

10/24/69

Dear Gary (only),

Your long and interesting letter of the 21st indicates you had a worthwhile trip. If I do not share your optimism in some areas, it nonetheless was very worthwhile, had already yielded more than enough to justify it, will yield more, and anyway, you needed the break. Much of pluses.

I was gone most of the day, with my annual checkup (good), a brief stop at the Archives, Bud and a few chores. I answer before bed so tomorrow I can start fresh, including on the things I brought back.

The one thing I learned from the checkup is that the spread of the (diagnosed) arthritis to the second knee was predictable. I am to take 15 minutes each morning for a hot soak, tylenol, etc., and am to be comforted by the usual situation, it is generally worse at the change of seasons.

Caution on Harper. although I deliberately avoided in the PM, there is always the chance that the piece of skull was moved, kicked, played with by a stray dog, even thrown there. However, his placing himself is valuable, for whatever it can mean, for there is no certainty any of these things happened. I play it straight, for it is the most awful indictment of the investigation yet. I've had this since the end of 66 and have seen nothing I regard as more or an indictment.

On Arch and Mary generally: I share your opinions. I believe I offered essential those before you went there. On the other hand, there are a few simple things I asked of them on which they have been silent. Do not remind them. I also will not. They are not essential to my work.

Sue Fitch should also know of me from the Castorrs. I am certain they must know each other. She does more than dislike Bud. She hates him, for what she regards as sufficient reason, but it is a simple misunderstanding. My own opinion of him is unchanged. I suspect Mary's suspicion derives from a) his spending money on them and b) his apparent lack of practice. Well, he has the money and is that kind of guy and b) now is so busy they are beginning their day at 7 a.m. It is a new practice.

I have always been aware of the possibility JG put Boxley on that trail. However, it was his obligation to do other than he did and there are some things that did not originate with Jim. I do not know what you mean by the Ferrin thing you discussed with Mary. I am satisfied he is the 1962 N.C. dead man.

That green and white pickup in the unpublished Willis pictures may be significant. This color pattern repeats, for whatever reason and coincidence. Also, when there was an alleged IHO application for employment (with clothes left behind) at a marble or monument works, I think I recall such a truck. It seem to be like the description of one owned by a man at the Sprotsdrome. I once saw and perhaps did not order these reports. I look forward to your memo on her, for what I've gotten from them came from Phil only.

I have never taken the Jarnigen story at face value.

The avoidance of the Elsie St address is interesting. When you do a memo on this it will interest me for Agt O. I have a few things on it, I think, nothing not known.

I am no longer the expert on the Archives I was. It is quite possible both Jim and Paul know more know, for the frustrations of the past two years and the other things to be done have kept me away. (Pictures not back yet. Got some docs, and if any are interesting, when I read in a.m., I'll forward.) I would like to have their memo. They promised me one when we spoke at Bud's. Of course,

I'll do what I can there for Mary, Sue, Arch, etc.

Speaking of the Z film, I think it possible I may be able to get 35mm slides made from it. More when I know.

The worst part of the Speisel story is not that they used him but that they never checked his story out. Had they, they'd have known OS had owned the house to which he took them. --gain, Vince was there and he knew the agreement that Jim would leave it all up to Alcock, who ~~is~~ to have been in charge. On Shew, there remains no doubt he did perjur himself, and there is much too much that was not gone into, so we really do not know.

I believe Mary has to be wrong about Louis Bloomfield. It is more likely Lawrence, sent down from the Bloomfield office. See my letter to JG right after the trial, on the Shew perjury, and my earlier memos to "oo, in preparation for the trial, on O's lit dist-WDSU footage.

Before spending any money on what you get from Harper, see it. The only one who should get an automatic copy is Roffman. He will be here 31 for long weekend.

Powell: I just remembered where my file on that is. In the Manchester file. This also includes a statement to me by MacNeil.

Your reference to Bradley clears up a few things but leaves some questions. He asked my opinion of you without indicating why. He also knew things I have no objection to his knowing, but I'd like to know who told him, for everyone to whom I passed it (very few) got it in confidence. He knew about the N.O. Ferrin play and that I'd done a book on Mark. If you told him, please tell me, otherwise, I'll be wondering who breached confidence. I confirmed the Ferrin, told him there was much more I felt I could not divulge, and I also told him no one will ever see the Mark book as long as he keeps away and quiet on this subject. As you know, I have never felt there was any evidence he was connected with anything. If there is such evidence, I've not seen it.

