2/21/69

Dear Gary,

In our conversation a little before midnight, when you said Vince was again going to New Orleans, and at their request, I did not express one of my misgivings. Lil is typing the addition I need to go further in the work I'm in the middle of, so I tell you.

For some time, and I hope wrongly, I have had the feeling that things were being contrived to make it look as though a concerted conspiracy would make a court victory impossible. Things that could and should have been done, that presented no problem, were abandoned once it looked this way. Most recent example, Washington case. That phone call is responsible for the case not being decided back in January, that and nothing else. Since then, the delay has been from New Orleans. With at most another day or so before the appeal would have been heard and a record thereby made, it was arranged for that to be moot. While I am very unhappy about the things Vince has done that he should not have and has not done that he promised, I do not want him to be one of the victims or a goat. If and when what he did on the Washington thing alone dawns on him, he'll have enough trouble with himself. More, he knows nothing about the New Orleans case and too-little about the rest. I think the only reason he was asked to go down after the decision is to involve him. There is at this point nothing he can do except hold a hand -and get in a position to have some of the bleme placed on him.

With another interpretation, it is also bad, for Jim's paranoia is comforted by Vince's. If he wants Vince for that purpose, it is not a good sign.

In a few hours Hagerty will announce his decision. I think he will not direct a verdict. If they want Vince for the defense witnesses, they sure have the wrong guy. He has done no work in several years and is wrong on one of the main ones, Frazier. There is a real opportunity to do something with those witnesses announced by the defense. I do not expect it, for good sources on our side, strong partisans, tell me the court-room work has been incompetent. The lawyers know nothing about the case, really, and do not listen when they are told. I did not expect incompetence, that the home-work would not have been done. However, it makes little difference in the long run, for if Shaw is convicted he will be acquitted on appeal, as I told you in advance, there are that many technicalities that can cause it. I happen to agree with Hagerty's decision, if not with his remarks. The case would have been reversed had he made any other....I wonder if Penn is trying to revalidate Boxley, or cook up a case against one of us?...Art Kevin asked about the things from Washington. Alcock said, "We've got enough headaches as it is. We don't know what they'll send us". Like fake Connally X-rays, when the real ones are published? Or a new "magic bullet" when I have pictures of the old? Or a different rifle? For what purpose? The paranoia permeates...Jim told Jaffe not to tell me anything about "Farewell" and Lamarre...Bernabei has interest in Malcolm X, but I do not know what knowledge. Nice fellow. Enjoyed his visit. He read while I worked, most of the time....I've heard from N.O. only from the press since the trial began. I phoned Moo once, to ask that he try and arrange that the Washington suit not become moot. He said there was no chance. That means even without this seized-upon excuse...One of the witnesses they dumped in the last minute was Dago Gerner. That is a plus! Except that he is a big part of a movie Mark made, nobody suffers. ...Fascinating that Finck is the autopsy doctor they are calling! They know better than to call H or B. Finck is crazy to go....Thanks for calling.

Sincerely,

COPY

2/15/69

Dear Gary,

Relet 2/10, arrived yesterday: may I again remind you that typing on both sides of tissue is murder on the eyes?

Boulden: I have difficulty, assuming we know the essence of what he has said (and I acknowledge some of our information from "our side" comes from the undependables), understanding how he could have left delValle out or, if he didn't know of him, how thorough his knowledge could have been. The info on del Valle is now pretty solid. It is a matter of official record, introduced into court, etc.

Agreed on Fred-Rose. My recollection is that the pictures shows him beefed out a bit.

In fairness to Burton, once the jury was empanelled, the situation re: film changed in major respects. Chances for mistrial slight, and the benefits of Z beeing seen by the LA press can be excellent. I had two calls from that area last night and early this a.m. Even Jerry Cohen wrote in LA Times, presumeably from N.O., ofthe dramatic impact of the clearly-visible backward movement. Coming with out total destruction of the official fiction in court in D.C. ~~yesterday~~ yesterday, the effect in that area could be significant. I know there was extensive radio treatment there, for I was on the phone to arrange its. We may have played it too cool in DC. I did not go around Bud to have a press conference on the material, as perhaps I should have, because I accepted his appraisal of the position of the judge and the(his)possible reaction. However, I make this general observation: the LA people daily shows themselves as more detached from reality, more the residents of nut country.

Your studies must be given proper attention. If it means that you will miss all or part of the summer's work, that is what is required. Why not also give them a little more attention now, give up a little of the pr stuff for it. If you do not, you may face a similar problem in the fall semester. ...I have almost forgotten the "Farewell" stuff, now that the jury is sequestered. I think we probably blocked that in time, but I also have learned worrying is a real crippler. It is better to work constructively.

Reminder for your fine boys: it is Vasjoly. He is, I think, the real man represented by Uris as Andre Devereaux. I presume you guessed this. Remember, it is only my hunch, not established fact. That is what will make pix important. If this is true, it would eliminate doubt of the CIA origin of the Hepburn operation.

I suspect that windfall of stamps was the only way you could get that kind of reward from the tightly-burgeted, Copy last letter from him enclosed. Names are those of men allegedly once in International Investigators, a Bobby operation of former FBI agents, of interest to another.

Basically, your are right on Archives duplication. However, it would still be good if we could have a consolidated list of what we have. If you do come this summer and bring your gril friend, maybe we can out her to work making up my list for you and Paul.

