3/1/69

Dear Gary,

Oser did do an excellent job on Finck. He even read between the lines very well, although I think I told him about this in either a memo or on 1/19. The names he brought in not in the Sibert O'Neill report are strange to me. I asked Bud to see if he could have the directories checked. You comment is in accord with my belief, on effect, on limitations.

Sprague is about to publish a pamphlet on the "tramp" pictures, from what I understand. I have tried to caution him. He believes only what he wants to, refuses to see what is uncongenial. Nothing else I can do. Each of the very positive different identifications of the same people is absolutely it, and none of the previous error in any way diminishes confident in the current "certainty".

However, I caution you against a too-readiness to consider too many "agents". First, why have the necumbrence of an "agent" when without any of the complications those services are available free, on a volunteer basis? It is in no way necessary to have agents to know what we know. When you get into misdirection, then there is more reason, but the same truth applies. On Bud, first, youyou report his beliefs of an earlier era, when he was without doubt about Garrison and took him at face value; next, he made the major success in Washington possible, for without him we would not have had it; and he made possible my Nov. trip, which is hardly what he would have done as an "agent", with what was cooking that I did discover. Aside from my personal appraisal, these things I find persuasive. Those things he believed were believed by virtually all, present company and probably Paul alone excepted.

Again I caution you or Fred and Burton. Fred's motives I do not doubt, but his is a Garrisonian judgement (new phrase). Burton is a very bright young man who is in a difficult period, is without doubt deeply embarrassed by his own poor judgement (which is also compounded by his previous unflinching devotion to Garrison), and is now sweating out a great disillusionment. He is only 19, Gary. In the past year, unpleasant things have happened with him, but they reflect on his immaturity, lack of experience, ambition to be known and do something, not a basic lack of integrity. If Hal was at that meeting, we can depend on him for a solid appraisal, delayed somewhat by the theft of everything that could be sold that was in his apt., including his typewriter. I wish we were closer so I could lend him one. It makes me feel no better to know that my suspicions were so warranted, especially because they were so immediate. This will increase the hate level in N.O., much of whose money he spent. Every time I am right they find me more wrong. However, Jaffe is also strange, and I would like more than his word that Rose is Wilson. Meanwhile, there is no one in LA we can trust to do the learning, save, perhaps, a few newsmen, with whom I will take it up. If Rose Wilson is working for Bob Brown, we can look forward to some juicy articles. I will not resent them one bit! Hemming would know, Howard might, and there is more chance Howard might tell the truth. Fred is a great hero about all this right now, he'd have you believe. But where was he more than a year ago when I asked his help on precisely this, when we'd have had so many fewer diversions, when so much, so very much money would not have been pissed away. Even Jim acknowledged the likely identity back in mid-Januery, when Bud and I were both with him, reciting some of the things R-Wndid and did not do that were assigned, looked me right in the eye and was without comment on how long ago (a year) I warned him, with pictures.

The story on the Jaffe Chicago-Minneapolis trip is not new to me. My suggestion that you be consulted first apparently didn't reach them in time or it was ignored because they knew better, as have they not always? Do try and keep me posted on those insanities, if it does not interfere with your school work, because we may have to face some consequences soon. Regards,

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

MEDICAL SCHOOL
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February 27, 1969

Dear Harold,

Thank# God they used your stuff on Finck. Oser really did his homework and did an excellent cross-examination. Finck left a record which I intend to quote from here on in. He helps build a case for high level involvement, which is a real surprise. Meanwhile the FBI bails out and blames the Commission. This part of the trial has left a record ######## which, although it could have been better, is devastating to the Commission. Finck also shot down the SBT.

Sprague is still supplying much disinformation but he is on guard now and being quite cautious. He is pushing on Bradley and I hope it doesn't get through to JIM. He, in letters to people out West, has totally distorted the Bradley TV appearance. Bud's committee looks pretty bad with the board of directors consisting of Bud, Jim, Dick, and Turner. Turner is clearly an agent, Dick is either hopelessly confused and useless, or also on the other side or being used by it, Jim has zero judgment, and Bud is a mystery, at least to me. Nothing in his background, not even Freedom of INfo, would predict his connection with this in my mind. He has fed me much absolute bullshit which he backed off from as soon as I questioned it. He is hot on Crisman, Bradley, the tramps, Lawrence, etc. Last I heard he still defends Turner. I will stay with the group to keep an eye on it and try to help make it work, but I am not optomistic. Bud's good work in Washington proves absolutely nothing. Let's face it, a good agent of even Congress or the establishment would not be easy to spot. The fact that Boxley and Turner were so bad shouldn't take us off our guard. So in short, I do not agree with your assessment of Bud, and intend to defer judgment for a long while. His"interview" with "Sylvia Odio," who later turned out not to be Sylvia Odio, was a bit too much. His comments on Bolden are also strange, although I admit that Bolden himself is strange. His insistence on Crisman, Bradley, Lawrence, and others when I first met him does not bespeak a bright, sharp lawyer who is supposedly quite objective and critical.

I don't know whether Rollie is representing Lamarre or not. Sorry if I gave you the wrong impression. All I know is that of all the books to mention, he picked that one, and I thought it was an interesting choice. Also, it will be interesting to see who Jim Rhoads is.

Agreed on Penn. The Z film showing did some harm because they had "police experts" discussing it who suggested that the head shot came from the rear. Ray is sitting on "his"copy. Newcomb helped get it and it had been in Fred's possession. Suddenly Ray won't let Fred see it or use it.

As for list for Barry, I forget exactly what I suggested, but I think that it was Hoover, State Dept. Employees, etc. Have no objection to your suggestions. I had assumed that you had already checked those people.

Burton is not communicating with anyone. Fred has pursued him but found him to be largely confused. In Hal Verb's presence (he was there with girlfriend & her kids), Fred questioned Burton. Jaffe has told that Rose is Wilson. Steve defended the Rose is not Wilson idea quite vehemently according to Fred (including shouting) and then retreated from it when Fred told him that Jaffe had said that Rose was Wilson.

Steve claimed that Wilson is now working for Panther Press in Denver. Fred said that he was very confused during that part of the conversation. Burton said that he gave Jaffe money to go down from Chicago to Minneapolis to interview Kroman, but that ### Jaffe didn't call Kroman first, and when he got there he couldn't locate Kroman, and therefore the money was wasted. The impression that both Hal and Fred got, according to Fred, was that Steve was quite confused at times and appeared to be very mixed up in the Farewell thing.

Well, I've got to run. Hope that the pages on Penabaz arrived. Send them back when you get the change. Still trying to find money for# they# books.

Gary