2/24/69

Dear Gary,

Your letter of 2/20 arrived today. You go into a number of things.

That Rollie Vaillette is still representing Lamarre surprises me. I suggest that if you see him you not be alone. Despite the date on his letter, I take it you have not seen him.

On Penn, I think he'll have to sweat it out. He has just produced Carr to testify other than he told Penn, and I know, because I have and have checked Penn's memo to Garrison. I doubt he has "documentation" on Barbara Reid, but why not ask him to produce it? My understanding is that when she caught Boxley and Palmer in flagrant errors they first alleged it was immaterial and then started calling her an agent. If she is, she is a strange one. If he fails to produce any documentation, it can only be because he has Boxley's word and nothing else. She did not approach the office. I arranged that, right or wrong, and it took some doing. She did not have the supervision and direction she should have had and worked an enormous amount of time on things not worthy of any time. Not in any sense her fault or responsibility.

My belief is that Jim called Penn for exactly the reason he called Vince: to have a few suckers, a few to point to and blame.

I still have not seen his stories. He is a fine one to complain that I haven't paid for the subscription. Do you have any idea how many of my books he has not paid for, not even the postage? At least two large orders, maybe more. I do not keep it in mind. If it is no burdern, I'd like to keep up with the details, like the stories, Barry's letter, etc.

I do not believe my phone was busy the times you tried to call. Someone else reported something similar recently.

I had heard of the Z showing in L A from a newsman, then from George Abbott. At this point I think it does little harm. I also note it attracted no attention at all. Six weeks ago I had arrangements made to have dubs made and slides for us to work with. Hay was supposed to supply his copy. He has been silent. I'll not ask him again. He was to get a set of slides for the loan, a not bad return for something that was hardly given to him to be his personal property, anyway. Those people have done nothing for two years, live in the past, and are in no way helpful today.

When I was in LA end Oct., Jaffe told me about Lubic. I spoke to him. People who know him sayx he is a faker. He had a cock and bull story about what Bobby told him he was going to do. Jaffe let me tape the whole thing, if you want to hear it when you next are here. While his story about the staff copying the Z film at TIME (when it was at LIFE) may be true, without confirmation I just do not believe it. He gave me no hint of that story. Nor did J, knowing my interests.

Good idea on Barry and the original typescripts. He need only look at them, not the printed versions. But why do we not give him a list? Our judgement should be better than his. If you have no preferences, I suggest N.O. witnesses first, except Bringuier, Steele and Geraci, who I have done. Thanks Lou, no

My silence on money means there is none for the book - or anything else.

Those guys specialists in current right-winge extremism think they recognize the voice. I've heard nothing since- two weeks.

~~Thanx Lisa~~

COPY

I guess I didn't notice or forgot the double number on the Betty ~~FRANTIX~~ Parrott (not Parent, the way Kennedy gave it).

I've heard nothing from Burton in a long time. I think Jim has been spreading a special word.

Russ Trunzo, 2721 E 75 Pl., Chi. Tell him I told you to write him.

Don't waste your time or pennies on Flammonde. It is cheap crap.

I have friends who will want all you have on right-wing nuts. Sometimes they do something, are more than nuts. Sometimes they lead to other things. These people keep tabs.

COPY

Expect and seek no explanatuons from N.O. I cannot give you any certain explanation. You know what I told you a year ago; you see how right I was. You know what you observed there yourself. If you get anything tangible, please let me know pronto - or it you have any ideas. It may be simple, and I think it is likely a combination of a exxentially simple things - if any kind of insanity is simple. I am disappointed in having heard nothing from Mayt. I think, by design or otherwise, a mutual friend may have something to do with that. I have written him withlut response. I tried to phone him yesterday a.m., but no one answered.

My hunch is the defense will put in little case, not expecting it is now necessary and thus not running any risks. You cannot imagine the incompetence of the cross-examination of the defense witnesses. Shaw's character witness, the man who swore how hard he worked at the Russo time, actually fired him! I left a memo on that months ago. They didn't even ask him.

For all the justified disappointments, on balance, getting the raw material I got in the Clark material, may be more important than the outcome and performance in N.O. Without their irresponsibility, it would not have happened....Just heard the CBS late TV news. If their report is accurate, despite his bumbling, Jim has a case of perjury against Finck. I doubt if anyone else knows all of it, but the last thing I'd best do is make an offer. Finck made other significant statements, I deduce, from this one source...Gotta phone Art and see if he will ask someone outside the office who I think has a transcript to get a xerox for me. Art may come here on the way home. It's like going to New York by London, but he may. I've invited him.

Hurriedly,

PS Oh, happy day! Art says the Finck cross-examination was anything but like what radio and TV have been saying. Oser did an excellent job, used my material, and Finck came apart. You will both see the S-I transcripts. He said they were ordered not to do things by the military brass present, like dissecting to get the path of the bullet through the body, etc., acknowledged the President was hit in the top of the head, etc., and cross-examination is not yet over. I gave Oser, Alford and Liven copies of POST MORTEM, with appendix, 1/20/69, with permission to use, and had dinned the stuff from the Clark panel into all of them. They finally came to. I think we have a major thing here, regardless of how dishonest the press is. Oser apparently pushed him on what I have in PM about none but the military being present at the autopsy. I emphasize the names of about 25 military there at one time or another. I also think that with Oser getting his teeth into something, he may do more tomorrow. I think they have him nailed to at least one perjury, his only possible defense being that he a) is entirely incompetent or b) perjured himself before the Warren Commission. In PM III I called all the autopsy doctors perjurers and dared them to sue.

