8/11/69

Dear Gary,

Haven't answered your 8/7 because I've been chugging ahead on the COUP add. I'm finished the longer half of the last Ray chapter, it is too hot in my office for me, the way I've been feeling, so I'm braving the sweat-bees in the shade to catch up.

Bud and I had discussed his note to you on Crafard, rather we had discussed the fact. I think I raised the question with him after hearing from you and Paul. His recollection and beliefs are mine, that when he could go through the files at will, with his beliefs, he must have examined the Crafard file and didn't copy any of it because it is crap. I have no recollection whether I ever looked at it. The same would be true of Turner. Why doesn't Paul [redacted] or Hal ask him? I return the note to you.

Your 7/31 to Marguerite: the best you can hope for is to see what she has. She will not understand anything good she might have. One of the more important things here would be pix. These she told me she does have. Also, it is possible that some of the early letters to her could be like that phone call to me on his security clearance.

Your 8/4 to Paul: I'd forgotten about the Finck testimony, forgotten that you asked and I said I'd send it to him, but I will. I'd read and marked. John promised the entire thing to me but I haven't gotten it. I've not finished Frazier yet....What makes you think Lifton has the autopsy memo of transfer?...DL and Receda: he got a whole mailing out on that. I saw it last October bit Abbott never sent me the promised copy. I think he made a big thing in Open City.

Your 7/30 to Mary: Any word from Rennar on those tapes?

Frazier testimony: The copy John gave me is a Thermofax, not particular good, and will not xerox well. I've told him I want you and Paul to have copies and asked his permission. He hasn't answered, but I was hoping he might offer to make or to lend clearer copy if he has. Why do not you and Paul work out between you which will copy and when I've finished reading andannotating I'll send to that one. No need for both of you to do the extra mechanical work. Both copies should be made at one time. John didn't tell me how he got it, but I suppose from the court reporter, from internal evidence.

Bad brother has been a good source.

Save for the part about loving Bill, what Mary wrote fred is in accord with what she told me. She may well [redacted] be one of those good-hearted women who love everyone until they learn not to. For some reason I have the impression she is not off Bill. I suppose he's been silent for I've not heard anything, but he could be writing an expose book. Jaffe's theory is like everything else coming from him, worthless and nonsense.

On Jim: I agree, he is paranoid and foolish. He hasn't a think the others do not and do not know about. All he does is cripple us. But that doesn't explain his refusal to mail my stuff back or to mail me transcripts I shouldn't have had to ask for but did, without response. I know why. That ego ofhis is trying to hide the proof he got nothing really worthwhile in the record of his own and most if notall of it from me and he failed exactly where and as I told them in advance they would. On his files, my recollection may be wrong and slightly unfair (no more than slightly), but I cannot think of a single good and dependable thing I ever got from there that wasn't there by accident, and there was little of that, indeed. I think almost anything else would be a better use of the time. In Texas, ask Paul about rechecking their archive and I suggest trying to see such people as Revill, now at Austin, or is it the other Lt., the one who hastled with Hosty? Paul R can tell you how to reach him. If that is not far out of the way.

I am not impressed by Fred's cooling to Dave. I have a letter where he told me long ago he threw Dave out of his house. My opinion of none of those characters has changed. On leaks, I am not certain, but I believe Dave told me personally that he was familiar with the content of my unpublished books, last October, end, or first Nov.

12/1 was too late for interrogation of Powell. He should have colunteered earlier.

What tou say on the "personal problems and intolerance in these 5½ years" is truem but it is not intolerances as much as it is dishonesties and sicknesses. The other things you mention, the infighting, lack of cooperation, etc., involve the people I describe above, not others. Those who did the real work, with few exceptions, have gotten along well with each other. I regard Mark as having done no real work, only publicizing.

I have heard from Paul on the details of microfilming. I will be in DC Wednesday and I hope to have time to carry this further. I'll let you and PH know if I do. There are other things for which I am going there that may not leave enough time. Subject to PH's agreement, Bud agrees to send to PH what may be done unlesshe can copy immediately. in which event he'll copy for himself, yo nand me and send to Paul. If he anticipates delay, he'll send without making any copy,leaving that to Paul.

I am not rying to talk you out of going to New Orleans. I am trying to tell you that when you can be out and looking for things, I think your chances of getting something worhtwhile are better elsewhere. Go there if that is fun, or even if you think you'll get something worhtwhile. I page can be that, for others may have missed it. But I am trying to tell you that unless and until you see it, you will be unwilling to believe the professional quality of the incompetence and the utter foolishness of so very much - most.

