

6/13/69

Dear Gary,

In DC today for consultation on knees. Pending reading X-rays, tentative diagnosis simple, early or not-serious arthritic condition for which my own treatment (forcing exercise, etc, recommended). Also gave some of my information relative to Wtepske to one who can use it, saw DJ on Haiti caper (I have Herming and Howard on tape on it from 10/30/68). Few other things.

Suddenly pleasant and welcome card from Jeanine. Matt has been working regularly and hard, and I am confident they need it.

Your 6/10: Most of it already answered. Letters crossed. I think you'll be satisfied with what I sent you on Lifton-Fred.

When I was your age and younger, I haunted the Salvation Army stores. Books, 5¢, records 2¢, etc/ Good things, too.

You had already made what you say on Fred and what you give him clear. I understand and understood. My only feelings (and I do not insist I am right) are that it will make no difference, that you cannot depend on him or his work, and there is the great hazard they will twist anything you say or do. He is not innocent. For example, as I'd forgotten when I first told you of my memo to him from N.O., he gave that to Lifton, and it is possible, given the willingness and the disposition, to misinterpret that. He did not give him the subsequent letter I wrote myself, which was not subject to easy misinterpretation. And you know what he has been up to lately. Lifton I've known was nuts for several years. I had the feeling when I first spoke to him, in the summer of 66, had it fortified when I met him 12/66 (and the only reason I did was because Bill O'Connell, my host, wanted me to). Details are helpful, but are these details worth the time they cost everyone? I doubt it. But, as you know by now, I did load your gun for you on him and F.

Hope when you saw City Atty you mentioned what the city owes you for permitting you to be so beaten in the presence of police. He would have been a good one to mention this to.

I think I did notice second, profile sketch. Bigger doubt is antecedents, and why it was made in Mexico City. My only point is that it was ignored. That is, as I use it.

Nichols is a competent pathologist, with good experience, and definitely not a "hospital" pathologist. He does all the autopsies for his government area, including all those for the police, worked in the Allegheny County Coroner's Office for some years, etc. He is a forensic path. and he intends well. He also intends not well and is step by step pre-empting what he knows I do not want use. He can readily duplicate once he knows what I have gotten that he didn't and couldn't and there is little I can do. I cannot let him blow this, one of the reasons I did so much work for him. I could have written a third of a book in that time.

If I'd had time today I'd also have done some checking on lawyer. Bud in Calif for another week. I'll need some dental work which will take me there again soon. Hope you do find someone, though.

Hang onto your right arm and ask for the Sirhan MMPI tests. They are in evidence, are they not? Are they not desirable or not fatal for your

school work? Or a prof could write and ask for all these tests, at least those in evidence or the subject of evidence? If they turn you down, I'd like the correspondence to use. Your analysis makes sense, good sense.

You'd left out about Lifton claiming he'd told you about Powell over the phone, etc. Is it not becoming apparent to you that he has a thing on credit, that he wants to be associated with some major discovery or achievement, and that whatever way he goes, he always come up with nothing? After all that time and money on Ramparts, nothing. All that time with Liebler, nothing. All the \$15,000 he admits his father has given him for this, still nothing (as of October on the dough). But, in your terms, he and I should both start above the knees now, from what I sent.

Ukiah: source dubious, I think paranoid. I turned it all over to Hall, including the tapes, with my caution, and I've heard no more, which convinces me there was nothing to it. I'll tell you the whole story when we meet again. But when a relatively young and attractive woman makes a long auto trip at night to meet strange men at a bowling alley (her choice), they goes with all of them to the apartment of a stranger, it is not usual. Most rational ones would be afraid. I do not think I instill that kind of confidence in women over the air. If there were anything to this or if he had been able to carry it further, we'd have heard from Hal. Paul also was in on some of it. He showed his own feelings by ducking out about 1 a.m., after we fed her and while we were going to Hal's.

