5/19/69

Dear Gary,

Your letter of 5/16 and your mailing postmarked the next day both came this a.m. In the large envelope was nothing but the deV story plus the small classified ad taped above, "Happy Anniv. A and B. Here's to much more, It wouldn't hurt. BEF F 20". Let's write a mystery!

Hobbs is not a literary agent, not a publisher. We like him. I think he has a personal interest in the King murder, not from any uninhibited devotion to the victim. He is black. We'll have to wait until he reads the stuff and I hear from him. He sure has some reading ahead of him-seven books!

Uris is one of a number of things in the letter that prompt me to make this general observation: there is a limit to what we can hope to undertake and carry to an end. Therefore, whether we want to or not, we must limit ourselves to those things that give promise of being within reach or that we can reasonably hope to be able to do. In other words, we should take first things first and put aside, perhaps forever, what seems least likely of being within reach. If you have read TOPAZ and think as I do, it is clear that either Uris is pro-CIA or he had his book delivered to him or suggested by the Agency. In any event, he is, without doubt, pro-CIA and pro-CIA policy, at less as I see it. Therefore, I think it not likely that he will want to be helpful. Further, on the Farewell angle, I think time and events have removed the pressure (not the interest). What can readily be done ought to be but, compared with the other things that can be done with that time, it is less important. This is not criticism, I am still interested and we should learn what we can, but not on a priority basis. You should have gathered from the brevity of my note to Maggie that I expect nothing. I am not disappointed, save at the attitude (for it is not hers alone). There may come a time when getting in touch with Uris will be constructive. As I now see it to for me, that will be when I have resumed with TIGER.

I do not have CD1330 and I have no record of ever having had it. Perhaps it is one of which Paul made a copy and by accident didn't send me one. He is still on his orels, I presume.

On Dan Jaffe and your reasoning: agreed. Do not rush it until we can better understand if this Fortas affair is the beginning of something bigger. It is a very disquieting possibility. In that event, the chances are even less likely. However, if you want to suggest to Dan that when he is home he and his father (if you gather the father is dependable and honest, and will keep confidences) may want to come here and see what I have, I believe that may be a good idea. Tell him to bring his bathing suit, if he does. Or, if he wants to come alone, fine.

I hate the question of Vince to keep coming up. Again, not criticism; it just does. And let me be fair to him, from something you say. It is not as you put it, "Had he done more to help keep Garrison in line long before he was forced to by what he learned last Christmas in N.O., then we would not have faced that trouble." The first part was beyond him. He could not have accomplished this for two reasons: he would not have seen it as I did, not have regarded as irresponsible what I did and what was, for he simply was not in a position to. (on the other hand, he cannot have read the papers and not have had at least a suspicion.) And second of all, he was not "forced to", etc. Here I assume responsibility, for as I pondered the situation and considered my handicap, which you understand ned have, I decided I had to use Vince. This is precisely what I did. In doing it I was aware of the possibility of those prophems that followed. I decided, and I still think correctly, that the immediate was more important then any possible consequence. My eyes were open. I

