him, which destroys all of Dave's cover of the hatred between them and his claim that Liebeler has never given him anything. Besides, if you remember what I sent you, he made no secret of his offer to help Liebeler against Lane, in a context that has nothing to do with helping advance what we seek and he says he does. Now, on what you said about John, there is one other thing I want to add, and I have made elliptical references to other cases: you did write that. In a letter to me that I never showed anyone! You wrote me from Dallas. Check your own copy. If this is the source, it could have gotten to Dave in only two ways: through those you showed it to or discussed it with or through interception of the mail. Consider what it means if he got it that way! Admittedly, the chances are slight. But when I consider that I anticipate no good from him or his work, I see nothing to be gained by running even the slightest risk.

Not knowing what it is, I can have no valid opinion of whatever it is that Dave has that is so fantastic. It is my opinion that it is either a theft from someone else's work or a misconstruction he has placed and persuaded Mary about. He is without trace of honesty. For example, his printed "book", where he pretends to have just discovered what I and others had already both brought to light and published. Any man capable of this is capable of anything. I go back over the past and I find nothing of real value that he did except what he did with Marcus, so I believe it possible the good would have been done in any event. There was remarkable little of that, and important as it was, it attracted no attention and did no good.

I do not ask you to breach confidence, but I think we are getting to the point where I think youwill have to ask yourself whether what we may for lack of a better description call "counterintelligence" does not fequire it. Meanwhile, I am leaning over so far to avpid any possibility of his evil having x even tenuous basis, that I do not look at Archives files for which he has sent in requests. Perhaps I should have. But I didn't. Bud was with me and knows this.

By the way, I think it is possible Dave indicated to me the area of his major "discovery". It is the kind of thing that could have been manufactured and planted on him or that he would have been put into a position of taking. He claims to have proof that Johnson and Rusk (earlier formulation, Johnson and Dulles) planned the murder. I simply do not believe it or that anything reasonable subject to this interpretation is in the Archives. This, I think, may explain the failure of his "book" to appear: he knows it is shit. When you are next here, you can hear the tape of our conversation in which he laid it out. I've never listened to it. I just made it for protection.

Jaffe as Bradley's friend is a real joke. B should see his (J's) memo. You have more than once been indiscrete, but I have not chided you about it, but in this case, I do not in any way object or feel hurt in your having told B that I prepared to defend us against Mark. Louis Lyon asked me for a copy. I had to tell him. But I have not porvided it and I do not expect to. It is difficult to remember what we should pass along and what we should not. You do not do it on purpose and in informing you I am aware of the hazard....I have today gotten the Craig typescript. I will copy and send to Bradley. I haven't looked at it.I will, this afternoon or tonight.

I think Mary is wrong to have anything to do with getting Dave's work out. She may not survive it. His irresponsibility, the best possibility, his dishonesty are such she will be contaminated. If he had, genuinely, what she describes, he d not need her help. I cannot tell her this because of the relation-

ship with Dave, but in this case she should not trust her own judgement. She simply doesn not know him as I do. Nor his capabilities. Unfortunately, she also cannot break confidence, so she/we are in a box. But need I tell you what this discloses of Dave's estimate of you, when he has had this for so long and pretended a relationship of trust, but doesn't give it to you but does to her and others? He was playing you all along, I have no doubt.

Let me digress to make another thing explicit, and it is not because of mistrust of you: do not under any circumstances make any publicuse of anything I have ~~xxxxx~~ sent or will send you, do not send any copies to anyone, without asking. I cannot in every case spell things out, but while I know nothing of what Dave has or may have, I do understand what I do, and little pieces of it are enough to cue others in.

I anticipate nothing expect at best a few crumbs from Bradley. My sole interest is helping correct a gross injustice. It also is despite his beliefs.

Mary, Arch: Leave what I told you alone, without mention. However, on the dubbing of tapes, if she wants to borrow a machine she should have no trouble in Dallas. I would even lend her one. Is it possible that Arch doesn't have one-or cant get one? I know about Sue in Bud's notes, from several sources. She just misunderstood, that is all. Had he intended what she read into it, he'd never have been so careless with it. By the way, she has the highest regard for Penabaz, who she regards as a true and great patriot and a brilliant man.

