3/10/69

Dear Gary,

Relet 3/6: Do I know whether Garrison showed Julia Ann Mercer pix Larry Crafard? No. I presume once he got the statement he used he had no interest in anything else, includigg any effort to check her story out.

Re Hal, Turner: Hal knows Turner better than we. He does not know what the effect of what Turner has done is, save what he has been told, and that has not been and could not be in detail. He will find out in due course, when he has a chance to see what there is to see. I suspect that when he thinks the trial over and puts this together with the enormous and entirely wasteful expenditures of time and money on the west coast, he will reach his own conclusions. Because he regards Turner as a friend (he knows he has literary kleptomania), it would be wrong to try and form Hal's opinions for him. By coincidence, however, early this a.m. I did refer Hal to the new Overstreet deification of J. Edgar Indispensible, warning him the books if a dreadful. He will, perhaps, read it and let us know whether he finds their writing about Turner possibly accurate. Otherwise, I agree with your evaluation. I did not hear what Mark had to say of Boxley.

Re; Burton-Vosjoly(i): I told him immediately, asked that he use his journalism major as a cover to elicit data from publisher, and have had nothing but silence, from him or the others in LA with whom I have been in touch. I now have more. Your memo is accurate, from what I had earlier learned. His name apparently was Thyreaud (Thyraud) and he took the name de Vosjoly to give himself the sound of high birth, family connections. He apparently did have CIA connections and his government also suspected them. He was, as I suspect all those boys are, rightist, connected with the colons in Algeria and the army group with them. He had maintained his French passport, etc. The CIA took the unusual step of denying he had ever served them. It is incomplete, unpersuasive and so great a departure from their usual practise in such matters I take it as confirmation. I believe your gal gave you her data from the diplomatic bluebook (I guess source) by phone from the misspelling in the street (i.e. Macomb, not McComb). This would place his first address in the American University area. His second is a very good area in Bethesda, one of the wealthier and whiter suburbs.

Re Bud: Okay. But you misunderstood what I was saying. If he had any connection with or knowledge of the evil proceedings inside the office in N.O. the last thing he'd have done so close to their fruition was make it possible for me to go there. What he did in Washington is entirely inconsistent with any kind of buttressing of the government. I entirely disagree with your suspicions and consider that on the basis of fact and dispassionate reasoning they have no foundation. I do not sometimes agree with his assessments and judgements, but he has been in this a relatively short time. If he failed to finance me further, what about Vince, who assured me of it and left it there, did not produce? Quite openly Bud was trying to get me to join his groups and for the reasons about which I was very specific I refused.

City of Night: It is one of the things I've had on the back burner. Let me know if it shows anything that might be of interest, which I doubt.

Burton: Fred is the last person to try and re-orient anyone and Burton will have an accurate appraisal of him. I have written Steve several times. He also

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has personal involvements to outlive. I warned him against everything that now troubles him. His confidence in some people was such, his faith in his own judgements also was such that this is all more of a blow to him than it would be. I know your motives are good, but I really think you are wasting much time on these enterprizes. I again caution you that what you have gotten from Fred is hardly worth the time it required, adds nothing material to what we already knew, and by itself cannot be trusted in any event. Leave Burton alone unless he takes the initiative or you'll turn him off entirely.

I have not heard of or from Spitzer of LNS. They are married to Mark anyway. If he was in any way connected with Turner's Garrison piece in Ramparts, it is no recommendation to me on either of the counts you enumerate. If they have not one of them been in touch with me and they are planning to use what is my stuff, do you need any further evaluation of a) their knowledge of the field or b) their integrity? The more time goes on, the more I realize that those who pretend to be of us, pretend they want to help, but lack the simple basic intellectual honesty, really do not help at all and are, basically, self-seeking. They all want to be important onthe cheap/ Is he the one you mentioned earlier?

There is no rush on any of this so I'll mail it after you return.

On Joven America: it is a fascist outfit connected with others. Bud had a clipping on them. They are related to the "Christian Nationalist Movement". Aldo Rosado heads. (Matronymic Turco). Bombers, etc.

Sincerely,

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UNIVERSITY OF Minnesota

MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

March 6, 1969

Dear Harold,

Some questions: Do you know if Julia Ann Mercer has ever been shown a photo of Larry Crafard? Have you gotten the Alyea stuff back from Palmer yet?