used Vince because Jim would listen to him where he wouldn't to me. Vince readily agreed with what I said had to be done, what the situation was, and he did it. I had hoped that once he had accomplished this he would go back to his everyday need. He didn't; he refused to-he began to play God. The entire office was praying that he would leave, for he kept making things much worse than they need have been. We are lucky to have had no kickbacks worse than Penn. The staff finally eased him out of town. It was not only that I believed Jim would listen to Vince. It is also that I regard both as paranoid and reasoned as with taking a crook to catch one. Because you bear Vince the affection he has earned, I do regret that you could not have seen him in N.O. It was absolutely frightening! He went berserk, got power mad (Godlike), even looked like an exaggerated movie part. He was and remained completely irrational in every way-thinking and acting. I wish you had been here when he and Katen were (I had to refuse the second time; it would have been entirely intolerable). You would not have believed your ears. I had to really lean on him in assorted ways to keep from losing the little we did gain in D.C. This included threats that I denied were threats, but he read me. You also say, "Since he is not part of the work on the assassination, and the same is true of Maggie, they feel no need to help you financially...Therefore you should get another means of support..." I never asked either for financial support in my work. I phoned each before I left N.O. the last time merely to give them the chance to make it possible for me to remain (I think I also let you know by phone right then). Frankly, I did not really want to stay. Perhaps it would be more precise that while I might have wanted to be there for the trial, simply because it was the trial, I regarded this as a luxury, had to be in DC for that trial, above all, and considered that I must use that time for more significant things. I am without any regrets that I was not there, for I had no illusions about being able to do anything. I might have in detail only. The only thing anyone could interpret as a request to Vince was so elliptical it could not have been taken that way and it was Matt's idea. He suggested that Vince could well afford to have an editor-in-residence with me, to go over the work as I roam it out, and he told me to propose this to V. Instead, I merely recounted the conversation, without reference to his ability to make it possible. My complaint about Vince and money is simply that he made a commitment for me without consulting me and then ran out on it when I was left holding the bag. It cost me an enormous amount of time (I could have written at least one more book in that time) and what for me is much more, something over $250.00 in all. He did pay my fare in December (and only for the ticket). I paid all other expenses. And Bud had originally promised to, for he asked me before he went abroad to spend two weeks working with him in N.O. beginning 12/1 and I agreed. Bud did take me out to a very fine meal one night in N.O. Otherwise, all the other extra expenses amounting to no less than the fare I was then stuck with. How, with all my debts, can I assume such added ones? In today's mail is the enclosed, with what did not come out being pressure: one bill for $4,497/26. How can I be silent when Vince arranges them for me and doesn't keep his pledge? He gave me his word that I would get my costs back and that "some way would be found" to pay me somtathing for the time for, as the put it, I was indispensible. This is my only complaint about him and money. I never asked him or Maggie to help. In her case I knew better, for when she begged me to rush out to California to get Liebeler off Kane's back (Liebeler was ruining Lane, really-they were right), I did. I abandoned WWII, which was frightfully costly to me and an enormous and physically painful problem for Lil, who had all the packaging and mailing to do entirely alone. Hal had promised to pay the costs of the trip. He didn't. So, save for the very slight sum Hal did come through with, again, I was stuck will all the costs of going to and being in California, the considerable collateral costs, Maggie and Bill were really interested in getting the load off their backs, for they could not cope with L. Bill was fine. He met me, house and fed me, made all the good arrangements, etc. Maggie gave me a sandwich-once! She did not (and never thereafter did) have the fine dinner she had for all the others when they were there. And need I mention how she lionizes Lane, who does nothing but make lousy speeches? Last time she left me to make emergency arrengements for a pad. I used Charlie Brown's safe.

Until about 10 o'clock that night I didn't know Charlie Brown existed. It was very decent of her to do this ("Charlie", in case you do not know, is a girl). Do not misunderstand me: the home and the money are Maggie's, and it is entirely her affair what she does and does not do with either. She owes me nothing. But I asked her for nothing for my work, either, and I did not ask her to finance my continued presence in N.O. I told her what she took that way, that I wanted her to know it was financially impossible for me to remain. These are not the same thing, for I did not ask her and she did not turn me down. With Vince, however, it is not the same as with Maggie, for he did make a commitment, he assured me I would not be stuck, and that does impose an obligation on him. Frankly, so far as I am concerned, he is not just sick. Here he is dishonest and, because he is well off, plain cheap with it. I do not hide my feelings, Gary, nor how it makes me feel when the more principled behave xin this fashion and with what it does and means to Lil. Have you any concept of the situation she will face if anything happens to me?

I feel this explanation is due. I hope we can hereafter avoid the subject. I will never mention it to Vince. So far as I am concerned, sick or not, he is a man, or he is not; he is honest or he is not.

You mention Katen. He was only slightly less irrational and openly cast himself in the role of the Son of God. It was very uncomfortable. Neither one had the slightest idea what he was talking about and neither one listened, tried to understand what was really very simple. They and Jim are the only onces who didn't. All three just refused to, perhaps in two cases from sickness (but I think more because all are so securely anchored only in the past).

On Paul R. right. You know nothing. When I see you will be time enough.

