2/28/69

Dear Gary,

The enclosed is but part of the day's production. I've also taken a little time off to take down a few of the trash trees, locusts, and even threw every blamed one where I wanted it! and with a 14-inch saw only. I feel the slight exertion, but that is what I fear I require. I have grow so constantly tired, so uncertain on my feet and of my balance. But I compelled myzself to stay in bed seven hours last night and I ate a bit more than I would have earlier today, and from now on, when the weather permits, part of each day I'll get a little work in outside. I rather enjoy it anyway.

Before I pick Lil up, I think I have time to respond to your 2/26.

About Vince: he may have misunderstood, but I tell you I was explicit on my reasons for not being there, to him and to those who informally asked me by phone to return. You stated it accurately. When Vince broached the subject with me by phone the last time we spoke, I repeated it and reminded him that he had made the arrangements. He did not even offer to phone. He said merely he'd write them a letter. You see what has followed his writing a letter. Need I tell you that he is in a position to have guaranteed the deal he made, that he is in a position to have advenced the money I do not have? You know it as well as I, and you know he is spending not less than that and doing much less. I do not think even Vince, little as he eats, can stay in New Orleans as I have and in two weeks have only four meals - and be treated to each, spending the restof the time eating but a glass of powdered skim milk for breakfast and a 19¢ hamburger for supper, nothing else. I am reluctant to continue this unpleasant affair, but I will not permit an inaccurate record to exist. Not only did I phone Moo before I left New Orleans, but I also phoned Maggie, and she was quite blunt in saying she would not help. I would be less than frank in telling you that I really wanted to stay, because I considered what might still be salvaged in Washington more important and had no reason to believe I would be listened to. And to this day, N.O. has yet to tell me they will pay what they owe me. It is not as Vince says they told him in anything they have told me. When I left Moo said, laughing, that I'd be back. I told him he could arrange it very easily, and that is he didn't, I wouldn't. When I did leave, he did say he thought I'd be paid. Well, since December, when the arrangement was made, I know the money they have piddled away, and they have yet to refund the money they asked me to spend - since then. When I now have my insurance due and do not have the premium, and soon must pay the interest on my enormous indebtedness and do not have that, need I tell you how little I could be in New Orleans living on even 19¢ hamburgers, with Lil spending $6.00 a day on cabs hust going to and from work in my absence? And this with no reason to believe I'd be heard and less to believe I was wanted? I spent a night with Matt last time I was there and the rest of the time used Barbara's (little girl's bed. She slept with her mother. Matt had arranged a barren apt for me and would have arranged the minimum furnishings, but as of then had not and I'm damned if I was going to sleep on the naked floor and not have even a box to sit on. No, Gary, it is not as you have been told. The reason is simply that Jim gave the word. There is no other reason I have heard nothing, no other reasons Moo has not returned several calls I made. I am much too tired to engage in futilities when I can do what may serve a purpose.

However, Vince is correct in believing I was enraged about Washington. Perhaps more, I was enraged about his part in it, and I left no doubt about this in talking to him, which is probably the only reasons we did get as far as we did. I think you should also know that I phoned Moo three weeks ago and asked him to have whoever did certain cross-examining speak to me for five minutes first. Silence. In this case, the fragmentation of the critical community has nothing to do with it.

They also didn't want me there for fear I might not be silent about some of the wrong things there is every reason to believe were intended, and it is possible that my expressed objections and absence may have had a restraining effect. Nor is it because they have no money. It would have cost much less than Numa has pissed away since then, on nothing at all, entirely unnecessarily.

Enough of this disagreeable, unpardonable matter.

Why not ask Bernabei? He is a fine guy. Address: Dept Classics, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. He is busy right now, having just returned to school. But wait until after finals. Keep your school work up.

You are quite wrong about Wecht. He is quite put out, and with every reason to be. However, he is unchanged about the case. He likes being abused even less than I, not having had my long experience at it.

Bethel is not new to me. Only nobody would pay any attention. I not only suspected it, I got the proof. Unless I have a memo on it, I have forgotten how I learned it. I do recall what he told members of the foreign press a year ago, and that I reported it to You.

Barry at the Archives: I still regard N.O. as important, but now would add autopsy. Hoover: agreed. I never did get the pages I asked for and Mike could not even find it! I tried that myself. Matter of fact, on State, some of those people never had the chance to check their own testimony, and the reasons are spurious.

On the slides: thanks, but while I'd like to have them, I do not need them. I will not be making any appearences for which I am not paid. I go to deeply in hock every time I get a promise, for none are ever kept and I am that much more out. I'd rather stay home and get more written. I will, however, go anywhere for the normal arrangements in speeches.

Do not worry about paying for the books, and if and when you need more, let me know before you run out.

Gotta rush to get Lil. Sorry, you have to puzzle out the typos.

Best,

UNIVERSITY OF Minnesota

MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

Feb. 26, 1969

Dear Harold,

After I spoke with you on the phone I reached Vince at Matt's later in the day. He said that he was not there when Marina was cross-examined because there was no time since he was out working on something. He said that they were all set on Finck but I went through the stuff on Finck with him anyway and emphasized what must be done to him. Vince promised to speak with the staff and big Jim about the money. They told him that they don't have any but intend to pay you as soon as they do. He assumed that you weren't down there by choice and that you were enraged about Washington and would have not wanted to come. I assured him that this was not true and that two things concerned you: the money and that you be listened to. I told him that you should be rushed down there, despite the fact that the trial is just about over, and used for what little is left. He said that he would see about it the next morning (Monday). I empahsized that there should be a critic in the room at all times and he agreed, and of course he realizes that you are the most knowledgeable about what goes on. Ideally, they should have had both you and Vince or you and Mark there, so that you could supply the info quickly and they could confer on the legal aspects, and then both of you could make recommendations to Alcock or whoever was trying the thing. Vince recognizes his lack of knowledge and only went to do what he could. He knows Mark is of little use, although he is much better than any of the staff on the details of the case. I believe him when he says that he felt that you were not down there by choice. Jim, probably on purpose, and the staff have been negligent. You are the only one who could do the job in the dept. where they are most needly. Sylvia could have helped, but that of course is out. So the situation is very unfortunate and is a sad but predictable result of the fragmentation of the critic community, breakdown in communications, and personality quirks of Jim. I would have been willing to go down and live in someone's living room tohelp, although I could not have done as much as you. But even without my files and notes, I could have set them up for the simple task of ruining all those defense witnesses. By the way, with regard to Shaw's boss, he claimed that Shaw was not fired.

I heard from Paul with a short letter and he sent old memos. He is busier and busier as orals approach. Bernabei's work sounds excellent. Has he done memos on the stuff on the rifle and Frazier. I would be glad to pay someone for copies. By the way, I still hope to have time to put together a memo on the injuries to the head, but I am fighting to catch up for finals which come in two weeks. The flu cost me almost two weeks, during at least a week of which I did absolutely no work.

WLOL, for some strange reason, hasn't been that interested in getting in touch, and since my schedule is often unpredictable, there is little I can do. They can always call my office and get me within an hour. Ken Minyard seems to think that interest is dying, which is an unfortunate and irrational assumption. Interest is growing out here by leaps and bounds.

This Friday I speak to some influential people, some of whom have enough dough to finance a book. Keep your fingers crossed. I may have more contacts developing with people with money. Some extremely rich radicals will hear me on March 29, but that is a long way off.

They called Finck because he is the only forensic pathologgist, also probably because he is a professional liar...Boswell and HUmes are only amateurs. I agree about Penn. His last letter, which you have a copy of, seems to accuse me of something at the end--perhaps of being an agent. Vince claims that they are still going to use Wecht, but I can't imagine

how. All in all, we are starting to look like we're going to come out of this alive. We have learned much about the autopsy, and now can use the testimony of Shaneyfelt and Frazier to show government lies and fear. The establishment seems worried, despite the press and suppression, and Wecht and Nichols are more excited than ever and are ready to get out and do some slugging. When the trial is over we have got to use all this, as you already have in your two new books, and push with publicity, hopefully with the aid of the citizen's committees.

How did you find out that Jim told Jaffe not to tell you anything. It is important that I know. Vince can check out the truth of it. Here is another place we can check Jaffe's reliability.

Vince says that Bethel definitely leaked info to the other side. He wouldn't elaborate on the phone, but says that what he originally told me (& I relayed to you over the phone, a long time ago) was "true in Spades." He said that it was definite.

I hope that Barry can go to the Archives and check transcripts of testimony. That could be a gold mine, and it's hard to even know which testimony I would like to have checked first. Hoover is a natural and so are State people, especially since we know that it was not the people from State who gave testimony who did the altering, but someone else. By the way, did you come across an affadavit about a Ruby-Oswald contact. My notes indicate that my order contained a good one.

Take care and give my regards to your wife. For what it's worth I continue to try to get money for your book. I have slides of excellent quality of the blowups of the Z film frames from the "Matter of Reasonable Doubt" article in Life. They are dark and clear and project well. Unfortunately, the guy who make them charged me 75¢ apiece because he made many of each until they were perfect. If you would like a set of five they are $3.75. You could deduct them from what I owe you for all those books you sent me. I haven't sold that many and don't remember what that bill comes to, but your wife probably has records.

Harry

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