If Mary can divulge to me what she believes of Thornley, you know why.

I may be wrong, but I think my year-ago mind-blowing did something to Curry. Remember, Matt was there, etc.

With each thing you report of Fred, Marilyn, Dave, you merely repeat confirmation of what I told you to begin with.

I've been disappointed some of those who do not regard him as the most estimable of men have not interested themselves in my work on Clark...

I asked Matt to get me that 1026 Beckley photo more than a year ago. He said he would and fell silent. He also promised me a set of contacts of the pictures he took in Dallas with Filger and me. He has provided neither. I have already ordered the one of the 1026 sequence I want from Black Star. You saw my strip when you were here. Matt has just refused to respond and I can do nothing but leave it that way and feel very disappointed.

Check on the comment on anxiety. However, you have touched on only some of the problems, tensions, etc.

Your analysis of the reason for the favorable comments about Hil by those you call "backstabbers" is undoubtedly correct, but I also believe there is a more sinister reason, since none has ever met her: to make them seem evenhanded, dispassionate, etc.

You misunderstood on Henry. It is as you said, but the one thing

gleaned from him was more than worth it, as you will eventually see. He didn't understand. I guffed something very badly two years ago. This enabled me to pick it up. So, don't be upset. We knew better, because he said it had been a long time since he'd seen you and, as I recall, had seen you but once. Please act on my letter on his body chart, however, for it is important, especially in the suit.

May will be welcome to our transcripts. Moo has promised them to me after the election. I am not as charitable as you. Vince should not have forgotten this. Rather I think it is part of his continuing self-justification/

I knew about the tapes he has. She was to consider letting me have a dub. Silence on this as well as the other things.

Stay away from Joesten under any and all circumstances. Not even innocent correspondence. You do not understand him. He is as bad as he is crooked, and he regards himself as the sole hero, the one doing all the work, etc, when all he does is rob toilets.

Salisbury: no. I saw him fall 1966, gave him copy WWII, let him read ms WW 1965, and he lost copy ms COUP, without comment. I know my work turned him on, from the letter he wrote Wicker, but he lives with the Times. Play it by ear, your own way. I have invited him to see what I have many times.

On the rest, fine and thanks. I do not get Thunderbolt. Councilor, I've gotten Nos 15 and 17 only.

I've ordered the GPO copy of Craig from Bradley.

I am, as I tried to indicate politely, much less enamored of Don's work than you. Sylvia shares my view, I've just learned.

I recall the Penkovsky quotes from the serialization, but I cannot now find it. I've got the London Times stories in Paul's memos, if either of you wants to borrow them.

For God's sake, do not put Olson in touch with that awful Joesten.

All I've time for now. More tomorrow, re docs, etc. Looking forward to your various memos.

Best

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MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

October 21, 1969

Dear Harold,

I am a bit tired after just two long days at the clinic, but I have not yet caught up on sleep or obligations, both of which were strained by the car troubles. I have big hopes on the Harpe bit, and Mary will take the photos, if only he will agree. I tried calling him about 50 times and just had bad luck while I was there. Mary felt badly because she knew it was high priority and the only such item I did not accomplish. When I spoke to Dr. Jack Harper on the phone (I have a tape of all I did down there) he did not sound as friendly as he did in Roffman's letter and his kindness appears to be quite superficial--he will do nothing for us about the photos. Although one never knows, I doubt if anyone else would do any better with him--I used all the medical credentials I could muster.

I tracked down the photos possessed by Aaron Foster, Wanda Schafer, Morris Weinkrantz, etc., and finally had to go to the original procurer of the photo--PV Bearden. I got one from him. The guy in the background is not Ruby and the car is up on Main, but it is definitely a new photo. By the way, Arch Kimbrough has photos he took of the motorcade and also in the Plaza sometime after the assassination. He built the monument to Kennedy, many of the underpasses, was at Love field, ate lunch at the spot where LHO allegedly boarded the bus, and got the Plaza within about 15 min. of the shots. In addition he is the guy who took Hugh Aynesworth and company to Oak Cliff to point out that LHO was walking directly towards Ruby's apartment. His inlaws are the Reilly's of the Reilly Coffee Co.! Mary's station wagon was car #5 in the motorcade! Her husband helped plan the Trade Mart speech set up. PV Bearden, by the way, told me of a bondsman or lawyer who displayed photos in Dallas in his window after the assassination and we are going to try to figure out who it is. Arch's photos are useful to show JFK's height--his seat, which could be raised or lowered, was up for most of the motorcade and therefore made JFK higher than Connally. Arch, by the way, had early contact with DCA people.

I contacted a John L. Ford hoping that it was John Laurell Ford, but found that he wasn't. I spoke with Rothermel briefly, but should have written beforehand. He offered help with anything I didn't get done and I may contact him about it. The relationship with him helped convince Sue Fitch that we are no so bad, since she knows both he and Hunt very well. I spent 7 hours with Marguerite which was interesting, but not too productive, although there may be some possibilities in the future to see some of her stuff. I suspect she has much stuff which could be valuable in our hands, but getting a look at it will be another matter altogether. She is on the outs with Mary et. al. and suspects them of involvement in the assassination and also the "framing" of Edward Kennedy. Bud is also part of that one. In confidence, on the subject of Bud, for your info only, Arch wants to work with him since he wants to help any serious worker, Mary does not trust him but is somewhere in the middle, and Sue Fitch dislikes him. You will have to take my word for it that Mary has a good concrete reason for her mistrust and is actually keeping it from Arch so as to keep open communication lines.

I could find no William Sharper. He was arrested (24:310) and I assume that his name was put in as William Sharpe since their addresses are the same. He listed his employment as the Bettermade Novelty Co.'s elevator operator, but the company does not exist. I spoke with Woodrow Wilson Sooter whose original FBI interview is mostly classified--he worked in the Post Office and was Birch Society, and the suppressed pages seemed to deal with something he saw in the Plaza. He was friendly and open and said that someone in the Post Office had phoned him in as a suspect because of his anti-Kennedy sentiment. He said that everyone in the office who he suspected were liberals with whom he always kidded about politics, and that they didn't speak to him suddenly for quite some time after the assassination. If you listen to the tape I suspect that you will feel as I did--that he is being truthful (I led him to believe that I had the FBI reports on him).

Stuart Reed was friendly and helpful, and will send me copies of all his photos. He has some

of Dealy Plaza! besides the Texas Theater, but I didn't get to see them because he was moving while I was in Dallas. I think that my memo on him will prove interesting when I get to do it. So we have more new photos. I couldn't get in touch with Robert Adrian Taylor or a few others.

I had several long talks with Boxley. I feel sorry for him since I now agree with Mary's idea that he is probably a sick man and that the relationship with Jim and his wild adventures were very important to him. The irony of this is that, setting Turner aside for the moment, it looks as though Garrison could have himself put Boxley up to much of the nonsense. By the way, the Perrin thing, which I discussed with Mary, sounds very interesting, although, of course, it may not be related to the assassination. The same goes for Lawrence. They did a very good and very lengthy interview with Oran Brown which is fascinating. Since her husband worked at Downtown Lincoln in 1963 he knows these guys and was a big help.

Phil Willis promised to show me the slides, and then left town, but I talked his wife into it. None of importance, although he got two distant ones of the arrested people being put into the car up near the TSBD. He does have one taken about 11:45 or 12:00 which clearly shows that at that time there is a train behind the monument. He has another which shows a green & white pickup driving down Elm and a green pickup parked on the extension of Elm. Again I will do a memo, especially since I pinned Mrs. Willis down on her reaction to the first two shots.