Boxley: feedback. That was my initial and unchanged analysis, sick. I tried without success to make "im believe it. I think I persauded the others, except Vince. Vis-a-vis Turner, your conjecture is valid. But I also do not really believe he is a conscious "agent".

Mary has not seen fit to let me have anything on Shaw, although we did discuss that. I will, when I can, send her the copies you suggest. However, there is much more I have not shared and because it may be unwarranted, will not. I do suggest this is reason why it whould be a two-way street. People who would not talk to her did talk to me, and there are things I know no one else does...As a result of our long talks at Bud's, when I should have gone because I was unwell and stayed until 3 when I should have been in bed before 11, I have yet to get the first scrap of paper. Nothing besides polite flattery.

Where Bradley learned about Perrin is not important. I would like to know only so I could know who was so loose. Burton may have passed it to others or to him. He denied knowing Burton. I know better.

I must straighten you out on what "in confidence" means. It does not mean between two people only. I showed you and Vince and Chris those things asking all of you to remain silent. You know I have been very reserved about what I'll say in public about Mark. I have always defended him shifting to what I can honestly defend him on or where I can praise him. A whore can be a good mother.

Later: driving in to get Lil, I recall telling Mary and Arch about those documents proving Shaw's perjury-and about what is not in documents, the supporting perjury. I also thought of the representation Fred made to you of the recent Lifton echange. You have my letter, and it does not "initiate" anything. However, if you do not have Dave's so-called "study" on the Z camera, why not ask him or Fred for it and the related correspondence-both ways. (I got letters from others about it when they swallowed Dave's gibberish.) I can send them, But I think it would be better if you give them the chance to decline. Besides, Dave gets his xeroxing free. Ask him, if and after you get if, for his distribution. It included the New Yorl Times.

On the "mischief afoot" and the alleged va1

vakue of " having a line of communications open": what real good has it done? Can it possibly be worth the cost? The mischeif was done when we learned about it, and the beleted knowledge has not enabled us to undo any of it, in a single case. The "line of communications" produces and has produced nothing of value, not really. The time involved in this spent on almost anything else would have been more productive. Granted, it provided you the opportunity of confronting Dave with his evil, but aside from telling you what you knew about me, what has it yielded? Were there any value in changing the minds of any of those wierdos, it hasn't accomplished it. Dave is unregenerate, for at best he cannot help it, being sic, and this part of his sickness. So, the actual benefit does not exist, unless it is in my knowing the presumed perfidy of the others, which makes no difference, save in two cases. There is really makes no difference anyway (Bill and Maggie) for I've been out of touch with them anyway.

If I report, you do your thing, whether or not I agree. This one is not a plus, not a constructive utilization of the time. Unless you didn't believe any of what I told you about Dave and the others, for none of it save minor detail was new to me. Abbott showed me his Receda vilification a year ago.

The line "If Mary can ~~know~~ divulge to me what she believes of Thornley, you know why" must relate to something you wrote. I'm not taking time to look it up. Not that important. But I gave her a pretty fair inkling of what I had.

Getting Dave's thing published will make no difference. He'll remain as sick and will be no less determined to do whatever it is he has in mind. If he wants it published. I believe your analysis of the paranoia is correct. He doesn't really want it published. I now see it is Mary's theory.

Again later: Can you give me any good reason why Sylvia should have written Dave as she did about Pinkk's test? I had gone into some detail with her earlier about Dave and what he was then doing and this time I repeated he was continuing. I just cannot see any, especially when her representation is that she had been out of touch for long. Of course, it is possible Dave had triggered a letter for her and she just babbled. Why she had to tell him either part escapes me. But it was not for any concstructive purpose, therefore I'll do what I can to avoid the chance of repetition....Doe you suppose your reference to Fred ~~origin~~ "exonerating" the FBI represents an idea that originates with him? Suppose, in the light of some of the foregoing, it does not?

Igd heard baby-sitter story before. Time culd not possibly have been 1:05, which was before the murder. This suggests Dallas source. Why did Hosty have to be watched? His lunch, I think, is in Manchester. But this insanity is worth the time you/we have put in, and a man knowing so little of the case can be depended on to do dependable work? By the way, there are frames missing in the Z copies, which makes me suspect the source if the one I first suggested to you, Jaffe, the JG copy in which I believe I detected such identifications.