Butler: what he undoubtedly refers to is his cuaint unterpretation of a double Joe Pyne radio show. He did nothing at all to me, save as his twisted mind interprets his failure. They both ganged up and it got pretty hot. I had been up doing the all-night KLAC radio show and did this in the a.m. afterward, so I lost my cool easier than the easy usual. But I did him in anyway. I jst did a lot, very much less than I could and should have. I called him a liar, proved it and got him to admit it, showed he manufactured as he went, etc. He can call that a victory? He did libel me but I am not in a position to sue him or Pyne. However, if he does in the Village Square, that may be in a different claws, for that is published in California and there I may be able to get counsel and do something. Especially because there will be no question about willfulness, with this Pyne Show having established to his face that he was lying and knew it, did it on purpose. He actually apologized for it. Again, we will have to see whether doing something about him is a luxury or a necessity. But I would like to see it. You did not send it in the envelope with deV.

I asked Hal to get the other artticles, not the one you had sent.(deV)

I wish I could persuade you to drop Fred entirely, that he can do you and us at best but little good and the potential for harm is very great. You should have enough smaples. How can you believe you can trust a man who you describe in this very letter as telling one of us "That he had 'heard through the grapevine' that the Z film was floating around" when he is, as you say, the distributor? (And would you like LIFE to make a court test with FRED as the defendant? You know I aired their "copurighted" material many times, including in your presence, and they have been silent.) Does this not tell you that Fred, for whatever reason, ism not merely capable of anything but does evil things? I am certain he has alienated Dave Aitch, a bight kid who was helping me and suddenly fell silent, and suspect he did the same tx thing with Gary Murr. You know the kind of lies he has written you. Imagine if those

who have never met me get such filth and manufactures. I wrote each once, an that is all I will do. I asked Gary about his silence and I asked Zitch to do something (research deV and if he wanted me to g ve him credit for something he had found for me, some of the Latin American Reports stuff). I simply have no more time for such things and if they remain silent I also will. We are all hurt by this sort of thing, more than any possible good Fred might be able to do can offset. His work is an added great hazard, for it is wrong. What is not cannot survive examination of the presentation. The rest is not his. Reread "Last Train", see how much comes from me and you have an added measure of his lack of basic honesty, for whatever reason. I'll say nothing about it for it and he are not worth the time. They are all this way, all hundering for kudos, all failed to earn any. And this, too, is the best possible interpretation.

While I would like a copy of Gibbon's footage, I cannot afford it and do not regard it as having any special value at this time. We are largely past that sort of thing. Past the content, too. It would be nice to have, little more. And don't you go out and spend the money for me! His letter does not quiet my uneese about Bolden, either.

I was to have done work of John Nichols with this time. So, my spologies for the uncorrected typos.

Best regards,

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MAYO MEMORIAL BUILDING · MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

May 16, 1969

Dear Harold,

Thanks for the letters. I'm sorry but I am a bit mixed up--who is Hobbs? You wrote "To Hobbs, fine, but with whom is he?" Things are whirring around like a buzz saw lately and I just don't know to what you are referring, although, embarrassingly enough, apparently it was something I sent to you.

I know that the Insider is undependable, but what intrigued me the most was that they had a photo. It never hurts to add another photo to the mug shots. I will check the Kuanbeck thing through Vince.

I have gotten the Vosjoli stuff back and everything else I have sent you. On Uris, I guess it's just that he might have access to info or rumors which we do not, due to the circles he travels in, and one never knows. The most unlikely sources sometimes provide the most unusual, and unpredictable info. If I were to write I would not have the same chance of eliciting candor or info as you would.

CD 1330 is the only declassified document dealing with Kama-Patztiski. I need the background it includes to write the memo on 1373. Thanks for 1373 anyway. I want to pursue this and see how good a case I can make for CIA babysitter. I plan to check out Minerva Machinery some more. They do not have a phone in NY City. I will check old phone books. If the company is a phoney than we have them cold on something really suspicious.

On Dan Jaffe, I wasn't suggesting undermining his father, but avoiding doing that. I long ago used the lines you suggest. I am planning, and have been planning, to recommend that he see you, but I want to lead up to it naturally after having crystalized interest. It will probably take quite a bit to have his father see you, since you were on the other side in the Washington case, especially if he does think the FBI is covering up and therefore might be tapping your phone and watching you.