Back to Lawrence: Came to Dallas about Oct. 1, stayed at YMCA--told them he was planning to leave Dallas on the 22nd and asked two weeks before for them to arrange for a driveaway car on the 22nd. FBI resisted Oran Brown's attempts to tell them about Lawrence. Lawrence claimed to be pro-Castro. Never tried to seal cars--asked to borrow a car the night of the 21st claiming he had a big date--they made him promise to have it back early in the morning, and he had to show up at the sales meeting that morning--around 1 or 1:15 he came in scared, white, shaking, nervous (i.e. vomited), with a shirt wet with sweat and said that he couldn't get the car because there was a parade--the car was in the Dealy Plaza area--FBI held him overnight and he was so angry that he squealed on Bogard et. al. for withholding info. Someone went down to get his car and it was either behind the TSBD or in the railroad yards. That someone is still unidentified, but Mary thinks it might be Frank Kaiser. I was not able to interview him. (He had a nervous breakdown the day after Boxley interviewed him, which Mary found out by accident when she went to pick up a car she had just bought.) According to Jim Rozzell, the FBI took a list of employees at Downtown. Fred Lorenz is alleged to have lived like a millionaire in Germany after the assassination.

The Estelle Jackson-Robert Ahler thing is basically this: FBI's routine check of motels nearby found that the clerk at the Avalon, owned by her, definitely identified LHO as a man who had come with another man a few days before the assassination. When the FBI came to see her, she knew nothing of LHO, but told them of Ahler who had aroused her suspicion. Mary is going out to see what info she had in her file on him, but one thing she definitely has is the name of the law firm which was looking for him. He spent nights at the Carousell and spent \$20 per week in calls to N.O. This could be a very important lead judging from the whole scene

Jarnagin sounds OK and scared, but as the conversation wore on he said some things which make him look crazy now, although I still believe his earlier story. He says that Wade kept him as a possible last witness in the Ruby trial in case they got in trouble. He is certain that it was LHO, so showing him a Crawford photo would be of little value. A friend of Mary's who is a college prof spoke with him in 1964 and felt he was 100% OK. Now he claims he has been Naval Intelligence for years and that there were attempts to kill him, and that he killed his attacker. It is hard to tell, but there is a chance that this was designed to convey the idea that he was either nuts or dangerous to anyone tapping the phone.

I contacted Gertrude Roper, whose name was next to LHO's in the AG file, who lived at 605 Elsbeth (he lived at 604), and who was possibly listed as a TSBD employee. She said that reporters showed up at her place that afternoon saying that LHO had given her address as his. She sounded pretty sincere. This is just one more instance of LHO trying to keep them away from that Elsbeth address--I wonder why?

Great work on those file boxes in the archives--they are new to me. On the subject of the archives I have set Mary et. al. straight and asked for a memo on the lies they were told. I told her, however, that you were the expert on the archives, and that Paul and Jim Schmidt had also done much more work than I had, and that if we could all link up, there would be little or no duplication. She had money and would like to get everything out of the archives which is worth having and which no one yet has before something happens to it all. She now

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knows how little Lifton knows of the archives and how little research he could have done on even the areas of his interest. She also realizes the incredible importance of the archives. Roffman could be a good guy to have on the team. The more to write letters, get ideas, and pursue those minute details the better.

Mary has fascinating stuff on Oswald's ESSO map--about 13 makings--the FBI ignored most of them. They are busy trying to track down a meaning for them. I have an ESSO map marked similarly so that I can follow what she writes me about it. They went over the original with a magnifying glass in the archives. They are hard workers and it is too bad that both Johnson and Simmons lied to them. By the way, they got into the classified vault and Johnson nearly died. Mary was wandering around after having fooled a librarian, and they found the vault unlocked! All in all it sounds like Johnson was glad when they left. She examined the Z film in a film viewer and found the same "splices" as are on our copies and did a frame count.

Edleman greatly appreciated your letter. He is a hard worker and bright, and has been on both sides of the political spectrum and so had considerable perspective. He will be very useful as soon as he knows more. Paul liked his speech at Berkeley, and has sent him some things.

One of the most disturbing things Mary told me about Jim, along with incredible examples of irresponsibility and craziness, was that Alcock had investigated and knew all about Speisel's background, and that it was a big joke around the office, until Jim decided to use him and they just about passed out. Although she is close to Jaffe and Boxley, and has spent much time with Bethell, she feels just his use of these worthless characters was a bad show and enough to discredit Garrison. Ironically her husband was wowed by him, Sue Fitch just loved him until he started in on Dallas conservatives (and still seems to not completely dislike him), and Arch feels that Shaw could be guilty. Mary feels that Shaw could be involved, and like us is sorry that it was not really investigated. By the way, she says that the guy in the WDSU who is well dressed, with sunglasses, and is in the center of the frame with Steel near the cameraman and on the right of the photo (I don't have mine here so I can't give you a number) is Louis Bloomfield of Bloomfield Industries which built the Trade Mart. She thinks that the woman is Neely. Perhaps this is not new info to you. (CD206, pp216-18)

Thanks for interceding with Sylvia on my behalf. I sent her a postcard from Dallas. By the way, Bob Gibbons has picked up a source on some more film, including part of Nix. I have sent for it independent of him, and if I don't get it he will make copies of his.