Past bedtime.

COPY

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

February 20, 1969

Dear Harold,

Sorry about the paper in the last letter, but I was out of my head with fever from the flu and wasn't thinking. I am pretty well over the flu now but it cost much valuble time. I got a letter from Barry whose head has been pumped full of shit by Penn. I sent him a stiff letter. A copy of Penn's letter is enclosed. From the last sentence I gather that he thinks I am an agent, unless you have some other interpretation. I sent him a stiff letter asking that he answer all of my arguments and that if he really wants to be straightforward he can spell out what he means. Also enclosed is a copy of a letter from Rollie Vaillette, who has a guy working for him who goes by the name Jim Rhoads. These are the guys who want me to come down to the motel and see them.

I tried to reach you about 10 times last Friday night but the phone was busy and I couldn't handle it since I had a fever of 103 and was almost delirious. The next morning, still in the same shape, I tried to call several more times but the phone was continually busy. Finally I gave up. Fred had called me and told me about the LA showing of the Z film on TV and then George Abbott of the San Diego committee called and told me of a news item about the fact that "a former FBI agent who lives in Sausalito", had a copy of the Z film which the local TV people were examining for possible TV viewing. I guess you know the rest of the story by now.

Fred just wrote me that through Jaffe he met Dick Lubic (Color Corporation of America, a subsidiary of Gyro Dynamics, 9000 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles→President) who said that he was associate editor or something similar for TIME in 1963. According to Fred's version of what he said: "Shortly after the assassination, Time office in New York received a copy of the Z film in the lab to prepare for publication. Lubic said that he and a friend made a copy and took it out of the office. He then said that orders came down from management to return film (almost the same day TIME got the film) to source and to stop making stills and dups in the lab. Also, management said that if any TIME employee dared to take a copy out of the office, "he would be summarily dismissed and TIME would see to it that this person never worked again in his field anywhere in the world." Lubin said that he and his friend ignored this order and his friend took the dup film to France and stashed it in an airline or train locker. They then waited about a year before retrieving the film from the locker and put it in Lubic's home wall safe in New York. Lubic said that about two or three weeks after this was done, his home was burglarized and some of his wife's jewelry was taken along with the film. He hinted that FBI or CIA was behind the theft." This could all be a cover for Jaffe et. al., since Jaffe is close to Lubic.

Penn wrote Barry that he cut you off his mailing list because you were not paying for the newspaper anyway and he was angry about a long distance collect call he made to you. I have suggested that Barry do some comparisons of testimony--that is, go through the original transcripts of key people and make notes on any changes--this would be simple since all he would have to do would be to look for any notations in the margins, things crossed out, etc., and it would involve no actual comparison of testimony until he came to something which had been changed. This quick scanning could help us with the enormous task of going over that 15 vol. pile of testimony and depositions. He would not need experience to do it.

You have written nothing about money for the book so I assume that you still don't have any. I am still trying but these things are hit or miss and depend mostly on being lucky to find the right person.

Penn just published the photos of the tramps with a photo of Bradley. He is in agency hands now and is the tool of Boxley.

Let me know what happened in regard to the meeting with the guys who know about right wing violence who were going to comment on that threat.

The double number was on the ###### Betty Parent report. I will take up correspondence with the Archives as soon as I get myself together after this week of illness.

Please send me info on how to contact your Chicago friend Russ. We will have much on Malcolm soon and we will be wanting to set up for investigations this Spring and Summer. Plan interviews, etc.

Burton has answered none of my letters. Fred keeps after him but also finds him completely unresponsive.

I still haven't read Flammonde's book. Did I send you a copy of Sylvia's letter about Flammonde? It doesn't really say anything much, I had asked her whether his use of her name in the front was a misuse, and she said "no." She said that she could hardly understand it, though, since he on contacted her a few times and then only for a few bits of info. She plans to tear it apart in a book review she is doing for Commentary (I think that's the right magazine).

I will chekk my notes on the list of documents. In regard to your question about 301:256 (Joachim Roehricht) it is very likely that I got it as an example of a right wing nut. As you know there are endless files on such creatures and I get copies of select pages as examples of right wing nuts, rather than anything specific to the case. If you will remember, the first order I ever ###### had sent to you had many such pages.

Right now I am confused and disgusted with what has been happening in New Orleans. I will probably try to reach you tonight by phone for some sort of clarification of the situation. Garrison has rested his case before he has presented ## a full case against either Shaw or the about the Dealy Plaza stuff. He cost us much publicity by not calling Connally and I simply can't understand why he didn't just bring in the SOB and make it perjury. That would open a few eyes. Nothing was done with the autopsy stuff. Forget the photos, what about the X-rays and other things? What about Ferrie's phone number #in Shaw's address book. As far as I am concerned, they have done a poor job on both parts of the trial, not to mention having failed to adequately investigate the New Orleans end of things. They have probably succeeded in finally ruining the critics. Despite the fact that the press is dishonest, we would be in OK shape if they had been more careful with the Shaw thing and then done much more with the Dallas evidence. I am angry and disgusted and want an explanation from somebody as to what is going on. They have even put it on the record that our side thinks Oswald was guilty. Let's face it, their ideas got more publicity than all of what all the critics have said from the beginning.

Well, I'd better go. Keep up the work.

Harry