Also, I do not for one minute think thatxif Jim is defeated he'll leave those files in the office. I don't think he can be made to, that any successor will want them (save for evil purposes), or that he would dream of it. They are not at all extensive, even with all the junk, unless he has added an enormous amount since I was last there. There are about three of the four drawers in Tom's single cabinet and part of a cabinet in Louis' office. They would all fit in a single trip in his own car. Don't worry about losing them. Access may be better if he is defeated, except for the xerox machine.

Nothing else new. Regards,

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August 7, 1969

Dear Harold,

Thanks for the stuff you have sent in the past few days. I just wrote Dick and since I stupidly forgot to make a carbon, I asked him to loan the letter to you when he is finished with it in case you have comments. In your letter of 7/30 you mention (letter to Dick) Frazier's testimony. I would greatly appreciate loan of any NO transcript you have so that I can copy it and return it immediately. How did Nichol's get the testimony?

The letter from Penn was incredible. Your letters to him have been beasonable and also tactfully worded. But what enrages me about this is that in the end result he is denying you money rightfully owed you. Perhaps he feels that debts to CIA personel need not be paid.

I have exchanged several letters with Mondale and he has been prompt, cordial, and presented the impression of being sincere. He is, however, quite busy and a very active congressman. I just got the standard Justice Dept. reply, forwarded with a letter from him, expressing his regrets that he does not have the time to devote to this which would be required. I still intend to press him to see the slides sometime, and the Z film. I had decided on my own to break off any f;urther discussion of Dave with Paul, but his next to last letter, to which mine was a reply, really demanded such a reply as far as I am concerned. Paul is apparently quite ignorant of exactly what Dave is, and no matter what his attitude is now, he has in front of him something pretty close to raw evidence. I sent copies of that letter to George Rennar and Dick Bernabei just to make a record of all that Dave was up to. Dave's behavior and words speak so eloquently for themselves that I could do a paper on it and build a very strong case for what he is up to and what his purpose was in luring me into that argument. The real irony of the situation is that Dave so badly overestimated his own intelligence and logic and got so carried away with what he was doing that he set himself up to get shot down.

I imagine that my opinion of the bad brother is the same as yours. I don't trust him, and also have little confidence because of his very biased political views and limited intelligence. This can lead to an attempt to find a commie rather than finding who did it. One suggestion in terms of dealing with the brother and the lawyer might be to offer to help try to get info on anyone in whom they are interested. Indicate that you have files on people in whom they might be interested, and that you have contacts who could find things out. An offer of investigative help should not be turned down if they are sincere.

On Mary and Boxley: From Fred's letter of July 24--"I asked Mark for her opinion of Boxley and she said she knew him very well. Mary said:

> You mentioned Bill Boxley in a recent letter. I met Bill in 1967 right after he went to work for Jim in April. With my old suspicious mind, the first thing I did was check his license number and found out it belonged to a William Clarence Wood of Austin. We have since met his wife and youngest son (the only one by this wife, Joan) and we love them all. But---I have never been too certain that Bill was ever with the CIA. Bill is an alcoholic (supposedly reformed) and I think that he has just covered several years spent in jails or institutions by saying that he was in the CIA. Since it is impossible to really check on one's CIA activities and Bill is a smart man who reads a lot and he remembers what he reads, I think he just "thought up" this story to impress Garrison. At the time I first met Bill, I had just read Andrew Tully's book on the CIA and so many of the things Bill was "explaining" to me about the CIA, I had just read in Tully's book. I've told Bill I don't believe him. Don't get me wrong...this doesn't mean I don't just love Bi-l and Joan."

Fred does go on to say that Mary feels that Turner is bad news and has done much damage. Unfortunately, Jaffe is also dearly loved by Mary, and the same ma;y be true of TomBethell but

I'm not sure. Needless to say, I will have to be careful with regard to Boxley and Jaffe. Jaffe, by the way, just came up with a theory (for Fred) which has to do with how Boxley might have been the victim of a plot by the staff to get rid of him because he had much influence with Jim and staff salaries were cut back to make room for outsiders. [redacted]

On Garrison things are not so easy. He has a great fear of the mail and will not send anything he considers important. That news clipping was a small shock, and I now understand what you mean about his promise. On the files Bud supposedly has only about 1/3, and it may not be the most important 1/3 from my experienees with his judgment. On Crafard, for instance, Garrison has some info, but Bud has absolutely nothing (he just wrote me). Realizing that there is much flak in their files, there may also be stuff of interest, and it would seem a shame to have it go down the drain. The major problem is that Jim fears the mail. The points you raise, however, do make me vascillate about going to N.O. The major reason I would like to go is the need for a vacation, its proximity to Dallas, and the desire to do something useful while relaxing. The best place to go from Dallas naturally seemed to be N.O., and then the letter from Jim came at the same time as the one from Schmidt and the idea arose. There is no investigating I have to do in N.O. personally, although it would be interesting to meet Andrews from the point of view of personal interest since getting any info which you don't have out of him would be impossible. The best way to talk me out of it would be to suggest something I could do from Dallas which would be of use and take me somewhere besides Dallas which I am sure I will tire of quickly While investigating and interviewing are enjoyable to me on their own because I like to meet people, I really need some sightseeing also.

