1/16/68

Dear Gary,

Just reading today's mail took an hour and a half. I have to meet Bertwl at the airport at 2, and I have to organize the materiel for him to read on the tripback before then. Given three more days I could finish filing the accumulated, unfiled docs. I have found much I'd forgotten, including a few you sent that I got a year and a ahlf ago. What a way to live and work! I've been tryingto sleep 6 hours a night to rest up for M.O., and there is so very much more to do that there is time for. As of this minute, I do not know why they are calling, so that, too, I cannot get ready for.

I am answering, if that is the word, but ~~xxxxx~~ two of the letters. I do not mistrust you, but I thought and think your judgement was wrong with Lifton, as was Vince's. You do not know that guy. His capacity for twisting is incredible, and he believes it all. At the very least, keep carbons, without fail.

You really should drop every thing you can and concentrate on your studies. I'd like to add another project for you this summer. By then, except in cases where I forgot cross-references, I'll have a card file of every document I have. You can copy it and then you and Paul and his boys will know what I have. You also might want to just rummage through my files, which by then may be integrated. By volume I have carded less than half.

I think that you should immediately write Archives and tell them that because of the long delay in filling the order you want it sent directly to you if it has not yet been sent to me. Politely, insert long delay, for they are sitting on things needlessly, for the sole purpose of delaying and impeding us. I wait for months for answers, never get some. When you get them, please send me copies. If you want me to make copies for Paul, specify with them ,for I'll have forgotten much by then.

On Lifton again, ~~when~~ you've been through with him what I have, you'll understand better. At the best he is dangerous, dangerously sick, and convinced he is right. At the best he is a hazard. He also lacks honesty, for he has touchstone s in Thornley's honor, on which he admits he bases everything, and since mid-November or late, has been silent, issued neither apology nor retraction, still circulates the same lies.

Hope you can comprehend typos.

Sincerely,

Concentrate on school!

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

Box 392 Mayo Hospital

MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

God only knows why I typed this → Minneapolis, Minnesota

January 14, 1969

Dear Harold,

I hope that my letter of yesterday has caused you to rethink your assumptions about my giving Lifton info, or in fact, that Vince's corroboration of something which Dave already knew as a fact in any way hurt us. One could argue, in fact, that it is fortunate that Vince was straightforward, otherwise Lifton would have been more suspicious.

I wrote only that one letter to Penn and will not write again for the same reasons you only wrote one. It is good that we emphasized different things. I hope that he comes around since it would be better if the scorpions had no place to hide. Thanks for Helen Hartmann's address. I will write her for a summary of what he has been up to, but only after I get caught up on work.

Enclosed is a copy of my letter to Rothermel. I can't figure out what happened to my files. If I have already sent you a copy of it, please return it, but I think that this is your copy. The Archives is still stalling on those two anyway, so my files were not complete.

As I noted in my last letter, I have sent several checks to the Archives and requested Eckhoff, who wrote to me about my deficient account, which should cover the order. It was good of you to offer to pay for the order, but I wouldn't consider it. If you happen to be writing to Rhoads, mention this.

Your ideas about Life building a cue into the film is interesting. As you know by now, I feel strongly about investigating the Thompson possibility. Even if Jaffe gave the film to LaMarre, it may be a different version which they used. I know that this sounds nutty on the surface, but borrowing the film from Jim may have just been to justify its presence in Farewell, which may already have been put together by then. (Assuming that Jaffe did not lie, of course.) When you have the chance, contact Sprague and mention that I showed you his letters to me about the film the French had from the Plaza, and ask what became of that. Was that a copy of the Zapruder as I had originally guessed, or what? It is all very confusing.

I am somewhat distrustful of Popkin and think that his handling of the false O. stuff is utter nonesense. He missed all of the important points about it all. But the rumor about the Sirhan photo is quite interesting.

When you said that Similas is available for publication, I gathered that you meant that he will sell the rights to use it in a book, but won't loan it out.

I am after Vince about N.O. I hope that I have prodded him into it. I have about 50-50 success on such ventures with him.

The forensic sciences article doesn't suggest the possibility of a frangible bullet, but rather explains the effect of frangible bullets in detail. Wecht would have it through the Journal. Walther's testimony as to when she looked is pretty good as far as I am concerned, since she stated that she looked and then was distracted by the cry "Here they come." You are right, however, that this does not necessarily hurt. I, of course, agree about the possibility that it is the properties of the photos which cause what Tink speaks of, but we should not dismiss it either.

Box 392 Mayo Hospital

January 13, 1969

Mr. Paul Rothermel
Hunt Oil Company
401 Elm Street
Dallas, Texas

Dear Mr. Rothermel:

Harold Weisberg asked me to write you in regard to Gloria Orsony, Nadine Bestougeff, and the Continental Oil Company of Houston. For some unexplicable reason, I am unable to locate my files on these subjects. It may be that they were borrowed by Bud Fensterwald and therefore will be returned in the near future.

Enclosed are my memos on both of the women. Bestougeff is of particular interest to me, as is Continental Oil Company of Houston. The FBI took an inordinate amount of interest in a party which Lee H. Oswald and his wife Marina attended at the home of the Declan Fords of Dallas and one of the people there also worked for Continental Oil of Houston. The New Orleans branch of the company also appears in FBI reports which originated from that city, and those reports are currently on order by me from the National Archives. I have located additional information to that which is described in the memo on Bestougeff (which refers only to information included in Commission Document 14) which indicates that the FBI checked to see if Oswald was at the YMCA in Houston when she was at the YWCA there. They concluded that she was not. I will send copies of all of these reports when I locate them. Currently I am looking for other references to these two women and also to the Continental Oil Company.

If the enclosed copies of the memos are not dark enough for your purposes, I will have a secretary type out some more copies. These were as dark as the xerox could make them. If I can be of any further assistance feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Richard Schoener
Box 392 Mayo Hospital
Minneapolis, MInnesota
55455

GRS:if

cc:grs, hw

re the letter to Newcomb: were you implying that Fred tipped Rose off? From what I thought I knew of Fredd I assumed that he knew little of Rose. Steve Burton was very emphatic that Rose was a "secret." (Remember his letters which I sent you.) When I next write Fred I will ask him about Leeman's affadavit, since I would like a copy.

Well, I am exhausted and still haven't gotten to work on that paper for this Monday due to all of this LaMarre stuff which involved me because I was the source on Lifton, Newcomb, and had to reply about the Lifton stuff in regard to your assumptions about my leakigg info. Besides, the LaMarre thing could really finish Garrison off if the other side is thinking the same things we are, which I am sure they are. I will be on TV this coming Sunday (being taped tomorrow) and will probably use some color slides since it will be color TV with a good camera crew (WCCO--CBS affiliate). They are the ones who put the FBI reports on the screen for you. This Monday I fly to Worthington for a big engagement, but other than two next month, I am turning down all others. The ones next month are big ones also. My citizen's committee should be going within two weeks, so send out any small research project ideas. The kids are ready and waiting.

Take care and give my regards to your wife. One of these days I get around to trying her chicken recipe. The fact that I haven't already is a true sign of my state of overwork, since cooking is one (or was, I should say) of my hobbies.

Jay

P.S. I may not be able to answer letters for a while — at least until next week this time. I'll try short ones, however, to keep in touch.

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

Box 392 Mayo Hospital

MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

January 15, 1968

Dear Harold,

I do not have dopies of my letters to Dave since I don't make carbons of letters I write to correspondents, only to the Archives, witnesses, etc. You new have copies of everything which Dave has written to me. I don't think that I gave Dave anything which helped him put together his theory. What he makes reference to in his letter is my request for any info he has on Jaffe and LaMarre (of whose association he was already aware) and also my description of how Jaffe lost his card in N.O. I asked that he be on the alert for the film and for these two. At no time did I even hint at anything else. Now, if you will carefully analyze his letter you will realize that the info I sent him actually opted against his theory, just as I argued against his theory in my return letter. The "info I gave him" actually made him make the theory more complex than it was, since he had to explain Jaffe's loss of the DA's card, etc. I feel that what I have sent you in regard to Dave's letters justifies my correspondence with him, although I don't really feel any need to justify such correspondence. I am absolutely certain that not only haven't I given him any info, I haven't even given him much of a direction on which to base his theories. So far all I have given him is discorroborating info. By the way, Sylvia and Paul have both been sent copies of Lifton's "theory." But again, I repeat, I am absolutely certain that I told Lifton nothing that he did not already know, except Vince's version of the story about how Jaffe lost his card, which as far as I can see in no way hurts us. And, more important, as far as I am concerned an anti-Garrison critic with Dave's intelligence is capable of figuring the thing out along those lines given no inside info such as what Ray Marcus learned. Although you may be right that someone tipped Dave off, such was not necessary in my mind, and this only serves to underline the danger of the film. I rejected Dave's theory only because of my own prejudices, but had though somewhat along those same lines briefly myself, when I first heard about this nonesense. If there is anything in Lifton's letter which tips off his trying to make his "theory" look like a "theory" it is his call to Vince. I don't think that Vince made a bonner at all telling Dave that Jim had the film in his possession. That is part of the public record and was in the newspapers, not to mention the fact that Sylvia discussed it with me on the phone, and that Lane made it clear publicly out on the West Coast within earshot of Lifton who rarely misses such things. In short, Harold, I think that you have jumped to a few conclusions about my reliability which are not justified, at least not in this case. I am not trying to cover for myself, for I am as concerned about this thing as you and am therefore concerned about remembering anything which I might have told Dave. Bear in mind also that it would be an ironic outcome of Dave's letter if you, who take it to be a well put together sham of a theory based on actual knowledge instead and a put on, that you took those parts of the letter which are most likely false as true. When I say this I am referring to the idea which was implicit in your letter that Dave was trying quite hard to make his knowledge of the facts look like an astute theory. To tell you the truth, when he wrote about the info I had given him, I was at a loss to understand to what he was referring, since the theory which followed derived from nothing I told him or nothing I could have told him. Until just now I have been totally in the dark about the truth behind this thing, and have been presenting arguments for the thing to have had a straight CIA origin (see my last memo) with Jaffe as the dupe. This situation is for you to judge for yourself, and I'm sorry now that I never bothered to make copies of my letters to him. Interestingly enough, he was very interested in having me circulate his letter as the enclosed letter indicates.