Roffman: copy gping with enclosed letter. Harper: Tell him I asked you to look him up, that I had discovered this file in 1966 and have not made public use of it because it is incomplete and is subject to interpretation not favorable to him, esp. because he remained silent when with the official silence decency and the obligations of citizenship required otherwise. Tell him also that it is his choice, but he is involved, cannot avoid "further participation", can only insure that it will be uncongenial. I, for one, will report his refusal to cooperate is he does notl for to me he will be no better than those officials who hide evidence of how our President was murdered. Had he done the right thing to begin with, the entire whitewash might have been impossible. I fully intend to charge this if he thinks he can live in the cuntry, enjoy its benefits, and play games with those who do the suppressing. He is old enough to know for himself

that the total suppression of this evidence from the Report, the hearings, the investigations and all 10,000,000 printed words is not consistent with good citizenship and honor in government. If that is what he wants to be part of, it is his free choice. He is also old enough to know he is protecteing wrongdoers, for he could not have found that piece of skull if there had been any investigation and the location may well disprove the entire false "solution". Or say nothing. I leave it up to you. I think there is little to be gained by kissing fink asses. I'm certainly not in the mood for it now. But, if by the time I return to that writing, there mreains questions, I'll specify them and state why they exist-and recount his total silence.

Betzner: get more than one print so you can keep one intact and either mark up the other or using it for tracings, etc. It might also be a good idea to try one larger than 8x10, if the negative will stand it. I'd says as large as would be clear.

Enclosed are three copies of the letter to Lifton that you cannot find. The clearer copy on the rapidly-diminishing supply of fresk paper, is for you to keep. One of the others is for Mary. Unless she (and you) see the original Lifton work on this and the distribution he gave it-and the timing- you will never understand how temporate this really is. Interpret it as you will, there is nothing at all like Fred's representation to you, and you have this extra copy for him in the event you want to send it to him, appropos of my "initiating" this, asking him to justify his statements to you. You can tell him you asked me and I sent you this copy for him. The compare this letter(and demand that he also do it) with Lifton's response. While I believe Fred is beyond redemption and that we he not redeeming him would not be worth the effort, this will give him a fresh chance to confront what he is and has been part of. But by all means ask Dave for his original work and his distribution list and the letters he sent with it. If I am not in error, this roughly coincided with his Receda bit.

Before coming to the end of this too-long necessity, this unpleasantness that cannot be avoided, let me conjecture with you, intending no unfairness to Dave, for as you know, all along, I've been insisting he is merely ill, in a sense defending him and certainly, from what you learned for yourself, taking massive abuse without retaliation -- all with nothing I ever did to justify it. Dave got off on his Thornley tangeant. He apparently likes that awful thing, that anarchist. He was then also in touch with Liebeler. With or without this, it certainly is possible that officialdom learned of his anti-Garrison stance. With his sickness (the kind preferred by some agencies), he was ripe for an approach-and he may not ever have known he was being approached. I believe it possible he has been used without knowing it, depending on the (unknown) intermediary. Here I ask you to recall his account of what I sent John. It is entirely inconsistent with John's representation to me, and I have John's word he had nothing to do with it. Thus, unless it is Paul/Hal/ Jim, he has no way of knowing about it. I do not believe I sent that to SM, but it is possible I did. Add now your recent experience, the absence of Commission identification on his Liebeler memo, and there is ground to wonder whether this can all be explained away as a combination of sickness and brightness...I have again written Hal, I sent you a copy of the letter.

All this is upsetting to me (do not, under any circumstances, let this keep you from keeping me informed, for there are too many parts that I alone can fit together). I hate to waste this kind of time. But the situation is altered, the political climate is even worse, and we really should be foresighted and circumspect...It occurred to me I might have some of his papier-machex conspiracy stuff on paper, so I looked through the file. I find an enormous letter I'll not copy, allegedly in response to reports he was doing a job on me for Liebeler. There is what now looks quite interesting:"Intellectual diversity is a virtue, not a vice

Its potential for good far outweights minor misuses, of which Mr. Schiller's book is a mjaor example". Any comment needed? Date, 4/25/67, p.3 Part of the page is copied and enclosed, to save paper and use up the dated. Annotated. Note marked part page 8!

