

5/5/69

Dear Gary,

Your 4/28: Check on Jaffe. You are right on Kroman.

I have a high regard and warm feeling for Hal (still), but I cannot understand his few blind spots, of which T is a very conspicuous one. He knows from the past that T is not honest, was with me when I told T something in confidence 12/66 that soon appeared in Ramparts over T's, name-was in the audience - in fact, arranged the meeting - at which I provoked Keating into admitting they had me in mind with Ulov & K. Leboeuf. And many other things. But these people, strange, crooked, wrong or whatever, remain a serious handicap to our chances for success....Penn and Boxley have both been silent, to me. Not a word.

There is no restriction on any of the 544 stuff. If you need any more, let me know. However, I'd prefer no mention of the stuff for AGENT OSWALD. Experience to this point, rather than showing mention can promote possibilities for publication, indicates rather than an enormous waste of time results. I am daily writing letters in response to orders for POST MORTEM! Sometimes more than one. Further, mention can direct others that way, and I do not want this for a number of reasons. Mention, if you want, that I am working on such a book, but please, no glimmer of the contents. Orders for PM are scattered, not from a single area. I cannot account for how most heard of it....Remember, before I can seek a publisher for AGENT OSWALD, I have to find time to finish the writing, and there are still some leads to follow down. There is other work that ~~must~~ must precede (I have just heard that Knopf is coming out with another book titled, "Coup d'etat". I do have the copyright, so it will be a mess.)

Good luck with Hill. I got a phone call from a friend of some of those agents after I defended them from Manchester's evil on radio and in the papers back in 1967. I doubt he'll speak to any of us.

Vince's info on Humphrey's alleged belief in a (foreign) conspiracy is, of course, very interesting. I'd like to know more, for one thing because one of the few possible explanations of the unseemly Kennedy-family behavior is that they were sold such a bill of goods and think they are doing the right thing. I have often wondered about this.

Penna still has a Senator (Hugh) Scott. Former DA in Phila. Not much of a guy, but one of the more liberal Republicans.

Baton-Rouge stuff: which? Johnson? Simply not credible. Then there is the guy (Gallagher?) who was on a ship there and heard threats, etc. I checked that file out and what he told Sciembra is inconsistent with the FBI reports, whatever he actually told the FBI. Thus, neither could be used.

By now you should have the LIFE Vosjoli stuff back. I did send Maggie both copies of pictures and ref. to date pub., as you know.

Re: Vince/Epstein, for whatever it is worth, from the very first to this moment, I have yet to get a thing from him, not even the clippings I asked for. I do not know why, but it is so. He agreed last summer to make an Epstein memo, as you should recall.

Z: if the stuff is carefully checked at the Archives, using a different print may be okay. Lane could also have gotten his from another source, remember. "Before 171" is not very specific. But do not forget, whether or not it is

true, Z. says he stopped filming for a while, after the cycles turned the corner. Another caution on after 313: In 1966 I discovered that one of the frames with Maormen and Hill is misnumbered 317. I kept after the Archives to correct this. They finally said they had no authority to do this. Now, if you will examine 284, I think it is, it is a duplicate of 283. Maybe it is 287. I have notes on it somewhere. This, roughly, coincides with a point in the motion picture where there is a very short, sharp forward motion by JFA that I showed you. That I never did see in the stills. So, maybe this fits. Perhaps it is at 317 that there was some funnybusiness. I certainly hope that stuff checks out. As you know, however, I have no confidence in any of those involved in any aspect. Also, I'd be inclined to look hard at the nine frames withheld from the books and Archives until I fingered them in PW, when they just happened to be put in the trays in the Archives! These are 335-43...There are abrupt color changes in the copy given Garrison, one of the reasons I wanted (silent) Matt to see it for Jim. For those frames that are published, there should be a check to see if what they think they see in their movie version can be detected in the stills. It really should be done with the slides....I fail to see why Larnesse would now have any interest in Jaffe. Is there any Farewell activity of which you know? If there is not, what good purpose could he have?

Never got the Alyea footage back from Palmer. I asked often, by mail, without response, then in person in N.O. Do not know what happened to him. Probably back in LA and the people there are silent. There was a piece in the May "Confidential" I didn't see he may have done. A real, authentic nut sent me the cover. That reads, "Exclusive confession letter from David Ferrie "WE KILLED J.F.K.".

I've heard nothing from Paul. His phone call was a little odd.

5/1: Bolden. Bud confirms friendliness of judge, says lawyer and Bolden both strange. The Chicago judge held the confession of perjury invalid, a pay play by Spagnoli to lower the penalty to him. I would think a new trial and a new investigation would have been in order, though....I think I met Olson at the Archives and explained Z to him when I was to do. Ask him.

Weissman-Schmidt: the question is what to add to an already-long book where certain lengthy additions are required. I could make it a thousand pages with no difficulty. At this point, unless it is something urgent, I'll have to await doing the addition and seeing how long that is.

Check on Fred. But continue to be very careful. Lifton is capable of making shrewd guesses in the form of seeming fact. If they show knowledge of my material, instead of acknowledging, merely say "I have asked you not to discuss. If you have any doubt of the justification of the comments I made to Fred, then I forgot to send you the letter than I was replying to....But if his work ends Sprague's fiction, it serves a purpose.

I've made my notes on the Hanes-Foreman^{***} stuff in LOOK. Bud got nothing from Hanes, not from what he reflected to me. I never saw any of Gary Murr's clippings. He told me he gave Trent 20 pounds of them for all of us to be able to see. Trent has not responded to my inquiries. Murr has long been silent. I recently wrote and asked why. Your reference to "Hanes definitely mentions all of that" is unclear to me.

Expect to see Bud Friday and will take care of letter...At the moment, no spare copy of any of limited editions. Ask when you want III...On Paul, have we not sent and given him enough for him to do what you expect? Also, he may not be free to do what he might want. Be careful not to lay it on too thick about Jaffe, who is at best an errandboy. Without knowing what you intend sending, I can offer no opinion. Best regards

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April 28, 1969

Dear Harold,

Everything arrived back OK. There is more to the Jaffe file on Lofton, etc, but I didn't get it from Fred since I already had it from Garrison's files. But on Rose, Lamarre, etc, there was no more. I got only things which I thought might help you and which you might not--specifically, anything I didn't have. All of your comments, except on Lofton, are quite valid. I reached many of the same conclusions, having been through more of this material than you are aware of...Vince got it for me from Garrison. But, I sent it to you because you are the expert--I went through it briefly and then filed it away to keep it on record in case anything ever suddenly fits together. Since Kroman is in touch off and on I want to be ready--I still feel that he is far more than a nut and may be very important in this. His political activities, his rifling the mental hospital files, his threat on my eyesight, etc, make him very interesting and worth watching. In any event, I wrote Fred a pointed letter, which I have been preparing for some time, incorporating some of your comments as though they were mine (since he responds more to things I say, even if you say exactly the same things, and even say them better) and put him on the line about Jaffe. Fred is having the same problem Jim had, and that Penn had (and may still be having), that Hal had or has (with Turner), etc--friendship being misused. It is bad news, but has happened many times in this case. In fact, sometimes a friendship breakup caused the reverse, a rejection of someone else's work, charges of agency, etc. I have not been tested in this area, since I met Boxley only twice, never met Turner or Rose, much less became friends, etc. This may well be our most powerful opponent and we cannot yet really deal with it. Hal on Turner for instance. I have no idea what his views are now, anymore than I know how Penn feels about Boxley. I have sent both strong, well documented letters, as have you, but the recent replies tell me nothing about how their views have finally resolved themselves. With Penn it doesn't matter and it is not surprising. But Hal is a bright, alert, hard working, and important researcher. He is first rate in my book and I think the world of him, despite the fact that he probably figured me a nut when I started in on Turner when we were at your house last summer and while I drove him to Phila. Because he is useful and valuable, in addition to being a great guy, it wouldn't surprise me that Turner might like to be able to influence him or tap his work, so I just hope that Hal has broken off, because Turner might pursue him. When I say broken off, I mean abstain from showing him anything, not refuse to see him. Again, I have no worries because there isn't a critic or fake-critic within 1,000 miles of here.

On the stuff I asked of you, if there are any restrictions on its use, please tell me. I refer to 544 Camp, etc. I plan to precede it with a slide of the cover of OinNO. I will use a slide of your WW false Oswald chapter headings for that stuff on the LHO double. What about the LHO as agent memos from the Archives? The ones you use in Oswald Agent. I would like to use them and to preface them with the fact that they will be presented, with much more info, in your up a coming book, Agent Oswald, if and when you get a publisher or money to publish. One of these days this way of presenting, as I do with the Miami tape, has to produce a response from someone.