Had he been defensive about it, such could have formed a major portion of Dave's theory, since Vince is a Garrison-friend.

(By the way, if you will remember correctly, I don't even usually make copies of letters to you which contain citations to evidence, questions, and even short memos in the text of the letter. This is a bad habit, but developed through economy and time problems, not to mention that I scarcely have room to file so much stuff.) I am not sure of why Lifton phoned Vince and not me, other than that he was trying to draw Vince into this seeming leak of information and also be able to claim a more definitive word on something. Again, he already knew about Jim having possession of the film--something else in the letter which I immediately puzzled over. Again, Sylvia, although cautious in our discussions, revealed a fairly complete knowledge of the alleged story behind the book. And again, I have already twice told Lifton that his theory is wrong, and in fact, have (I think) broughtup the possibility that the film came from Tink's slides. I have already mentioned that Jaffe didn't and couldn't have had it long enough to take to Europe, and also that the "French" already had a copy of the film when they first approached Garrison, and he has probably received that letter by the time you get this.

In regard to your letter to Paul of 1/10/69, it is important to note that Turner has xeroxed much of the files from what I have heard, and Bud claims to have all of the files. I suspect that he does. Leaks from within the office, therefore, do not have to come from Boxley. Nor does Turner, for instance, have to give anything away in order to leak it. It would be very simple for it to be in the Ramparts files and just happen to get copied by someone going through them.

I hope that Maggie will take good care of the copies of my Lifton letters. I have no doubt that you had good reasons for sending them, but I would like to keep corresponding with Dave and hope that the word doesn't get out. I am interested in what makes him tick, how much he knows and from where he gets it, if he has any work which can be of use to our side, and essentially what he is up to. Right now I am one of the few people, if not the only one, who hears of his thoughts fast, and who is on our side. This would, in and of itself, seem to justify our correspondence. I hope, that unless you still feel that I am guilty of an indescretion, you will advise Maggie, Paul, and anyone else to whom you sent a copy of your letter to me, that perhaps you might me mistaken. You do not know me well enough yet, perhaps, to realize that I am quite willing to admit to indescretion when I have committed it, and that I would immediately acknowledge such an indescretion in a case such as this, and carefully outline it what it consisted of, so as to aid in unraveling Lifton's story.

INsofar as the possibility of a leak from Burton's crew I cannot comment other than to say that it might be a good place to look for a leak, other than Steve himself, of course, who does not even speak with Lifton. Fred Newcomb also stays away from him from what he tells me.

Along these same lines we should keep our minds open to the possibility that Sylvia or Dave will help Clay Shaw's attorneys. I think that this is a distinct possibility in either case. Remember, Sylvia told me that she doesn't even think that Shaw should get his day in court, but rather that Garrison should be on trial. She is just as dangerous as Lifton in my mind.