So, what does Dave do? Exactly what he says it never entered his mind to do, would never under any circumstances do, a crooked "research" piece" and of course it was only for critics, like the New York Times!

Anyway, I'll not take more time for the papier-mache. I have it on tape somewhere anyway.

You conclude "for God's sake take care of yourself". As a wish or as an injunction, fine. But when you have some ideas of how, that is what I can use. I cannot avoid this miserable business we are into because its potential for evil is so gr at. I cannot compel the others who know and knew about this and are and were silent to do other than their own consciences and characters tell them to do. We'd have to be as wild as he is to ignore what he has done and is doing. How may more Garrisn's can we afford, especially those with no capacity for influencing eople our way. How many more working against others on the inside? But, aside from eating nourishing food, getting reasonable sleep, getting some physical activity daily, exeept for quitting I have few meaningful alternatives.

Somewhere you asked is it okay to mention PM. Of course, and the other limited editions and the work under way. But nothing about their contents. To anyone. I have run into a problem on the xeroxing of Coup add, the NCR paper does not do it well. When I solve it and arrenge the financing, there'll be a copy for you. Do you have PM III? I recall no comment on it. I intended lending you a copy.

Sincerely,

H

October 31, 1969

Dear Harold,

Enclosed are two dopies of the disappointing reply I got from Harper--one is for Roffmann. I am waiting before replying, hoping for suggestions from you. I don't want to antagonize him but I don't want to let this matter drop--it is too important--and therefore am not sure how to go about replying. This one really has me stumped. There is a chance, by the way, that he and his uncle have been reached or warned by the FBI in my opinion, but I doubt that we would ever know. If so then further pleading might be useless. Also enclosed is a copy of my last letter to Nichols. It looks from what Nichols wrote me (and a copy went to Betzner), that the agreement would not preclude my showing you those photos, but only my giving or selling them to you to keep, so I think that I will just not mention it to him. Any suggestion on variation from his script might scotch the deal, and if the affadavit I send follows their specifications then I feel confortable in being able to show them to you. I would not send them to California.

I couldn't find your letter to Lifton--the first one--but sent his two and your one of the 16th to Mary with some notes of my own on them, adding to them, offering her the earlier ones, and explaining that I was doing this only so that she would realize why I get so upset at Lifton and that I am not exaggerating when I say that Lifton says things about you and to you which no decent person (in this case me) can stand by and watch. She is having enormous trouble with Dave now, and he spoke with her for almost an hour on the phone and really got her upset with his paranoia. For example, it seems that Penn Jones' editorial about Connally made him suspect that she had given his stuff to Penn! Can you imagine that. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, for one of the first times since this thing started I got careless and allowed myself to project some of my anger at Dave and upset onto her, and by not proofreading a letter to her, conveyed the impression that I didn't completely trust her. That obviously hurt her and I wrote a long apology--frustrated as hell, as I am so often with you, that I could not afford a phone call. I hope and expect that she will realize what happened, and that I have been under a bit of pressure back here which didn't help. This was brought on by things Dave said on the phone, some of which he clearly got from her, and one of which I assumed he had gotten from her (wrongly according to her, and I do not for an instant dobut her word on anything) by a process of elimination. The former was bizarre in that it had to do with my having told her that he believed in the men in the trees. As I told him on the phone, there was a very good reason for this: he had gone out of his way to convince me of it, sending me photos, convincing George Rennar of it, telling me that I would have to take back my criticism when his book came out and the proofs were in there, and last but not least, amazingly defending the stuff in Esquire and Schiller and Lewis, claiming that he had dictated it to them! He now acts as though none of that ever happened. The second item had to do with Dave's claim that I thought John Nichols was some sort of "a kook." I am certain that I did not write this to Fred and Marlynn (I have carbons of those letters), and I did not write it to anyone like Dick Bernabei, Paul, Jim, etc. I did tell something like that to Mary, but with a much different meaning. What I said was that Nichols was a nice guy but a bit unusual in an interpersonal conversation and that he is not the type of person everyone relaxes with, and that for that reason I was a bit worried that the Betzner thing might not come off as well. As it turned out John did an excellent job and I'm glad to say that my assessment was wrong and that I apparently had seen him at a more unusual moment. If I am ##### right about not having written it to anyone, and I am certain that I am, and assuming that Mary did not tell Dave of it (I have 100% and unquestioned confidence in this), then there is a slight, although crazy and way out possibility that Dave has a source which is not too Kosher. While this is undoubtedly quite way out on the basis of the evidence I have, it is noteworthy that David hedged when I asked him who told him that, and then hesitantly claimed I had written it to Fred. In any event, file it away in the back of your mind and don't mention it to anyone. If it re=occurs then something is up. I think that Mary will take my opinions as honest ones, which they are, because I still honestly indicate that I think she should do everything in her power to help Dave get that damn book out so that we will be done with his ravings and sabotage and putting people uptight for good. In addition, if he really has something of importance, it is about time the restof us had the benefit of it. Lifton is way out, and his grandiosity is typical of a classic paranoid schizophrenic. That is not a diagnosis but only an impression. I would love to see his MMPI.

