10/23/69

Dear Gary,

Trip to New York tiring and not immediately productive. I suppose each of these things add just a little to the suppressed discouragement. This publisher would be interested in one book on all the work, each book perhaps a chapter-havingread none of it. We gave him the entire COUP only and I told Ron I'd agree to a commercial condensation if it yields enough for me to print the entire thing in a limited edition. This is tantamount to not agrring agreeing, for there is no reason to believe the publisher would find this acceptable.

I've a few minutes before I pick Lil up, si I acknowledge your 10/19 with enclosures. Quite a financial drain, that trip! The rest sounds good. I have doubts about the Curry story. I think it more likely he may have said many people believe Johnson was behind it. The one thing Curry is not is stupid.

Lifton is raving, really mad. I enclose his latest, which I'll not answer. I note what you said of him and other things, though I do not take the time to comment. If he comes up with anything good, despite Mary's high opinion of it, I'll be as surprised as pleased.

Saw Sylvia for dinner Tuesday. She made a casual comment that makes me believe your letters to her are too long and accomplish no purpose. She is not now actively working and is not likely to. She is using Paul's list to get a few things from the Archives, now that the price is down to 10¢.

Going and coming I read Finck's N.O. testimony. It is quite important. When I can I'll type notes. I've also marked the Thermofax I have. Paul will probably soon send the xeroxes, which will be legible where this is not.

The Bradley visit was interesting. He cannot be the man in the pictures. I think he 'll proceed with fewer suits, none against Penn or San D. There is little doubt in my mind that he has solid cases against Westinghouse, KPIX, LA Freep and Mark. Mark, in addition to his usual conduct, deliberately distorted and misquoted the perfectly normal thing Bradley did with the woman in Tulsa. B did only what anyone would under the circumstances, and it was not Nov. 22. However, someone of a very small group has been keeping him accurately informed in some areas. For example, he knew the essence of the Farrin N.O. thing. I have no objection, as I told him. I also did not add to his knowledge.

Best,
H

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Oct. 19, 1969

Dear Harold,

Enclosed are carbons of some letters. They contain info which I will not repeat here. I am very rushed for time, partly because of my car troubles, and partly due to normal obligations.

On the N.O. transcripts, I asked Vince about them a long long time ago and he said that he assumed that they would be available. I will write him now and ask him to request them from the office. I am not sure whether I have done this in the past several months. Also bear in mind that Vince is very forgetful.

On Lifton, in complete confidence, Mary will probably be the manuscript reader. I told her to push for her, Paul Hoch, and Sylvia. You, I, and to a lesser extent Mary worry about misuse of items. From what Mary says, Dave's big info couldn't be misused since it is so simple and straightforward. From what she says it is enough to get the investigation re-opened beyond a shadow of a doubt, and that everything else he has is totally trivial compared to it. Be sure not to even mention Lifton to Mary. It will be much better if you don't. I have fully briefed her and our views pretty much coincide with regard to him. No more need to be said, and anything said even in passing could cause some misunderstanding. Mary says that Dave has sent her several items which he said would blow her mind and which are nothing. She, like I, believe that Dave will leech off that which has been written plus the work of others which is unpublished, such as Fred's, and build a book around his one real pieee of goods. She suspects, as I do, that his aim is to become rich and famous as a result. Both of us agree that Lifton is both intelligent and nutty, and that his incredible "theories" of the past 4 years were a strange way to coverup what he had and a strange way to waste time rather than do real work. We both feel that he should be pushed (probably by Mary) to get the damn book out so that the rest of us can benefit from that one blockbuster. She is afraid, however, that he is like Marguerite Oswald, and could go on like this for ever. His obsession with writing the book can lead to endless refinements and searches for new info. She seems to feel, as I do, that his own research has been incredibly meager considering the amount of time and money he has had.

Although Lifton and Newcomb apparently were afraid to contribute to it, Mary had previously been influenced by the small backstabbing criticisms of you from the older critics which are so common When she met you, she was very taken with both you and Lil, even to the point of being angry at Bud's casual jibes at you. As is always the case, however, she still had a few doubts, due per usual, to those lingering memories of criticisms which probably exert their influence subconscios since she would praise you a nu-mber of times but then say that my discussion of you and you-r work with her had changed her ###### feelings a bit. While these two statements sound inconsistent, I think that your experience with people will tell you that they are, in practice, not. In any event, what she needed was another party, in this case me, to vouch for you 100% and without reservation. She says that she trusts my judgment much more than the others, so I doubt if she feels anything but admiration for your work. She would like the two of us to come down there and stay at the same time sometime, but I explained how difficult that would be given time committments (especially for me) and money for both of us. She would like very much to aid your work, and let me assure you, she is a good researcher. Unfortunately, it would be hard for me to describe her work without going into a great deal of detail, so let me save that for later in the week when I will have some time.