When you write to Roffmann, assure him that anything I get from Harper he will get copies of gratis, including any and all slides and stills, unless you feel otherwise. I am doing this for you and no one else (except Mary who will take them) will get copies. Tell me who you want them sent to and I will pick up the tab and do the mailing. I would think that Roffmann, Dick, John Nichols would be OK.

On Powell, I got that document for the same reason you did--the first floor and Allman. I explained that to Mary and noted that I suspected (not a bad guess) that you already had it for the same reason and had forgotten. At that time no one was looking for Army Intelligence. Mary seems to feel the way we do on Lifton and is helping him hoping to get his one tidbit of info out into the light.

While at Mary's I spoke with Bradley on the phone. I am willing to accept tentatively at least Mary's evaluation (shared by Arch and Sue, both of whom feel differently about Shaw) that Bradley has been wronged. The Bradleys stayed with them and appeared to have no interest in the case but to be obsessed with the people who framed him. Mary characterizes him as a right wing nut who is not too bright and a fairly unusual guy. She said that if a conspiracy used him they must have been hard up. She also has some proof that he has been wronged: i.e. Penn Jones' claim that Bradley has harrassed Craig ### by calling him long distance is a lie--Craig called Bradley collect, and Bradley accepted! So, I took the liberty of suggesting that he drop in on you. He would have been at Mary's last Sunday for a few days, and then is heading East to Phila. He is mostly after Lane who said the most damaging things, and I told him that you and I had been concerned about his case for a long long while and that we had been disgusted with Lane for a good long time. By the way, Mary thinks that good old Thornley is a big suspect in her book, and thinks that Lifton's defense of him, etc. is pretty way out, and bespeaks poor judgment.

The Gary Murr thing is strange. From what I heard he was an enthusiastic worker, and then suddenly I never heard his name again, and knew he broke off with you and Dick from your letter. He has never answered my letter. Even if he is not involved it is surprising that he writes

~~Once~~
When I was in Dallas Curry was on the Murphy Martin Show advertising his new book. The next night he was apparently on Merv Griffin, but I didn't know and didn't get a tape of it. Marguerite claims that he changed his line. The book sounds like tripe, but Curry wants to go down at least on the fence and leaning in our direction. It is probably all old stuff and meant to justify his role and bring him money.

When in Dallas I showed Mary all of your letters. Our general openness made a very lasting impression, since those for whom she has done so much--Fred and Dave--have not been completely open and always charge her. She was overwhelmed by your openness with your files. I discussed at some length your financial difficulties which have concerned me as long as I have known you and I suspect that she would like to help you out without you being embarrassed. Time will tell. She has some readjusting of her views, since all of us are very new to her, and her first found friends are not as reliable or hardworking or knowledgeable.

Matt has photos of curtains being put up the next day at 1026 N. Beckley--he showed them to me.

Check on Betzner--I would not send to California. I will keep you informed. I will have to wait to find time during working hours to execute the affidavit.

Lifton's letter to you of Oct. 13 probably has a lot to do with my visit if I read the situation correctly. When I was down there Lifton, who had been writing often, did not write once! Fred and Marylne wrote letters with excessive love and kisses, and sounded depressed on the phone when Mary put me on and raved about how well we got on. They confided in her or she guessed that they were worried that I would put an end to cooperation with Dave. His letter is way out, especially the quoting of Schiller and Lewis.