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Bradley's sources of info are Fred, Dave, and Jaffe. Mary feels he is very harmless and is basically OK, although a bit extreme in some views and a bit of a litigator--someone who likes lawsuits. She said that they talked little of the case because he wasn't interested and all that seemed to concern him was the people who framed him. Mary says that he does not

look like the recent snapshots taken of him. She and Sue say that for some strange reason he comes up looking differently than he really does.

The study of the archives organization you suggest on your letter of 10/23 to Paul is a good one. You really do a fine job of putting people to work constructively. I only wish I had met you in 1964-5-6 when I was plodding through the volumes and working on my own.

Your work with Jerry Ray is well done. It must be difficult to keep that line of communication open, especially given what is probably the case with Jerry.

On Mary and Arch, if they have not fulfilled any requests of yours it is probably because those have been lost in the shuffle. With all of the visitors they have, plus Mary having a full-time job and carrying on much correspondence, the house is constant confusion. My trip there undoutedly led to all kinds of suspension of activity, etc. In addition, Mary was reluctant to have me leave documents with her to be copied when she gets the chance, although she wanted them badly, because she was afraid of misplacing them.

On Bud, Mary's suspicion has more foundations than those you named, but I don't think that it is particularly strong, especially given the fact that she has done some things to keep warm relations with Dallas for him. There is something which I think would explain Sue Fitch's attitude to you and Mary's also, but I have been sworn to secrecy on it, and it is something which would justify such an attitude. Even Arch does not know of it, and Mary has kept it from him on purpose so as not to break off relations with Bud. It has nothing to do with anything which is political or which requires any type of conjecture.

There is no question that Boxley, like Jaffe, did not do what a normal, rational, and serious person would have done, but he does not appear to be the organizer of that affair as I had been led to believe. The big joke down there in Mary's circle is the stories Boxley shows up with involving headless corpses, although Mary admits that sometimes he comes in with fascinating things, some of which check out. She feels that there are many unanswered questions about the Perrin thing, but that (like me) they may be totally unrelated to the assassination [and perhaps related to something else--maybe even another crime] or have some fantastic explanation. After some long talks with Bill I feel that he is a sick man, very weak, and very much in need of recognition, excitement, friends, etc. Some of the things he comes up with are hard to believe. Mary and I both agree that we need to know much more to fully assess his role, and that his seeming mental problems make Turner look even more interesting and suspicious.

I will try to get memos done, but they will be delayed because of some problems which have come up out here. Right now I must concentrate on sending all required thankyou notes and promised items to people like Marguerite, Harper, Willis, Betzner. Then I can do the memos.

On Shaw, agreed. Arch feels he is involved, although he doesn't talk about it, and Mary says that he feels strongly about it. Sue doesn't give him a clean bill of goods, and Mary isn't sure either. She feels, like you do, that we need to know more. She also feels that Shaw's perjury, etc. is quite suspicious.

