10/1/69

Dear Gary,

I have written Nichols about getting the Sheneyfelt transcript, plus the Willises and possible Regis Kennedy's. Without taking the time to think this through, I believe the most valuable thing that can be obtained from there may be the transcripts. After deciding which ones we want, getting them may be the most important thing.

It may be getting them alone will be enough to warrant your going there coming back from Dallas. If this eventuates and Jim says okay, you'll be spending all yourntime at the xerox machine, whereas if Vince asks for them they'll have a girl do them.

You have never responded to my request that you ask Vince to get them. Have you done it? It is important to me to know if they have refused him. If you asked him and he didn't, I'd be surprised, for that is not my view of Vince. I adhere to the belief he is ill, not worse.

However, how he could have failed to have done this on his own baffles me, except if it is a subconscious self-justification.

In asking Vince, also ask him to get the others he thinks most important. He may have ideas along these lines, for we have only the papers to go on.

If there is duplication, it is better than not getting them, and the cost is less than it will be for us to make the required copies. As a matter of fact, entirely aside from the services we have all rendered, which are worth much more than the cost to them, if they copied all the transcripts for me alone, it would come to but a fraction of whatkthey owe me in cash.

To them, you will be a kid or a young man, a student with much time, and they will be very busy with the important obligations of a political campaign, so if you go there and get these, please believe me they'll find every girl in the place too busy and you'll spend all your time at that machine, able to do nothing else. If you go there, this is not the way to spend your time.

There are contingencies to which I do not want to resort. The election is now closer than it seems. Consider the possibility Jim gets defeated. Please do what you can as soon as you can and let me know what you do.

Sincerely,

10/1/69

Dear Gary and Paul,

Bud phoned me yesterday p.m., with little time, to tell me he had been able to get nothing from N.O. while he was there on law business. Jim is in the hospital, as the papers reported. Diagnosis, slipped disk. Alcock is carrying the load of the campaign plus the office and no one, in Jim's absence, was about to do anything or make any decision. This is the way Bud put it, anyway. I had asked him to see Lou and ask certain things of him, had he never got to see Lou. This is not surprising, because Lou works long and hard and often is not in the office for long stretches.

However, I think what is really represented here is, most likely, that they have been told or less likely, an attitude toward Bud.

In any event, it makes even more culpable, in my view, Vince's failures and abdications, for he should and could have gotten the transcripts -which are a public record - for us, if not for his abdicated self. I tell myself I am not impartial, but search as I have, I find no rational explanation. Gary will recall that long ago I anticipated this and asked him to ask Vince.

I think, ultimately, we may be able to get those we want.

I'd like both of you, as soon as you can, to tell me which ones you think most important and I will try in other ways.

Bud asked me when I'd be in town this week. I have no plans for it but told him I'd go down any day he asked. He says as soon as he cleans up the accumulation enough to know when he'll be free he'll phone. Perhaps I'll know more then. If there is anything else, I'll let you know.

I'll write John Nichols and ask him to get the Shaneyfelt testimony, as I have in thepast.

My personal opinion is that much of the rest of it is without value, but I think the Willises are an exception. I arranged for their testimony, and I know and, to a degree, have already published, the essence of what they knew and hadn't been asked. The difference is that here it withstood cross-examination in open court.

But that part has been out of my mind so ,ong I may forget others where there may be value.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg