5/31/69

Dear Gary,

Your mailing of the 28th arrived today. Glad to get the 4/14/68 story. As you can see, I'm following one part up. Other of the reports in it are of value.

The papers here have ignored the Avery business (No NYTimes came to town today so I do not know if they carried it, but radio did.) If you see anything, I'm interested. On this, the LIFE-King story has not arrived.

I've heard from Paul. He's passed his orals. Naturally, I told him to be sure and let me know when to call him "doctor".

Seeing the reference to Courtney in the clipping (in my letter to Ivon, if you've forgotten), if you persist in corresponding with Fred, you might note that in COUP, although he considers me some kind of villain, I went out of my way to credit him with spotting the resemblance between the wanted-picture and the "walking-man" picture. I did this a year ago, but note that after his boorishness and slanders, I did not remove it. Now, he can be asked to compare that with his own record, say, for example, "Probe", if you think he can be dispassionate and rational, which I do not. Do not tell anyone about Courtney. All those besides Paul would start doing weird things.

While I am helping John all I can, I am not at all happy with his suit. It is not a good one. Bud tried to get him to change it in advance, but John is pretty bullheaded. I told him two winters ago of my desire to sue when I could, and when I found out he planned to sue, I asked if we could not jointly. He has never replied, and I have mentioned this several times. I now find I have to drop things that have importance and meaning for me to try and salvage him. It has taken quite a bit of time, and it requires that I give him what I wanted to spring on them, when I'd be there and could nail all the lies they might tell in response. Although he is a pathologist, he is a weak one to do the first suing and if he fails it will hurt everything. So, while I like him and would help him anyway, I also have no choice. It is by no means an unmixed blessing. Because of the tone of your letter, I thought it good to let you know this. He has really gone off half cocked, and we've had too much of that. Like all of us, I suppose he regards what he has done of special significance and he wants to be alone so he can get the credit, or something like that. I've told him if he wants me as a witness, I'll require only transportation. He'll never make it withoutnhelp and he may not with help. He just doesn't know enough. I showed him my unpublished material relating to his interests two winters ago, loaned him the ms of PM, etc., sent him the panel report, done what I could, aside from the memos. I started an analysis he finally said he wants. I have sent it with the request that he make copies for you and Paul. I had only the single copy, the unread draft of about half of it.

You mention Thompson on the double-hit. In that form it is still not his discovery. He got it from Ray. Ray told me of having just told him when Ray came from him to see me in September or October 1966. I am still not persuaded that is it or, if it is, that is the only one. I clearly see a hit from the rear before that. When you look at Z again, it is short and sharp, but but nearly as violent as 313. He also recoils from it immediately. I wonder if this is why they have eliminated, Inthink it is 284 in 885 and have 283 twice. In your thinking, recall that there seems to be no damage to the floor of the brain, hence nothing went through there. But on the panel and panelists, I suggest you send him only what seems likely to be vital to his case. For the moment, I urge security on anything else otherwise the well may dry. Thanks for the clip. Sincerely,

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

May 27, 1969

Dr. John Nichols
U. of Kansas Medical Center
Kansas City, Kansas 66103

Dear Dr. Nichols:

Many thanks for sending me a copy of Harold's comments on the governments reply to your suit. Harold had earlier sent me a copy of your suit and I was quite impressed. Such a suit could have great significance, and the more medical men and others who follow suit, the better off we will be. While I am not familiar with your work, I have heard many fine comments about it, and am aware of the help you have given Harold and also Dick Bernabei.

I am quite interested in the medical end of the investigation and at one point was asked by Tink Thompson to write a medical appendix to Six Seconds in Dallas. Things got fouled up in several ways and I took issue with Tink's pet theories, and then he got Wecht to do it anyway. Prior to Tink's discovery of the head movement phenomena which may suggest a double head hit I had hypothesized the possibility of one according to the damage to the brain. Although the autopsy report gives a poor description of the damage to the skull and brain and although most of that area was not even examined, or at least not reported on, I felt that there appeared to be two different loci of injury: one suggesting a shot from the rear which went across the top of the cerebrum, spent itself, and did damage behind the eyes, and one which hit from the front, exploded and fragmented, and caused diffuse damage. The former might pertain to the testimony relating to a wound over the left eye or a left temporal wound which I felt of sufficient importance to mention in newspaper articles the Minneapolis Star-Tribune commissioned me to write in 1966 and which were published in early 1967. The latter brings to mind things like Clint Hill's testimony about the double sound of the last shot and smelling gunpowder when he reached the car seconds after the head shot and too soon for any smell to have drifted down from the knoll. Others in the motorcade also smelled gunpowder, of course, and while olfactory impressions can be quite misleading, they may be significant. The massive damage to the brain (i.e. Tink told me that Boswell told him that they took the brain out without any surgical cutting) would be consistent with a cor lak bullet or mercury fulminate bullet. Strangely enough, none of the early critics (I began late in 1964 after hearing Lane) studied the nature of the head wound because none knew neuroanatomy.

Myself and several others, like Harold, are interested in trying to establish a complete record on the 1968 Justice Dept. panelists, and either from Harold or myself you will have access to whatever we learn. I have a justice Dept. source which may yeild info of importar also.

I would very much like a copy of the government's brief of rebuttal to your suit, and will be glad to pay for xeroxing. Best wishes and good luck in your work.

Sincerely,

Gary Richard Schoener

cc:Harold

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MEDICAL SCHOOL
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May 27, 1969

Dear Paul,

I hope and trust that your orals went OK. Now, on with the dissertation. Next year I will be doing a 40 hr. per week internship and trying to get set for dissertation research. Next Fall I take my pre-PhD prelims and then my oral.

Do you have a copy of CD1330 which concerns Boris Kara-patsnitski. I have gotten it once or twice from the archives but can't find it and neither can Harold. I need it to do my long overdue memo on the classified document (1373) which I got last summer in the Archvies and which deals with Kara-Pat.

Bernabei has just done a fine memo which I assume you have. Fred Newcomb is offering copies of the Z film for $10 apiece, but I assume that you already know this. If you don't, then write him at 4640 Noble Ave., Sherman Oaks, Calif. 91403 and send him $10.

The enclosed items should be of some interest. If you have any way of doing it and have the time, I need all that is available on Sirhan's psychiatric testimony and tests. If I could get copies of the test protocols, say for instance from the trial record, I might be able to see about an interesting theory of mine that Sirhan was faking mental illness. There is very good reason to suspect it according to what our papers and newsweek have reported about his test results--particularly with regard to the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory about which I know a great deal.

Best wishes for a fine summer. Hope to get a chance to meet you one of these years.

cc:Harold.

PS: The police brutality in Berkeley has been horifying. I hope that you have not been affected. I have read that 100 people were shot and one died. The gassing of the campus was also frightening.