On Bloomfield, could you possibly write Mary on that. I just don't have time to find those memos (you send me so much stuff, it is hard to file it so that I can find it, and I don't know that stuff from memory).

On Bradley, I am not certain, but I may very well have told him that you had done a book on Mark. I am sorry if I did and that was meant to be kept in confidence. If I did tell him, and let's assume that I did, it was in the context of pointing out that many of us had been disgusted with Mark and what he had done in the case, and that you had been very concerned about righting some of the wrongs even though you didn't like in-group fighting. I was trying to convince him to go visit you and trying to make him realize that besides being a fair guy and someone who is honest, you are a doer. It is easy for many people to now stand by Bradley and claim that they were always with him, as in the case of Fred, but this is only because they never had the chance to do anything publicly and are never asked what they did privately. I am certain that I did not discuss Perrin with him, for I know little of that. Although I definitely do not recall it as having been part of the conversation, had he asked

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me if I knew that Garrison was after Rich with such a theory, I'm sure that I would have said yes. (I bring this up since he tends to ask such questions.) He undoubtedly knows the entire story from Fred and Jaffe now that I sit down and think about it, or at least between what they have apparently told him and what Penn Jones has printed, could have a pretty good idea of it. Fred, Dave, and Steve apparently treat him the way Sylvia and Dave treat Thornley, as though he is a critic. While dealing with Bradley is a positive thing as far as I am concerned, I don't see any need to fill him in on any thing. I spoke with him largely of Mark, and of the differences between the critics in their approach to this case a devotion to the truth. I pointed out the problem we all had having no real knowledge of what Garrison had and yet having no contact with him. Principally I wanted you to get to talk with him since if anyone could derive benefit for the critics from it, you could. But I am sorry that I breached confidence on the Mark Book--it was just that I did not know it was a confidence since I first saw it when Vince and Chris were there, and you told them. Now, more important, is Post Mortem a secret? I have told Mary about it--not in terms of what is in it--but in terms of the magnitude of the work you have done on the autopsy. They know little of the physical and medical evidence and Dave's small amount of work on it probably seemed pretty impressive.

On Curry It wouldn't surprise me if you loosened him up. I still wonder about Bahmer, given the timing. On Fred, Dave, Marlynn I agree that you were correct, but I am very glad that I learned for myself. It is also good to have a communication line open to that group given all the mischeif afoot and also the fact that Fred does come up with some things, having the equipment, time, and photos to work with. Matt is a disappointment, as much as I like the guy. I missed the meaning of: "If Mary can divulge to me what she believes of Thornley you know why."

Agreed on your additional analysis of the backstabbers. I ### meant that too. It is such an oft-used ploy. Fortune-tellers tend to use about 1/4 of statements which are mildly derogatory or unfavorable.

On the dub of Mary's tapes, she is trying to arrange for a safe way to make good copies of them. Her tape copy is beginning to stretch, and she is afraid to even play them. By the way, she wanted me to use mine to copy them, but we never got a chance. She would have been glad to have me send you a copy. We just didn't have time. At present she has only one tape-recorder in the house.

Agreed on Joesten. I was a bad idea to begin with. What I was hoping for was someone who could track down leads in West Berlin or West Germany. No dice on that anyway. Your comments mirror my feelings, but I was desperate to get someone who could check things out on the continent.

On Don, I feel that he is a hard worker and has done a lot of work in the area, limited though it may be, where he looked. I wrote him a number of letters disagreeing with his freeing of the WR from the SBT through failure to assess relative probabilities, the better cond. of the rifle during the tests, etc. There are much better uses for such work.

Agreed on your desire to limit the Davison thing. I would suggest that Mary be included because she might be a big help. I would now worry about this thing leaking out. Agree that it could be important in a number of ways. I have spoken to Mary on this, but written nobody.

Many thanks for all the archives stuff. You are onto some more interesting stuff.

As soon as I have cleaned up after Dallas, and the relationship with Mary is a bit more stable, I will try to sit down and suggest things which she could do to help us. There are many areas in which her help could be invaluble, such as in the stuff she just did for Jim Schmidt. She is efficient, fast, flexible and alert for deception (something I just can't train into my people very well but which comes from experience), and has done incredible work on some areas which interest us. I wish that I had more time so that I wouldn't just have to sit down and continue to write you these generalities, but rather get down to brass tacks, but I must get those Dallas memos done.