I have heard from Hal and answered his letter. He still seems to think that Turner is OK. Liberation news is doing a big thing on the assassination. Right now they are doing stuff on the trial. I warned them away from all of the Turner stuff which he has already tried to feed them--they saw through most of it themselves. Shortly they will be doing things on 544 Camp, etc. and using documents with it. While they may not do that good a job, with your book and some guidance it is better than not sending the stuff over the wire at all. The guy who is doing it is an old friend and quite trustworthy.

David Shoenbrun will be in town tomorrow evening and I expect to be with him and try to negociate use of what JFK told him on Nov.1, 1963: that he was removing all troops from Vietnam.

Will try to find time to write Barry. Did you tell Burton about your suspicions about Vosjoly? Fred, who knows nothing about them, asked if you had since Burton was apparently mentioning it. Fred couldn't get it straight since he has no personal knowledge of it and thus picked up only bits and pieces, and even a misspelling on the name which would only have been recognizeable had I known of your hypothesis. A memo on that subject is enclosed.

I agree with your limitation on the use of the word agent, and tend to use it in the generic sense, although it is not generally used that way. I do not feel that Burton is an agent and certainly doubt that Jaffe is. That in no way lessens whatever their involvement is in our recent problems. I assume that Boxley is probably a tool of the government, although maybe he is just crazy. The same goes for Turner, who in my mind is more likely an agent than Boxley, if for no other reason that he engages in craziness only under certain circumstances. Turner's stuff does not fall apart as readily as Boxley's and he is clever and a good liar. Your arguments on Bud, about whom I have no real opinion, do not hold water. Making possible your Nov. trip and helping in Washington mean nothing more necessarily than working his way in. In the case of your trip to N.O., he could have been doing nothing more than buying you off. Let's not forget that he then sort of withdrew financial aid when you would not cooperate fully with the committee and that you yourself had some harsh words for what had some resemblance to financial [redacted] blackmail. You are very vulnerable in this respect, being poor and yet having a strong and enviable desire to get to the bottom of this, and also having as your sole source of income books on the assassination for which you need material. In addition, your strong views on how to approach the subject dictate, in a very commendable fashion, that you must continually gather new material. To do this you need to make trips. To make trips it helps to have someone with money who will pay. I disagree that "these things he believed were believed by virtually all, present company and probably Paul alone excepted." I doubt if Jim's staff would have believed them, I didn't and neither did Vince. I doubt if any of the more experienced critics would have bought any of that stuff, no matter who said it. And it is even harder to see how an establishment lawyer, bright and with much experience, could have swallowed any of that rot for even an instant. He never claimed that Garrison had evidence of things, but rather that there was evidence of things, and that he had seen it. Then he went on to recount it

and I refuted it. His resistance on Turner sounded just like Mark Lane on Boxley: Well, we're stuck with him, even if he is an agent. His interview of Sylvia Odio is one of the few things which definitely ### salvages him in my mind, since that was far too nutty a stunt for a real agent with his intelligence. Also, his dislike for both Kennedys and liking for LBJ is something one would not expect from someone trying to build credentials in this area. So, as far as I am concerned Bud is an enigma. I plan to work with his committee, as I joined from the beginning, and am lending him a hand wherever possible. I am also alert to what the committee will be doing and the work of its members. As far as Burton is concerned, I have already written some people on the West Coast, including Fred and Hal, and suggested that we take care of our own and someone or all of them think in terms of helping him re-orient himself and perhaps return to useful work on the assassination, hopefully having learned some important lessons. I myself have been through a less serious crisis, and at his age. It is a little easier to view the situation in this fashion now then it was some time ago while there were many troubles and Burton was adding to them and perhaps endangering Jim through mistrial -possibilities.

You are not the only one who suggested that Jaffe contact me when he went to Minneapolis. I contacted Burton several times and so did Vince, emphasizing that it would be very important to see me before seeing Kroman, and at the very least, after seeing him.

I have someone going through City of Night now, by John Rechy. It is about homosexuals, seems authentic and based on real people, and has material on N.O.

Have you ever heard of Bill Spitzer of Liberation News Service? He supposedly helped put together and polish up Turner's big masterpiece on Garrison in Ramparts.

Take it easy and don't forget that I will be in Lansdowne from the 12th to the 23rd. Give my regards to your wife and tell her that one of these days I will get around to trying that recipe she so kindly copied out of her mental cookbook for me (that delicious chicken). I feel guilty as hell after she went to that trouble and I salivated over that chicken so many times that I just haven't had time to make it.

Gary