Mary is the least right of the group, although all have anti-black and some anti-semitic feelings They are old-type southerners. However, their work reflects the fact that Mary and Arch at least have done much more looking at the right than the left, and Mary will admit this. Bear in mind that this is my observation, not her claim. Furthermore, Mary says that she and Arch have moved from the right due to their work on this case. However, all three have convinced me that want to find out who did it, no matter what group turns out to be involved. This is true

for Sue. Sue looks to the left and feels certain that it comes from the left, but if she d evidence pointing to the right, I feel sure she would not hesitate to bring it out. Mary Arch have done much on the right, and Mary has done some infiltrating. They also know es and spying inside out and that is incorporated into their work, with a cross indexing of re spy books than I every knew existed.

Lifton and Fred have gotten charges out of Mary for everything they have sent, plus postage, and she is thus very impressed with our open attitude and absence of charges even given our poverty. She is very appreciative of the prints from the WDSU film, etc. All in all she is trying to settle down and adjust, or readjust her thinking. Her experiences with the critics have been with Garrison (incredibly extensive--more than anyone I know), Bethell, Jaffee, Boxley, etc - the nuts and bad business people and incompetents. She helped Garrison to the end because she felt that there was a faint chance something good would come of it, although the stories she told me from first hand experience of the N.O. investigation are shocking. Then Jaffe put her in touch with Fred and Marlynn, who she thinks the world of, although she doesn't think they have good judgment or much intelligence. She, through them, met a few others, including Lifton (who she thinks is nutty, but also bright) and Lillian Castellano (who she despises beyond belief). She likes Shirley Orr and Shirley called while I was there, but Shirley has really cracked up, and just got out of a psychiatric hospital. She explained to me that she hadn't spent much time with you and that I was the first intelligent and sane person she had met in this thing. Ironically, she noted, Fred and Lifton didn't include you, Paul Hoch, Jim Schmidt, or Dick Bernabei on the list of people she should contact. I pointed out that they ignored only the hardworking, solid, and intelligent investigators. She doesn't really trust Lifton since I showed her that he failed to give her the most important documents when he sold her xeroxes of my big archives offer. He told her that he ommitted those pages because they weren't important. I found them and gave them to her and let her decide. She was very impressed as was Arch with the statement in your letter that they could see your files. She just isn't used to openness and sharing, although they want badly to share with someone once they find someone they can trust. Trust in this case means no misuse or character assassination of people based on theories, although they are all for the printing of any documentary evidence. So, for instance, Arch doesn't want to be quoted that a particular person is involved, but does go along with printing that a commission attorney thought so. Basically they are good people and very sincere and hardworking. They just have seen an endless parade of nuts and those who are untrustworthy. Jaffe and Boxley, of course, have never even seen what they showed me. While Mary is close emotionally with Jaffe (weakened now that Fred has sent her copies of those memos) and Boxley, but doesn't trust either one. Lifton didn't even write while I was down there, and when Fred and Marlynn called, they were agitated. Fred told Mary that they knew she would like me better than Dave (Mary says that Fred, although he backs him and works with him, in some ways just despises Dave and can barely put up with him) and were afraid that she would spill the beans to me. Naturally she is far too honest for that, and I am glad of it. Ironically, of course, I wasn't trying to find out what Dave had.

In Dallas I uncovered what may be a very big lead, but that will have to wait until I have more time later in the week. I will fill you in on all I did. The trip was very successful in my view, although it was costly in terms of the loss of the car. The extra carbon of the letter to Harper is for Roffman--please send it. What I have in mind for Harper is photos of him from the knoll and all sides, plus measurements. Marking charts is just no good at all.

I have to go. Big rush. Haven't slept in over a day--need sleep before work tomorrow. But I do have much to tell you. Best to you and Lil. I will answer the resp of your letters by the end of the week.

Jay

PS: The probability of extremely good relations with Mary, Arch, and Sue is very high. Sue, who hasn't liked anyone yet, even gave Mary a big plus for me. When Mary asked if she didn't think I was ##g## left wing, Sue said "Well yes, but he's not hopeless." So, in any event, everything from my point of view and what Mary tells me of theirs is good which is fine because they are OK people. Lifton et. al. only continues to lower his image through his predictable double-dealing. If we can link up with them a## hell of a lot of good could come of it in terms of working towards a solution of this case. Their caution with their work is completely justified in my mind, and I find it refreshing since their concern is with justice.