6/4/69

Dear Gary,

Your 6/2/ arrived today. You might have sent me the Newton Armstrong docs. I have several copies. If you do not get a copy of the aff. from Joh, let me know and I'll copy. Better for your purposes, if you ever need it, to have and cite court record, which that will be.

When you write as you do of Lifton I'm sorely tempted to remind you... I never mentioned the Powell thing to anyone, simply because there was no occasion to. It is by no means new. I think Sylvia told me about it in 1966. It just never fit anything I was doing. For whatever reason, Lifton was doing something to or with you, for I have never had any discussion with him since 12/66 except for the phone conversation about Thornley in 12/68, first of month. I believe after I was in Calif in 66 he phoned me once, long ago. I have no recollection of every discussing Powell with anyone. It is, however, possible that Hal made copies of that file when he was here. It certainly was okay if he did... Are you beginning to understand my position that people like him have no possibility of doing more good than they do harm? With him and Fred and whoever else they may have turned on working against me as they are in Calif and probably by mail wherever else they can, if I had the disposition to try and do anything, could I? Form the time of his first call, for Ramparts, I've had doubts about Dave. It was wierd. He had Brown and Root secretly tunneling Dealey Plaza, was obviously sincere about the pepier-mache trees , and had other fantasies solidified in his mind. Then when he wrote his Ramparts piece and used much of what I had originally published, attributed to those who either picked it up or independently but later came accross it what he used, I knew he was plain dishonest, so I have always shunned him. The only reason I saw him in 1966 is because my host, Bill O'Connell, desired it (and Ray did, too). I would not have phoned him in 1968 is Paul had not urged me to (Paul was right). He is sick because he has done nothing of significance, has fiven up his college for it, and is desparate and jealous. I think he began disturbed at best. Remember, you and Hal were here together, and I know you gave me some reports. Is it possible Hal got them then? But why crap around with this nonsense, why clutter the day with these futilities? You may wish he gets the book done; I do not. I tremble to think of the potential of that of which he is capable. I know for the Reseda insanity that he cannot distinguish between what is what fact and what he wishes were. He have so much awful stuff in whatever he does that if he does come up with anything good it will be lost. If I never hear from him again it will be too soon. I called him and challenged him more than a half year ago. He has been silent, to me, since, and has not sent what he promised, those nasty lies he had been distributing. Nor has he retracted them.

Spend your summer as you will, just so you enjoy it and relax. My own opinion of where you can do most good is unchanged. The pool is chemically clean now, the water is warm enough, and I'll be getting the leaves out any dyy.

I think you should write Olson and tell him that we were able to dumplciate the neck dents by other means. Dock will worry if you do not correct it, somperhaps you kight send him a copy. Dick will eventually write more on this but until he gets some pictures that are still in the hands of a photog here, there is not much more he can do now. I think this will ultimately have value. Dick is disspirited but he shouldn't be.

If and when it becomes important, I may be able to get someone else to contact Herald. That he has not followed through with Dick on his own, I think for at least the moment is sufficient to pass him over for the moment. There are too many things to do to spend time perxsueding, and if it is necessary to persuade, it is also important to wonder why.

May I say that now the puff of smoke should be consigned to the past? Let those who have been irresponsible with it concern themselves. Three years ago it had significance. I do not think it does today, unless we learn more about it. We are past that, far ahead.

Nicol reveals himself is simple ways, for example in postulating that any conspiracy must be a "goant conspiracy", which no one but the apologists and Garrison have ever suggested, unless you include the irresponsible, ours and all the other side. When he says it is possible an assassin carried his rifle with an empty chambered he is foolish and evasive. He is careful to avoid what is probable, and that is not this possibility he supposes. Does he not warrant any kind of suspicion when he is content with the knowledge that the cartridges had to have been in another weapon or this one had a different bolt? That is enough to inbolve someone besides Oswald as a minimum. And if he is willing to mistrust the FBI representation of what he examined/... And he certainly knows 399 cannot have had the history attributed to it. All the official evidence says that... These are people with strange scholarship, stanger mental processes and the most exotic beliefs. A professorx in the Administrationnof Criminal Justice Administration talking about "minuscule" errors when any error at all, in court, on such basic evidence, must be exculpatory? Some "Justice"!

Apologies for again inflicting the typosx on you.

Best,

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
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June 2, 1969

Dear Harold,

Thanks for your last two letters and their enclosures. Add $2 to what I owe you for the books due to the cost of the photos you sent. The Archives letter was interesting. Hadn't I already sent you that report on Newton Armstrong? I thought that I had gotten it in the Archives. I may be wrong but I remember the General Dynamics.

The affadavit was a good idea and well executed. If you can, when it is drawn up and signed, I would like a xerox. I would be a good thing to have when visiting the Archives in case Johnson tried to pull some of his usual tricks.

I still haven't had time to send that stuff to Rothermel but will soon. I have a few papers due now at the end of the term.

On Dell, by now you have a copy of Gilbert Atkinson's last letter to Dell. He is the only one writing now with whom I am still in touch. The rest who said that they might write have promised to let me know when something happens.

Enclosed is a copy of my last letter to Dick Bernabei. Much of it explains last summer which I apparently made some reference to and Dick asked me about.

Also enclosed is my most recent letter to the National Insider. They are getting me angry and I am beginning to wonder about all of this incredible failure to answer the simple questions I ask.

Finally, there is a memo which I think you will find interesting because of its attachment, a letter from Nicol to Olson's dissertation adviser Turner.

Lifton is getting out of hand to the point where it is a strain for someone like me, even though used to handling wild people, to even talk with him. He is worried about word getting out about who is distributing the film and who arranged for it, etc., although he failed to set up rules for those who were dealing with it so that some of the films went with covering letters and return addresses. He is worried about evidence, not that the story leak out, in case someone sues. He is so paranoid about you that it is amazing that he even speaks with me. In strict confidence, the last thing he accused me of was "leaking" that there was an army intelligence man in the TSBD to FRed and asked if I also told you about it. I replied that I had sent the report to a number of critics 2 years ago, had been investigating Powell, had been involved with the now-dead Jim Murray over that issue, and had been showing the damn report on a slide for at least the past two years. In addition, the original SS report was published in the back of Tink's book. For all of Lifton's seemingly extensive work, his thousands of hours in the library or working on Archives microfilm, I wonder how much time is sucked up by craziness or paranoia. I just wish to hell he would get that book done and out so we could have an end to this.

Best wishes.

Gary

PS: My summer plans are to stay here, study for prelims, and work with two patients on new types of therapy, and try to justify my existance as a clinical psychologist who spends much of his time on the assassination. There are a number of things I would like to do--notably a week in Dallas, finally getting a chance to see the place, taking some photos including good ones of that back yard, doing some interviews, running down Herald for Dick, etc. Ideally, I would like to spend time in the Archives. Dallas might be a much better idea in terms of my mental state and also eye strain since the rest of the summer will involve much studying and reading. There is a chance that I can do both.

PSS: My liberation News friend just spent two days here and filled me in on what is going on various places. He says that 124 people were shot in the Berkeley incident, and that they used blister gas as well as tear gas. In addition, they have affadavits from hospital attendants which suggest strongly that 6, not just 1, persons were killed, but that the bodies were taken away from the hospital at night and the whole thing is being hushed up.