Chiggers no great suffering. Mostly gone now and I now use repellent. But could I use your immunity in pulling poison. This place is lush with it, and the more multifloras I get rid of the more poison springs up. I've been spraying with good success. Takes time.

Lifton undoubtedly is going to a shrink. Maybe someone out there knows who it is. Maggie also believed him nuts two years ago when he began making things up about her. But, I'll be real happy if you get enough out of this to compensate you for the time and gutrending. You'll have earned it!

If you are talking of the TSBD windows, that is a rich possibility! I could not go far with it, but I did make some comparisons (WWII?) on Dillard, Willis 12, others. Too bad there is no chance of getting good Martins, or is there? Is Fatsy interested in Z? (slides). Did you ask Paul if he wants copy Z. Tell him I think that for \$10.00, he does. He ought to have some of the people who know Dallas look at the background. He might find people there he knows or they do. Until Ray backed off (helped, I think, by Vince), Paul had agreed to make slides for us in return for a copy of Farewell, not just Z. I also think I heard Fred has all of Farewell. If he does, maybe we should still get it for Paul. He can get slides made there. Perhaps we should offer him my copy for this? I'll not write him unless you'd prefer I do. Or have you? If not, I can send him mind and he can return. I think he'll copy and make slides both. What do you think?

Looking forward to package. If you are in a rush for any of it, let me know. If I'm in throes, as I hope to be writing in a day or two, I'll lay it aside for a break.

The usual hurry and apologies.

Best, H

June 10, 1969

Dear Harold,

Got your letters of 5/29, 5/31, 6/1, and 6/4 in that overstuffed envelope. Coming to you under separate cover are the following: Holiday, March 1969--William Manchester on the Paris Embassy; Motion Picture, Aug. 1965--cover story; True Jan. 1969--Hoover article; True Nov. 1968--cover story; Playboy June 1969--Gore Vidal interview and piece on the right wing. The last item mentioned in required reading--I have only had time to skim it, since as soon as I saw what it was, I decided to get it into the mail right away. Please copy any you want and return. This is from my latest study-break in a Salvation Army store. Some of this stuff is tripe, but sometimes it is handy to have it for certain types of writing.

I will try my parents again on Spector--a date would help. I'll mention it to Vince also.

On Fred you make some good points but have a misconception as to what I give him. I give him only things which have little meaning and mostly advice, except with the Turner-Boxley business when I felt he would be better off informed since he is easily used. I understand you're not caring what they think, especially since I developed that attitude just this year about Lifton, after having decided to give him a chance to come down to earth. As things go now I am getting a steady stream of memos, news clippings, and photos from Fred, many of which go on to you, and I am also able to keep abreast of what is going on in Southern California, etc. In a letter which you already have--my last one to you--I requested some info about when you saw the Z film in Jim's office, etc. My purpose was not to defend you to them, since there is no reason to try such a thing with irrational people, but rather to attack Lifton and try to diminish his influence with Fred, so that Fred will go on with photographic work and stop listening to his nonsense.

Reason for U. police inquiry cleared up. Pesky neighbors taken care of, but it cost me about 3 days with housing inspector, City Attorney, other neighbors, and on the phone. They want to get rid of students by calling in authorities and having us declared a public nuisance on totally false charges. The petition and court action was quashed and we have turned the tables so that they are now the public nuisance in the eyes of the city attorney.

That was an excellent analysis of the DeBruey's report.

If Paul has passed his first oral exam, then he still has a dissertation to go. If he has passed his final oral (I suspect it was his first oral, since the final oral is usually no sweat) then he is through and it is a matter of a short time before he gets his degree. Next year I will be doing my internship and possibly my dissertation at the same time.

The Courtney thing sounds promising. Glad that you spotted it. Hope that the office comes through on this. Have you noticed, by the way, that the two eyewitness sketches are not that much alike--the one profile vs. the one that Fred used for the comparison.