Wrist scars well worth pursuing. Always wonder a bit about that crazy suspicion that a different LHO returned from the Soviet Union. Marguerite's testimony, when she was asked whether Lee was different after his Soviet stay, contains the fascinating indication that the texture of his hair was different. Mayy has a wild theory about this and realizes it is wild, but wonders whether Marguerite noticed any new scars on his head, etc. I carefully asked Marguerite about this and got a very interesting reaction: a flat denial. Normally she will go on and on about things for a while and ramble, always claiming that she noticed things others didn't. All I can say was that it made me suspicious. By the way, one time she made the comment to Mary that there was one guy besides KT who could do a good job of impersonating Lee--and that was Robert. She said it to me indirectly, and even showed me a picture of a guy in whom she was interested who looked like Robert.

ON the Lifton thing from the phone conversation about people writing him that you had instructed them not to give him the N.O. testimony, according to a recent letter from Fred and Marlynn, one of those Lifton cited was Sylvia. I still am not sure whether he said that one of those people offered him the testimony or sent it to him, but he definitely did say that whoever they were, he was informed immediately. I am not 100% certain that there was more than one person involved, but Sylvia is the one Fred mentioned. The withholding from Lifton, contrary to the opinion I have apparently conveyed judging from your letter of 10/28, deals specifically with the testimony gotten from Nichols. I replied to Fred's recent letter wondering if this isn't public info, that the archives is all public info, and so is everything else, but Dave doesn't share his archives work or other things he spends time getting, and that I knew that you had spent much time getting that testimony. Fred knows that if you say not to send it to Dave I won't, no matter what arguments. I said that I didn't really see any reason why Dave shouldn't have it, except that it killed me that he might gain benefit from something he did his best to prevent from ever taking place, but that I thought it proper for you to have it withheld if you wanted to. If it is public record, then Dave can get it on his own, just as he can order any declassified material from the archives. But he already has it, has had it since last Friday, and has made copies to see to others (which will involve a profit since he gets xeroxing done for free at night according to his own statements to me).

I certainly feel that everything connected with him is bad business, but Mary's certainty that he has one item of incredible importance, a lot of junk, probably some average stuff, and mostly filler leached from the work of countless others makes me want to see that book in print. It would also quiet him down, one way or the other. I have sent him no letters in a long while and gotten only one call from him. Those letters to he and Fred werely pretty clear and he is afraid that someone else will get to see that entire correppondence. To keep him a bit more quiet than usual I drop that in a letter to Fred anytime they bring the subject up. But I still feel that Mary should do eveyything in her power to help him push that book into print. The way things look now, that is very unlikely. Lifton is so crazy and so paranoid, and is so easily set off as soon as my name comes up (my visit to Mary must have deprived him of a good deal of sleep, and even the Newcombs have been silent with her) just the same as he is when yours comes up. I still do not regret having had all of this interchange with him. For one thing, it has served to build up an incredible confidence in you in a short time although I regret that it was an inconveniente to you. It has made me able to talk straight to someone like Mary about this thing and give documentation and also project the way I feel--fully confident about my views in you and him. He is one of those guys who has a potential for genius, but who is crazy. This was the one thing I had trouble convincing Mary about--that a guy could be very bright and yet insane at the same time; and that many times the only way to make the distinction is by the final product. Inother words, are the promises borne out by the book. Given Lifton's approach, plus his underhanded methods (of which, I am convinced, we know only a little bit), plus the high probability that he stole from Liebeler (he suggested it in one conversation to me), it would not surprise me at all if he had come upon an item of real importance. Just probability alone would suggest the chance that he had.

On my postscript to Mary, I think that I make it clear in the letters I have sent her, and have made it abundantly clear in person, that both of us have the same fear that she and Arch do--that of misuse which could harm an innocent party. In addition, and she agrees, there is the danger of premature use. That's what the Powell example is all about and why I keep referring to it. That could result in damaging him injustly, but more important, if he is important, shutting off all chance to learn anything more than innuendo. But I am afraid that I cannot without violating a confidence of Mary's tell you things which would put you far more at ease about Mary and Dave and Mary's feelings about us which would be reflected in this.

