2/3/69

Dear Gary and Paul,

Some of the painful enclosed may not mean as much to you as soon it will be able to. When you see what I have in this new book already wrriten on the Clark panel report (written as an add to POST MORTEM but, I think, in today's context, able to stand alone) you will learn the really awful thing Vince has done to all of us and its consequent serious undermining of Garrison, who can tolerate little of that and survive. If either or you has any doubts, phone me and I'll tell you some of what I have.

I have a spare copy of the POST MORTEM ms as I finished it the end of August 1967 or thereabouts, right before I got some of the material they had been holding out. If Paul would like to read it (Gary has) I can lend it for a while. I have complied with the requirements of "publication" but I would prefer to draw as little attention to its contents as possible until I can complete the additions. It will then be a very large book, even withoutmappendix, and I visualize a heavy appendix. It will be three books in one.

This is a very hard, a bad day for me. When our own side ruins the best thing we have ever had, and does this every time we have a new shot at it, it is dissapiriting. No one in the government can begin to do for it what Vince just has. By the most incredible combination of circumstances, the situation has no liabilities and enormous potenital. From a selfish point of view, the last thing I would want is for this stuff to come out in court, for it is all mine. Everyone else missed it, save that Bud also noted the letter of transfer. The situation will focus much attention on mus. If Bud holds the press conference for me that I've asked of him, there is still the possibility of pulling this out of the fire. If he were to agree in time, I'd like to invite Wecht to be there. I think he might. I also do hope he keeps his word and now refuses to go to New Orleans for the trial.

Gary, Barry phoned me from the Archives today and told me the names he is checking for you. Very good idea. I have this suggestion, however: tell him what we already have or he'll be buying what we have. Of those I have carded, I gave him the citations over the phone. I again suggested to him that he concentrate on the staff papers save when he has a specific request from you. I suggested, to begin with, the file on staff reports when he cleans up what he has asked for. I then suggested that he keep a record of what he has seen and give the three of us copies. As soon as I clean up the copying that nowx remains to be done, I will spend the odds and ends of time I sometimes find in completing this card file. I estimate I have gone over more than half of my documents. Why do not the two of you think of a coordinated program for him, since he can spend a day, sometimes two, a week there. You both have the file list.

Lil has started retyping this new stuff, for the offset camera. Unfortunately, there is no one here I can get to edit and there is so much I feel I must get on paper - and such time pressure on this part - it is again the rough draft. However, it will be a thorough if not a polish job, as close as anything can be to unassailable, and I will be in a position to do something should the possibility present itself. I have been rising at 4 a.m. again and must, as you will eventually see. I got a rough estimate from a local printer Saturday in the event it became possible to get support for this book that is a part-book. For a thousand copies in the size I estimate, it will run, printing costs only (not negatives, etc) a little over $700. For 5,000, about $2,000. I see no prospect, but I will get ready. With Lil working, however, she will not get the typing done as fast as otherwise she would. I will also have an extra copy to circulate among you.

Hurriedly,

1/31/69

PLEASE please my word for it, you read Fred wrong. He is an instinctive coward, wants very much to be important and to make valuable contributions, and as the Lifton-Thornley things should tell you, is capable of making a needless mess of anything. Do not tell him the things you do, as my telling you that what Jaffe told him is not consistent with the wire Jaffe sent me. It does no good to tell him these things and, as you can see, he immediately babbled it to Jaffe. He'll spread every tidbit he can get to make himself look and seem important. This does not help. When I am trying to get Jaffe to tell me what he knows, any quotation of me by anyone else gives him all the excuse he needs not to, especially this one. I am spending almost no time on that because this new autopsy thing is the best we've had yet and, with Lil not home to help and type, it will be much slower going...More, the first time he'll have to face something, if anyone out there leans on him or if he thinks they might, he'll involved you and, as he did with me, wrongly. From what you have read from him, by now you should know that his understanding and his jungement rival only his positiveness and capacity for being wrong....If there was anything of value he had, he should have given it to you by now. Cool it, spending much less time, for that time you can put to better use...After noon and no word from Washington. No answer at Bud's office.

H