I am going to write Fred about the Kolby thing, and also about the stuff Lillian was going to send. Relations with him are improving a great deal and I can ask about the RFK stuff without causing any trouble.

Olson wrote me and I think that he is contemplating going to Dallas himself. This may be his last chance also, and he seems as anxious to see it as I am. If so he will probably go by way of Kansas City to try to get Betzner 3. I told him that if he does, he should let me contact Mary and Nichols to see if they could extend hospitality.

The stuff on 133A and B is just a big mixup. Fred, after having been shot down in his arguments, needed time to reverse his stand again to one which does not have you as a villian, and so began incredible nitpicking, like saying that you couldn't have had a color overlay of 133A and B-- which I told him you had showed me. Fred doesn't deny that you gave him the 133A and B photos, but diminishes the ideas and help you gave him. In all fairness, however, let me point out that much of that may have come from Lifton. Dave has a way of turning people against each other which is amazing. He will come into a situation, see something which may involve a disagreement or in which there is some discrepancy, then then suddenly shout"liar" or "thief," when even if his analysis is correct, such a term would be a gross overstatement. One thing which fascinates me is your mention of Lifton's attempt to shoot you down about the film spped in which he used the wrong camera. That would be a great thing for me to have a record of, but don't waste time on it.

As things go now, Lifton is silent, Fred and Marylynn are quite warm again, and there is no mention of past disputes. Fred has acknowledged some realization of his jumping at conclusions, careless judgment, etc. but does not have enough insight into how poor his logic can be, even without Lifton's coaxing. His relationship with Dave has cooled at least a little. George Rennar and Dick have sort of sat on the sidelines, appalled by Lifton and shocked at his charges, and generally agreeing 100% insofar as they voice opinions with our side. Right now all of them will be more careful, particularly Dave (since it is really he, rather than Fred, who was the protagonist), about saying things to me, since it must be obvious to them that your knowledge of info leaks, etc., came from info from me. In addition, the fully present scope of Dave's campaign comes entirely from me. So whatever I learn may only be an approximation of the real situation. What amazes me is that Dave could have been so careless, particularly in statements made to me about people in your confidence on the West Coast.

I don't have Shirley Orr's memo and would very much like to see it. As you know, I too share a bit of wonderment about the possibility of a second LHO in the Soviet Union. It is hard to believe that a man could change in appearance that much, and in addition, that the Texas AG file of 40 photos of LHO just happens still to be missing. I check that evertime I go to the archives. Right now I am mostly confused and have no clear theories. I can do a memo on the scars after prelims with the add of the suicide literature.

The Powell photo went through military channels because he was military intelligence. I became intersted in him for that reason before I even learned of the photo. One of the important

things about such a photo is that it would provide an alibi# for Powell if anyone ever questioned whether he was inside or outside the TSBD at the time of the shots. Naturally, I would also be interested in the photo. Jim Murray, that now dead ex-Army intelligence man, resonated to Powell's name and promised help on him the week before he was shot to death. Powell was interrog ated on Dec. 1 after having be caught inside the TSBD when the doors were sealed according to the SS report on it. I have evem# wondered about the possibility that Powell was some sort of offici observer.

Your help with Oser, etc., undoubtedly did all you say. I saw much of what you did for them, and was there when the request came last Christmas for a witness list and even helped you make some decisions on that score. This is one of those things for which you will never get credit unless someone like myself writes a book on it, but which is of incalculable importance to the case and the public record. It is unfortunate that the most important work in this case often gets lost in the shuffle. In this case just just have to learn to work without reward many times and in your case, work in spite of bad treatment in N.O. One wonders what we could have accomp#- lished were it not for personal problems and intolerance in these 5 1/2 years. Just looking back on my own interest and work, dating from 1964, I am amazed by how little I accomplished in terms of more than just understanding the WR and volumes until I came in touch with you and even Vince and found others to talk with on the subject. We have enough investigators to have checked much of the case out and to have followed up many leads and applied much more pressure, but the disagreements and ingroup fighting and lack of cooperation and status seeking has been incredibly costly--probably more so, in fact, than all of the attempts of the other side to shut us up. Enclosed are some items which may be of interest.

Warm regards, Gary

PS:On Powell, as I remember it, I have an SS report, and two FBI interviews, and no more. I will check.