Nichols sent me the copy of your memo. He has always worried me because he is not a big pathologist and is only a hospital pathologist, unless that has changed. Agreed on what to send him. I will send everything to you that he might want in duplicate, and then you can use as you see fit.

On the need for a lawyer, I will begin asking around for colleagues in Washington who might be interested. I have a few contacts.

I thought that Village Square would interest you. It is a big deal. I still have not gotten the second article in the series and no more copies of the mag. except the first issue.

Regrettably, I missed Sirhan on "First Tuesday." I heard about it only after it was over. I would give my right arm for those test results, especially the MMPI. Also, there are many distinctions which must be drawn. First of all, was he crazy before he committed the act, and if so, in what way. Was he someone easily led or influenced--i.e. did his mental disorder make him very suggestible, or even, could he have been hypnotized into doing it. Then, was he insane at the time of the crime. He could have been crazy and yet not legally insane. Finally, did he become insane as a result of the act, or of his incarceration and impending trial after the act. He would not be the first killer to have become insane as a result of having committed the crime. It is not surprising that it felt unreal to kill RFK--it would to anyone, sane or insane. He was involved in an extraordinary thing, so an extraordinary reaction might not be too crazy, as in the case of victims of some tragedy. Such insanity could, of course, distort his memory, and seal his mouth if he knows things he is not telling. I could really dissect this if I could get his psychological tests.

You misunderstood me on the Powell thing. Lifton was off his rocker. He first made a big deal of me having told Fred after he allegedly told me about it over the phone and allegedly in confidence. Then he hypothesized that I "leaked it" to you! This was pure raving, and I told

him that. I noted first of all that I knew more about Powell and had done more with it than he ever would. Secondly, that you, I, and god only knows who else knew about it years ago. Finally that I had been using it publicly as an unanswered question for over two years in the form of a slide! So much for his hidden info and my "violation of confidence." I tore him to ribbons in front of Fred and he had to retreat to the color change thing. If I can take that away, and it would be easy if I could just remember the time when you told me and a few details, he won't have a leg to stand on and will have been shown to be without clothes in front of Fred. If Fred pays no attention, then that will be a measure of him, but at least it will shut Lifton up. As for his book, I recognize the possibility of damage, but am not too worried about it since Sylvia will check it over and any publisher will be very cautious with it, especially a publisher capable of giving it distribution.

By the way, speaking of the west coast, what ever happened to that info you turned up which suggested that RFK might have been shot at in Northern California near the town of Ukiah?

Dick just sent a long memo to me and Olson which explains what you suggested. Olson is a good guy and a solid worker, who has studied hard but recognizes his limitations. He is a good man for a devil's advocate.

Agreed on Nicol. His style, which I have seen before, disgusts me. It is of a big man holding himself aloof from the real thing. There is a high percentage of prostitution among professionals, and my soon-to-be profession is one of the worst. I hope this summer to deal with those who involved themselves in the assassination through a critique of what they did.

Sorry to hear that you have chiggers. Although I spent much time with Wildlife several years ago, I have never gotten them, although I have seen those who have. I don't get poison ivy, or the others either.

I follow your line of thinking on Epstein and expect to get his book, so perhaps I will be of some help. I haven't gotten Joe Rosenstein cornered yet for info on him.

It will be interesting to see if Lifton writes me again after my last letter to him in which I described his ravings in psychiatric terminology. He is doing much to stay close to Fred since he expects Fred to provide him with good photo work for his book.

Also enclosed in the package which is coming to you under separate cover are a copy of Jack A. Weaver's photograph and a blowup that Ted Hammond did for me of the windows. I will next give the photo neg. to Patsy for some fancy stuff. Fred loaned me the negative. Ted is a good amateur who has done much copying of slides and other odd jobs for me either at cost with a discount he gets (works for the student newspaper) or for free (on their budget). If I go to Dallas he will go with me and take all photos.

Give my regards to your wife. Best wishes.

*Gary*