On Hal, agreed. The SWP is more consistent with FPCC and some of what Hal has said to me.

On Vince, I will dig up his letter and send you a copy. I was sure I had but I guess that I didn't. The situation with Vince is unfortunate, but bear in mind that Vince tends to govern everything in terms of friendships and people he gets along with rather than facts, etc. He is very locked in the past and very much like Ray in that respect. Both are staunch 100% Garrison people to an extreme which is hard to believe. Had he done more to help keep Garrison in line long before he was forced to by what you learned last Christmas in N.O., then we would not have faced that trouble. Part of the reason that he is so big in Jim's eyes and can live fairly relaxed is that he is not really in the fighting part of this thing. Since he is not part of the work on the assassination, and the same is true of Maggie, they feel no need to help you financially. The big problem is that Vince thinks that the case has been solved as much as it will be, and therefore further work is not necessary. Therefor you should get another means of support and what you are doing is not essential. The people around him are very similar to this view. Abe Feldman, Harold's brother, who is quite brilliant, sees everything as a conspiracy between the major powers and the monied interests. Even Vince can't swallow this. Chris Kefalos, who is like a son to Vince, is that way. Tom Katen is somewhat that way, although he is still doing some work on the case, even though it is on global things.

I haven't had time to drop Paul R. a letter yet but plan to do so soon. What would he do a book on and why is he quitting, or thinking of it. I will not even suggest that I know when I write him, so you may be the only one who will fill me in here. Hunt must be pretty old and can't live too many more years--what will happen to his empire?

HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
MEDICAL SCHOOL

I have been sending things to Paul Hoch occasionally but haven't heard. I assume that

is immersed in work.

Does the Hobbs thing refer to the publishing company. I just noticed the stationary of the letter you got from Billie Cunniggham. I have no knowledge of him except that he has published for Gloria Josephs, the black dean of students at Cornell, who is the main go-between between the blacks and administration, and who travels all over the country speaking. I rate her A-OK but don't know about the publisher. Cunningham's letter sounded quite good, but the next steps in publishing are always, I imagine, more unpredictable and more difficult. This was the best I could do for you.

I reread the Village Square, which I hadn't seen for a while, and discovered that I was misremembering some of it, except for Butler's claim that he wiped you out in a######## debate. He claims the same of Oswald, who in my opinion, beat the whole bunch of them on the radio.

I will dig up copies of the asst. attorney general's letter. It was sent to Mondale and then forwarded to one of the people who has heard me speak. It will take a few days to find.

If Hal replied that he can get you other copies of that Vosjoli LIFE, then I will hold off spending time in a bookstore. It can be time consuming but I do it periodically because one never knows what one will find, and there are always old things I don't have and yet want. Also, it is possible to come across things like that Vosjoli LIFE which I didn't know existed.

As I mentioned in my last letter, Fred is really out of hand. It is difficult to write to him anymore.

Fred totally misused his good research on the train behind the pergola in his article: The Last Train from Dealy Plaza. I am sending a copy of it under separate cover and need it back since it is my only copy. I am also sending a copy of the VILLAGE SQUARE which you can keep, but under separate cover also. Forget about my comment earlier in the letter that it is enclosed.

By now you should have gotten those slides I sent you plus some other odds and ends. Fred's LAST TRAIN FROM DEALY PLAZA IS DEPLORABLE. Note the criticism of Sprague which is anonymous. Wait until Sprague sees that. Strangely enough, although not perhaps strange for Fred, he is on good terms with Sprague and his letters to him are friendly. At the same time, he hasn't even told Sprague that he has copies of the Z film, and in his last letter to him wrote that he had "heard through the grapevine" that the Z film was floating around! Wait until Sprague gets his letter, since it will take no more than a week at most for Sprague to learn that it is Fred who is distributing the film.

Enclosed is a copy of Gibbons last letter to me. He is a good man and will be looking further into the Bolden stuff. The film he refers to is not only his B & W remake of the Z film, but a B & W of the Muchmore plus some news footage of the motorcade plus the shooting of LHO (all UPI newsfilm). If you would like a copy, I think it will cost about $10, so just tell me and I will have him make more than one.

Best wishes.

Gary