On your letter of 10/3: I used apprehension rather than fear in the anxiety discussion because people so often misunderstand the frequent use of the word fear, since the fear involved is normally free-floating or general or pertaining to no object or event in particular. I am not as unaware as you think of the many things you have faced since I have known you, particularly the strain which began last December. Unending financial problems of the sort you have had also have their effects, and I have wondered how you have held up under them. By the way, as an aside, you might be interested to know that those backstabbers or intolerants among the critics who said vaguely negative things about you all spoke well of your wife, perhaps because they felt no competition from her. You are certainly right that it does not require training to understand the importance of being able to talk out problems, and indeed most psychotherapy today is done by family, friends, minister, etc. There is good evidence that if denied help, the average person who comes into a clinic gets better either spontaneously or through some therapy-like talking with one of the above. I am still feeling out people for money for publication of one of your books since if I get lucky that will probably be of some help financially and perhaps help things a bit.

Mary does not have the transcripts we do not. Sorry that Henry was not any help. I did not even know he was going to Washington and wanted him to call only hoping that he might be able to do some busy work. He has been a pain in the neck at times, but I have mostly corresponded. I was pretty put off even when he called me from Washington that he hadn't been in touch before. Dealing with him only through letters however, I have not had much of the problem you had with him there in person. If something like that happens again throw the guy out. I had no idea that he would impose on you, and in fact, told him to call you thinking that he would be in Washington for only a few days. I am very upset that I was inadvertently the cause of more trouble to you just when you don't need it and I am trying to figure out things to do which will help. I hope that the NY trip is not a waste. On the anxiety not being new, such is often the case, with it being noticed and/or diagnosed when its magnitude reaches the bothersome level. It is a very good idea to confront the doctor with your concerns about your physical health and ask him for explanations, not just symptoms. I am afraid to say that my confidence in doctors is very low.

I am waiting to hear from Mary to get some idea of what kind of arrangements we can make on her stuff. I already have her doing some stuff from Jim Schmidt. I will ask on the DeMoh file. In confidence, she has stolen Dallas police tapes, and they differ from the volumes. ~~###~~ They do have the Tippit directions to Oak Cliff, but Mary and Arch feel that those lines were dubbed in innocently by someone trying to cover for Tippit (thinking he had a girlfriend, etc.) who was so far from his district. We will get them once she gets copies made.

I am still snowed under with work, etc., but will try to get those memos done in the next few weeks, and they will be the best fill-in on Dallas I could give you.

There are things Mary told me which I am dying to tell you, but which I am sworn to secrecy on. One thing you might be interested to know: Fred's statement to me which I quoted about knowing who killed JFK, etc., related to something Mary gave them, and is a very premature judgment, although the item she dug up is a big lead, although now it is mostly coincidences, and needs much more checking and research. In other words, she has found something very interesting, and they have gotten carried away. It is about like the Powell affair, about which Lifton has no more than we do, and didn't check up on the way both I and Dick Sprague did, but which he plans to use in his book. Let's face it--that doesn't belong in a book until someone finds out more about it. It could ruin chances of ~~finding~~ finding anything if Powell is important, and needlessly harm him if he is innocent. But Mary is very interested in linking up with us and helping us, so all that remains is the logistics. She has much respect for you and your work and said that your books, although not as easy to read as something like Sylvias, are the most important because they have so much meat in them. She said that they convinced her that you had done a great deal of incredible work, because if one was willing to read them carefully you had incredible info in them. Naturally, I agreed.

I will be sending you much stuff when I get the chance. I will try to xerox things so as to save you money and postage. It will be easier now that I am not hampered by prelims.

Joesten won't help on checking people in Germany, claiming that it might get him in trouble. This angers me and also makes me suspicious. I figured that he would be hot to be in on some real work on the case. I tried him out of desperation to get some followup over there. It's probably better to leave it undone than have him do it anyway.

After you see my memos, you can tell me what tapes you want to borrow, if any.

Well, I'd better close now. Best wishes. I hope things improve for both you and Lil. It is frustrating to be of limited financial means myself, and be \$1200 in debt, because I would certainly like to help you out in that way.

Gary

PS: I will be possibly seeing Harrison Salisbury in early December--anything I should ask him?

PSS: The stuff Mary is doing for Jim Schmidt will go to Jim and Paul, and then you will get xeroxes. Mary has all telephone directories for Dallas since the assassination and also has the City Directories, so she has come across much valuable info which we would never stumble on. Have you ever seen Arch's analysis of LHO's finances? If not I will send it--it is a must for Agent Oswald.

*P.S. I have gotten more Thunderbolts - have you?
I have "no" Councilors, however, &
am angry*