By the way, I have now spoken with some friends of Clint Hill who may try to get him to hear me, and also to two neices of McCloy who he has convinced that the WR is right. Just like McCloy. Won't defend himself publicly or debate, but will work on his young neices. Also working on friends of Humphrey. Vince has info which suggests that

Humphrey knows of a plot, its significance, but that he may have been told that it was foreign. He described it as a major threat to world peace, although it wasn't absolutely certain that he referred to the assassination, his description pinpointed the time. Will try to meet with senator Scott (ex-senator) from Penna. this Wednesday evening. I showed the Miami tape and mentioned your work to the state's attorney general, Douglas Head, and hope to meet with him in the near future. He was very impressed and very interested-- i.e. read the entire Miami tape while sitting in the Sheraton listening to the Wolf show.

Do you know anything about why Jim never used the Baton Rouge stuff in the Shaw trial. His opening statement promised it, but they never mentioned it, despite the amount of detail on it in the opening statement.

I will try to reach Lillian this evening again. If I can do anything for you in the way of expanding on the Sirhan stuff, etc, just tell me.

I mailed the Vosjoli stuff last night airmail, and you should have it now. All I have is LIFE, and the photos are not useful, and could be misleading (i.e. the old passport photo could be doctored or chosen because he has changed in appearance). I misread you and didn't send them until I got your letter. I had loaned them out but would have gotten them back Had I not misread you. Things were just pretty hectic.

You have a record on Foreman which is fantastic. I will try to put someone on getting a little on his background, but can't promise anything. I still haven't had time to get things going on Epstein. I contacted Vince on Epstein hoping to again push him to put what he knows and can prove down on paper.

Lifton called last night since I had written Fred to ask him about whether or not his cousin had a best friend at Ithaca College, and whether or not that friend knew about Dave's work. Dave said that they now have an 8mm copy of the Z film which they borrowed from Lane, so I hope that copies will be ready soon. They are working day and night in the color lab. They have a top notch technician working with them, and have discovered another splice before 171, and then one after 313. The one after 313 does not surprise me, since no explosion plus dispersion of debris could possibly take place in two frames (1/9 of a second), and the movement of the girl in the background also involves a jump in time. This would have greatly mollified the force of the headhit and what it did. I still wonder about a frame missing prior to 313, which would show the beginning of the explosion as the bullet hits, before the stuff vaporizes and gets out into the air. Not only are there splice marks but there are developing color changes, not so much in the color of the film, but in the film margins. The technician is 100% sure of this stuff. Next, they will be putting together the color blowups of the splices and showing them to other experts. Then, it must be checked with magnification in the Archives. Lamarre has promised Jaffe another copy of the film, so they may get another one eventually, although I have told Fred that Jaffe was probably stalling them off. I will try to find out about Jaffe's current contacts with Lamarre.

Gibbon's promises some Muchmore footage. I still don't know what, if anything, that friend of Lifton's cousin has access to. Did you ever get that Aleya stuff back from Joel Palmer. What ever happened to him anyway? What you found out about Lamarre's visit to his landlady, etc., and his overseeing Bokay's interviews, makes him interesting.

I did not ask for Rothermel's sources, since he indicated that one's identity must be concealed, and called the other confidential. I didn't want to strain our relationship. He knows you better and undoubtedly trusts your judgment more. Not wishing to pass the buck, but I think that you would be the best one to ask. I doubt if he will tell us. Your Ivon letter: They have a much larger file on Nagell--Rothermel sent me mostly stuff mentioning Don Morgan--this I already had. You do right to ask for source--that's one of the reasons I sent it to you. These copies could have come from the office xerox, and may be first xeroxes--they are identical to those which Vince xeroxed for me--I can send comparisons if you want proof. On Surrey, I quoted him from a Burton memo about what either Lamarre or Jaffe (I'm pretty sure Lamarre, probably quoted by Jaffe) said during a car ride, as to who was behind the assassination. All I sent him was a quote from the memo alleging a relationship. I think that the whole letter refers to the same thing. If I didn't send you a carbon it was an oversight or mistake on my part. I will dig one out.

Ray

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May 1, 1969

Dear Harold,

I agree with your apprehensions about Bolden, although fear might be a more likely suspect than deception, since they could deceive even better through a few contacts, since we cannot check. Do you have any trial transcripts other than the original? If his appeal has failed short, what I want to know is why. Galt says that the judge in Springfield said that he would hear the case and was very sympathetic, but wanted Hosmer to first take it to the original court. When a witness admits to perjury, that is pretty well open and shut mistrial or retrial.

Gibbons make a moving film out of the black and white Z film frames in the volumes. I wanted it out of curiosity. He also sent me a copy of the Muchmore, and I think the Nix, plus Ruby Shooting LHO, and other items. Olson has spent hundreds of hours with the Archives versions and done much studying of the photo evidence. This will be his PhD dissertation--the photographic evidence.