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She is a very decent sort of person who has known only of Boxley, Bethell, and Jaffe in the way of critics, although she has had some contact with others such as Shirley Orr whose work was limited and in areas similar to her own. Her contacts with the Newcombs and Lifton and her friendship with the Newcombs (although she recognizes their faults) and general concern about helping anyone coming out with a book have put her in an unusual bind with Dave. He does not know of most of what she has, and she does not intend to show it from what I know. She has given him a few items of importance which need much further work, and at present are merely fascinating coincidences (but which could be extremely important, depending on what else can be learned) and is now conflicted because he and the Newcombs swore her to secrecy even though it was her own work. Basically, she is a person who is generally quite generous once she gets to like someone, and who has a desire to have all that they have done in Dallas put to some good use. Lifton, as I assume he is with Paul and Hal, is always on his good behavior with such people. Ironically, the extent of his psychopathology not infrequently bursts through anyway, as it has now, and leads to his turning such people off, as it has done with her. She has just about had it with the anxiety he has created, although I think she would like to stick with it so that he gets that book out so that everyone can see his one big find because she thinks it would do a lot to solving the case. Her theory of Dave is that he is like Marguerite, and will never publish, and will always let his paranoia give him reason to dissociate from people after they have helped him, keeping his work therefore in limbo. You are very right about keeping a tape recorder loaded by the phone. I have one but my phone pickup was not yet unpacked when he called, so I couldn't use it. I could shoot myself for that because the clues he gave were more than I could remember in terms of who is writing him. Also, he called at a very bad moment for me.

I accidentally left your MMPI at home and will comment on it in my next letter. I was thinking of having someone else read it blind--meaning just knowing your age and sex. We do that to check each other when a friend or someone we have known for some time is involved.

Fred's letter to me of Oct. 28 mentioned your correspondence with Dave, emphasized that you had initiated the correspondence, and noted only that your second letter "is unbelievable in tone and language." I replied that Dave's letters to you were the most dispicable things that I had ever read. Also note this:
"Dave just called to say he'd heard from Sylvia that she'd had dinner with Harold recently. Harold noticed that Sylvia had just gotten the Fink/Frazier transcript from Paul Hoch, and told Sylvia not to distribute this as he had gotten this, and made her promise not to send it to anyone, especially to Dave, among others. Dave already has this and has made copies for others (as Dave feels this is a basic source material). His understanding was that this material came from Dr. Nicholas (sic) and no restrictions were placed on it when Dave received this this (sic ? And if so, I wonder why?" As in the past, please be careful when letting anyone know about anything I send you from one of Fred's letters, because right now this is about the only way to gauge what Dave is up to. Fred did not swear me to confidence on anything but something totally trivial at the beginning of the letter, and in fact, I am not yet certain exactly what he wants kept in confidence in terms of the trivial matter. His letter was way out--he exonerated the FBI, archives, and practically everyone else, and left it all up to a few big figures. In doing so he told me of things I am certain Dave wants kept secret, but since he didn't ask me not to tell anyone, you might as well know:

1. there was a "high level baby sitter" at Hichory Hill when RFK got the news that his brother was dead at 1:05 (I have notes on this, but don't remember ever having thought too much of "a high level baby sitter", although I do think that baby sitters may have played a role, and that there may have been observers, such as in the crowd which Reed photographed)
2. He brought up the cabinet plane, something we all have known about for a logg long while, and I have used publicly.

3. Hosty had to be# watched and was taken to lunch so that he wouldn't accidentally drop in on the TSBD.
4. He totally misconstrued the FBI (fake FBI?) in the Parkland who tried to burst into trauma room 1 to make the SS look bad ### and the FBI man look good--that's incredible twisting.

He writes like an expert and knows even less than I ever dreamed. Every letter is wild theorizir and shows almost a complete lack of knowledge. When he exonerates the FBI for coverup and the archives for ever having done us a disservice I just about pass out.

Well, I'd better go. Best wishes and for god's sake take care of yourself. Give my regards to Lil.

Gary