Check on Worthy. On brain injury, let me see what you have. It might fit what I have already written, perhaps as an appendix. There was no examination of left hemisphere, which Wecht found incredible. I hope Bill will be up to finishing the typing of what I have this weekend. If so, I'll get Xeroxed next week and send you and Paul copies for comment.

February 10, 1969

Dear Harold,

Thanks for all of the stuff with your letter of 2/6. I have decided to hold off on prelims until next fall. The pressure was too much and in addition my one eye couldn't handle the studying. (I will send copies from the J. of Forensic Sciences when I can find it. The only point that it made was that it was crazy for a real leftist to have both the Worker and the Militant in the same hand at the same time.

I don't have reason to doubt Bolden and am more worried about what is happening to him. Bud being wrong on the name wouldn't detract from his story in my eyes. If there are other misgivings I would be interested - maybe Galt could provide more help with the right prompting. Bolden's silence could be just as Bud describes it, due to fear. If so it is unfortunate. Sometime in the future I will drop in on Mrs. B. I have had no reply to my letter to the girlfriend of another friend of Abe who is still in there.

I have not mentioned the picture of Rose to Fred so as to encourage him to get another one on his own. I want to see as many different views of him as possible. I haven't had a chance to show them the picture, but I am curious also if the Wilson picture, which doesn't resemble the Rose one that much, means more to them. This would explain why he failed to admit it at first ## and then did. Perhaps he was covering for Wilson. In any event, they have to see it. By the way, do you have any indication about what Rose looked like in early last year. Has his hair grown for instance.

What is this about Burton showing the Z film at the LA press club. That would really hurt us. Behavior such as this is not consistent with our picture of him as innocent. At the very least, it would illustrate a trait in him which is evident in the descending citizen and very dangerous as such.

I am sorry that my summer will not be free as I had hoped, but it wasn't just the #eye troubles which were too much. The media has been contacting me and I don't want to shut them off when I finally have a chance to use them. The Farewell stuff and Washington thing have also weighed some on me, and things like the Brookey stuff and Archives also cannot wait two months. My course load is also too heavy to allow much studying. I will have some time free and hope to be able to do some work in the Archives. I have others helping now and much can be done from a distance.

I wrote Penn about Tippit's brother but don't expect an answer. It could be interesting. Watch yourself with those threats. I have my hands full now that the FBI has begun to come out in the open. If Bill Willains was the guy who covered the Wolf show, then he was not ## one of the guys in the auditorium at the U of M. when you were there.

This weekend I leave for the north country. 4 speeches, 2 radio shows, plus a TV special in Duluth where they will try to use some slides on TV. On Wednesday evening I met with many of the radio personel at WCCO, the CBS affiliate and biggest station.

I will match my committee against anybody's. They are working fast despite the fact that they are all active people. Hope to have much on Malcolm X. If it is done before Coup D'Etat you are welcome to all of it. We will be out in the field on this one. My black colleague hasn't done enough on it due to other pressures, but he is capable of turning things up at any time. We might even undertake to try to do Wm. Worthy's work for him as long as we are finally rolling smoothly.

Ed Liechner (memo on Federal Court Injunctions) is working on the Freedom of Info Bill. Two of them are on the Vojoly thing. Who is the guy in the book who you think is Vojoly--there is no Phillipe or Felipe in the book, only an Andre who fills the bill.

I have asked the Tacoma people for info on Turner and Feed has also. They are undecided so I asked that they send their stuff through me to you to and Vince to go to N.O. I told them that they didn't have to take sides, but that they would have to admit that if Turner is on the other side there is much to lose by giving it to him, whereas there is nothing to lose by giving it to us.

I got a letter from Rothermel which had enclosed $16 worth of postage stamps. He said that he enclosed a copy of a letter of his to you (I suppose his most recent) but forgot to enclose it. Could you send me a copy so I won't have to bother him? His letter said nothing else so I don't enclose it.

Enclosed are Fred's, Lillian's memo, a memo I made up mainly for Rothermel, (and sent him), two carbons of letters to Rothermel, a letter from Sylvia, and one from Tacoma.

Sorry about the Archives Duplication, but I was working fast and some of the stuff was crucial, so there was no time to check. I even ordered some things that I thought that I had but I didn't want to miss anything. I will stake my life on those documents that I read that I missed nothing crucial. I feel better having wasted a little money and being able to vouch for my work. Time grows shorter and shorter, and hopefully your books will be out soon so anything new which might go in them must reach you now, not after a 2-month check of our records. I will eat fewer ice cream cones if it means that you will have more material.

I have given Worthy a big sell on you and a caution on Bud and his committee. I will try to write to Eckhoff. They are obfuscating the question as to what they have, and those letters I sent you indicate that. This time I will pin them down. It's incredible that the FPCC file has no correspondence in it.

The new report from the Justice Dept. indicates outright dishonesty on the part of the doctors. I do not agree that they "covered themselves" as you indicated on the phone. There is no justification for their conclusions. Their description of the damage to the brain, skull, and metal in the head will put the final icing on the memo I am doing which will prove double head hit on the basis of the damage to the skull and brain. I gave this to Tink and he did not use it. If you know the anatomy of the brain you know that the original autopsy, although not complete, probably gave a fair description of the damage, and that description destroys the Warren Report. It has always been there but no medical man has analyzed it, just as I told Jim. The contre-coup damage backs up the hit from the front. The commission couldn't have explained it in a million years. It is sometimes a more accurate piece of info as to the source of the impact that the act;ual damage. Wound on top of head <u>not</u> more consistent with shot from TSBD. That is just plain wrong.

Take care. I will get back into things in a few days.

Gary