On Coup, I also wondered why you did not include the Weissman-Schmidt stuff, since you have more on them than anyone and did the principle work in that area. It might be worthy of a mention for one simple reason: Bernie said, as you know, that he didn't realize he was a conservative until he served under Walker and heard his tripe. This provides a commentary on some of our military men, and what they are capable of, the possibility of a Dr. Strangelove story, and the possibility that some of them share Revilo Oliver's views and would regard the assassination as something which saved the country.

I think that I have somehow given you a misleading impression of what I discuss with Fred. With Fred I discuss Fred's work, the Ray Marcus withholding of the film, Larry Haapenen's work, and anything which Bernabei or anyone else writes him. There is never any occasion to discuss the things I discuss with you, although it is sometimes useful for me to tell you of what they are doing out there. I trust Fred with nothing, because there is nothing to trust him with. He trusts me with his work, and I reply with comments and criticisms, such as with the Jaffe file. Fred is engaged in work in very small and circumspect areas and has little knowledge of the case except in a few small areas. These are generally things others have dealt with, but not in as much detail. The only other things I have ever mentioned was when I felled him in on Sprague, Jaffe, Turner, Boxley, etc. Fred deals with Dave all the time and Dave has called me a number of times, but it doesn't matter what I tell Fred since I don't tell him anything I wouldn't tell Dave, which means that I discuss things unrelated to your work or what you have sent. They have from time to time, as I have tried to indicate, shown definite knowledge of some things which shocked me, and when I was sure that they really had seen something and were not just trying to do what Sylvia does to get info, I pretended no surprise and admitted knowledge of it, since to do otherwise was to attract attention to it.

I will send Sirhan and Malcolm memos sometime early next week. I have a trial coming up this Saturday which will occupy me until then. I am an expert witness for the prosecution and have to discredit an insanity defense.

I have written Lillian, since I couldn't get her by phone, and asked her to send you copies of her work. I can send copies if need be, but hers will be better, and she may have more now.

Fred sells the slides at cost to everyone who has them. Even me, who was about the only one he would trust at that point, paid for them. After your exchange of letters with him and your comments, whether justified or not, I wouldn't expect him to send them. This is just a fact of human nature. Very few people can separate intellectual things from emotion. You will have to see the train stuff since apparently I have not succeeded in describing it well enough. It is opposed to Sprague's work and shoots that work down. It

is a different train. The train could have blocked off those goigg into the railroad yards and provided a shield from Bowers plus dark background from the front which would not show running figures.

I sent you the Vosjoly stuff and you should have gotten it a while ago. Do what you want with it. But if Maggie or anyone out there needs it, I suggest sending them to a Library for that issue of LIFE rather than sending it out there and then spending the next year trying to get it back. That is my only copy of it. All they need is the number of the issue. A used magazine store should have the issue, that's how I got it and it only took about an hours' time.

I got Sparrow's book within a month or so of the Time mag. piece. I have many books I have not discussed with you or even mentioned. It is beneath mention. There is nothing in there of interest other than to show the depths to which intellectuals will sink and also the shame it is that there are no formal rules for inductive logic.

I will also send FBI in south which I hope to do this Sunday also.

On all of the King stuff, check Hanes' article in LOOK--also, Bud has seen Hanes and may have documents. Gary Murr has a file of clippings and I must have seen some of it in there, since I can't find proof. I will send what I have. I checked and Hanes definitely mentions all of that. Murr's clippings were lost for a while, accidentally sent to me by Bud, and then returned, and thus far there have been about 20 letters from many people to Bud, Sprague, and Trent trying to get them back. I don't know yet whether he has them.

Agreed on Wecht. He has been little help compared to what he could have done for us. His medical appendix to Tink's book, while more authoritative than the one I planned due to his qualifications, did none of what mine would have done.

On smuggling Ray, bear in mind that while Huse could be partly right or all right, it was pretty well done with people who resembled Ray--and since there were more than one passport, this is unlikely due to coincidence. Harry is right on the price from what I know, if ~~Ray~~ Ray had to use the underworld.

Could you forward that letter to Bud if you are sure that I sent you the original by mistake. I have the trial stuff, but need extras and don't have the money for xeroxing. I don't want you to spend money. If he can't send them, then there will be none. He should be able to send. I haven't read PM III yet, but don't send until I send you those memos, so that I will have free time.

Gary

PS: I plan to prime Rothermel with some more info soon. I will probably send him stuff on Jaffe and see what he comes up with. Thus far I have found him, as you have, friendly, trustworthy, useful, and quick. If you see any danger in the Jaffe stuff, please inform. He might be able to shake some of these maggots out of the meat, especially given all of the ties with the right wing.