5/22/69

Dear Gary,

Several times recently I have thought of your financial problem, of the hospital bills, etc. I think you should seek black help and that it can be done in a responsible and dignified way, and that you should inquire to see whether public help is available, particularly because the police stood by and did nothing. It is possible that merely raising the question because of the latter factor may be effective. I have no doubt this burden should not fall on you, particularly because it works the additional great hardship. Especially if the authorities visualized you might file a suit, such as one for negligence, might they seek a way to relieve this problem.

Have you consulted a lawyer? Is there a good and concerned one available to you?

If you have contact with any black militants, I think you should raise the question with them. They may very well say it is none of their concern or that they can do nothing, but do not assume it. And I think it may be helpful to them and their thinking to have to listen to it, if not ponder it.

Failing in this or in addition, I suggest you seek out a responsible, mature black preacher and present the situation to him.

None of these things requires much time and effort, more so after school is out. I have learned it is important not to overlook the obvious, and I think these approaches are obvious. Do not worry about where the money comes from. If you motivate others, they will. It should not come from you, for your cost has already been too great. On moral or ethical grounds there likewise is no doubt.

There is nothing new here. I have heard nothing further from Robbs, but there has been insufficient time. He has much to read. He also is heavily committed for the coming couple of months. And until after the coming Ray hearing there is not too much he can do except hope to excite interest. By the way, I have had no response to any of the letters I have written and not a single return. In some ways this is better than equivocal responses, and I have written Huie, Foreman, Hanes, the gunshop, Ray, Canale, both Memphis papers that I recall, offhand. I have been able to arrange an extension of time on most of my indebtedness, which soon falls due. This relieves me somewhat but it in no way inspires love for those responsible for contributing to it.

I have good pictures of the clip falling out of the rifle when the last shot is chambered, before firing. I have wanted to do this since the fall of 1966, when two young members of the NRA visited me at the farm and spent an evening with me, explaining this and other things. I was not able to locate a rfile until I was in California in ~~early~~ late 1967. Fred asked to borrow it for picture-taking (he arranged to make my answer automatic by not packing it for carrying on a plane, as he had promised to do while I was on round-the-clock interviews and shows). Then he failed to ship it. Then Burton borrowed it, etc,, so I just couldn't do it. Once I got it back I had the sight mounted. Now I am going to have the weapon cleaned by police experts so there are no prints, then handled, perhaps fired, and dusted for prints. My own inquiries have convinced me that whether or not the rifle holds clear prints (motion influences this), it certainly should hold many smudges, not just one. Much of Dick's theorizing did not hold up, but nonetheless, his thinking and theorizing was excellent. For example, we were able to duplicate the dents on the lips of the cartridge when I got a real expert who showed us how, in fact, did it. In his case, the weapon he had was defective. Among junky rifles, the "Oswald" one is without doubt the worst, by the way. We were able to get marks, if not dents, on the shoulders of the cases. We do have excellent (and very costly) pictures of the microscopic ~~markings on the case heads, the ends with the primer~~

markings on the case heads, the end with the primer. Dicks examination of them here, before he went home Sunday a.m., leads him to believe that Frazier misidentified his evidence. I cannot afford what I want him to do and he thinks it unnecessary. I would make transparencies of identical size of all the heads and overlay them. Dick, who can see the similar markings without this, does not understand that it may be unclear to the layman. But if we overlay film and there are identical markings, what a picture (worth a million words!) it would make. If Hobbs turns on, here he would be invaluable. I continue in the opinion that one of our more viable approaches is to prove that Oswald was framed. As you know, I am pursuing this and have been for some time. Dick will write a memo on what we did and what he did and does. His word is more dependable than mine. Until then I thought I'd give you a rough notion. But the chambering of empty cases is out, for the proof of it is not proof. It remains a theory and the dents can be produced in firing. Meanwhile, in checking him out I spotted what Dick had left out, Frazier's statement that he did not notice any markings on the head aside from the primer. This is close to inconceiveable, with almost 40,000 lbs per square inche of pressure being released when the bullet is fired. It presses the cartridge against every surface. For example, we made dents in unfired bullets, fired them, and got cases without dents. I have pictures that may not take the required enlarging. So, any dent in any of the bullets before firing was eliminated in firing, and any dents after firing could not have been there before.

The Archives has promised me a response to my letter on the memorandum of transfer of the pix and X-rays but it has not yet arrived. I do have a long one on old inquiries that will require dragging out a large file and examining it closely. I'll answer it soon. I leave for Baltimore this morning to tape a TV show, and from there go to Wilmington overnight, for a confirmation in the family. I will probably try and get in touch with Bevel from there. Costs only 25 cents for a three-minute call. When I return I plan to reread COUP and get ready to wri e the addition. My material is pretty much in hand, save for the developments and the lack of the papers filed in England. My British assistant, a sweet, 18-year-old girl, has not yet replied on her requests for it in England and the DJ has not responded. I'll write and ask them for the instructions on filing for them on the Freedom of Information Act when I get back and at least have that in the book. This is pretty raw, for those papers are public, in court, but in England, where they know it is harder for me to get (Jaffe's father might like to try this stuff on his integrity nerve). But since I have enough from my files of clippings, perhaps it is better for them to refuse it to me. It puts it in the proper perspective. I think I've arranged for a duplication of the Ray alleged shooting, for the King shooting, that is, with the identical weapon and ammo. It should be persuasive, from my inquiries, on two points: deformation if not fragmenting of the bullet but there should remain, at the rear end, enough for positive identification of the barrel markings.

If it was carried in your area and is not in the N.O. papers, I'd like a copy of the Gayser article on the radio hoax. Our local paper carried it, but they may have abbreviated it. Niether the NYTimes nor the Washington Post carried it. It says exactly what I did, as clearly as if he had been listening to my phone or reading my letters and files. They have no proof of who did it and the one they blame claims he can prove innocence and there has been no action by FCC. He clearly didn't do it, as I knew for as a former amateur, I know the law if tight on this. So, Canale lied, which helps establish the case that he engaged in a frame if not a conspiracy. Gotta get ready to go.

Best regards,