AS things stand now I think that Jim has fallen into the biggest trap of them all. Shaw has a clear case for a mistrial just on the basis of Jaffe having been in his employ when the film was made. No one needs to find out the truth about the matter, although the other side undoubtedly knows it anyway. The worst part of this is how it will look when the press gets a hold of it just as it stands now, with Jaffe helping run the film around the country. I have just about gotten to the point where I am wondering whether or not Jim will finish up off this week or next. The irony is that he is doing more to wreck us than the other side.

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DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

I am still concerned about Sprague and his role in this whole thing, although because he is such a strange person, I tend to view him, along with Jaffe, as one of those who could lead to destruction through personality problems.

By the way, with regard to your letter, I of course have been given to wonder as to whether Dave is corresponding with me to try to get info. I have always thought that he was looking for a forum for his ideas and perhaps a convert, because I agree with him about Lane. He writes me very lengthy letters while I write him very small and uninformative ones. I give him ### little information of any sort and generally just confine myself to a discussion of Garrison, etc., as the content of his previous letters will tell you.

In regard to Dave's current letter, note the thanks for the #information I sent him. In my letter (and this one is extremely fresh in my mind) I told him that I would circulate his and gave him everything I could to disconfirm his theory. I did tell him, however, that I would ask you to be on the lookout for this possibility when you finally got to see the film, although I considered his theory very unlikely. The irony here is that everything I wrote Dave was the absolute truth, as my memo which you should have received already, will indicate. This should convince you of my sincerity if nothing else does, since it was written long before I received your letter and is therefore an uncontaminated account of my views. By the way, the story of how Jaffe lost his card was almost certainly known to Dave already, since Sylvia was aware of it plus Jaffe's version when I spoke to her on the phone. If you will remember, I mentioned that to you as an example of a number of things she was aware of which had happened in Garrison's office. I would be very# interested in her source of info.

The pictures and X-rays thing appalls me. By now there is certainly a fake set, which will mean that we will really get wiped out on this one. I suspect that the govt. will fight for a while, let Garrison blow it up as Epstein tried to do in Inquest, and then release them before the doctors testify in the Shaw thing, or perhaps just after they do. The irony of all this is that you and Mo jumped on me for suggesting just such a move when I was in N.O., and my argument at least had some basis, that tests of authenticity could tell fakes from the real ones. This mystifies me given Jim's statements about them in the forward to O. in N.O.

Sent to you today C/O Lou Ivon in N.O. (where I thought you would be) is my only copy of the Thornley testimony comparison. I just don't have the time for a memo. There is a covering letter with it. It is certified and was sent airmail. Please mail me back at least one copy when you get there and can make copies for free.

Well, this whole business has exhausted me. I have an important paper due on next Monday which I haven't begun due to all this, I still have to get to see Patsy this week, arrange for 1,000 other things, and go away for a big appearance in Worthington. Looming in the background are prelims which will put my academic career on the line in March, and at the very least threaten loss of this summer's time. I hope that in the future you will be more cautious before making literal interpretations of Dave's writings since I don't have time to send a covering memo with each of them. The enclosed letter goves indications of what is up. By the way, bear in mind that Sylvia is convinced that I am an agent for Vince, and perhaps you too. Dave probably thinks the

same way, and even if he ##### didn't at first, has probably been put on his guard by Sylvia, who got very up tight with me when I wouldn't let her get away with her standard arguments.

I have sent a check to the archives and asked that the pages I ordered be billed to my account, not yours.

Best of luck with your work and have a good time in N.O. if that is possible.

Gary

P.S. Enclosed is a copy of my letter to Lifton. I will make copies of all future ones. By the way, his letter had a P.S. on another page, which described what Ray Marcus had done with the Life article. This was an elaboration of his earlier mention that he thought Ray had made slides from it in case I wanted to try to get slides made from it. (I had originally asked Dave if he had.) I followed your instructions as to what to say deciding that he might give other slight indication of what he knows about what Jaffe told Marcus.

Subtract the following from the documents I ordered: CD 135 pp 35

CD 730a pp. 4, 10

Box 392 Mayo Hospital

January 14, 1969

Mr. Mark G. Eckhoff
Diplomatic, Legal, & Fiscal Records
National Archives & Records Service
8th & Pennsyvania Avenues, N. W.
Washington, D.C.
20408

Dear Mr. Eckhoff:

Thanks for your letter of January 9. Enclosed is a check which will, hopefully, along with the other two which I have sent recently, make my account into the black again. If more will be required for fulfilling my orders, please inform me. Harold Weisberg had informed me that he gave instructions for my orders to be charged to his account. Please disregard this and charge them to mine.

Thank you for the information on the photos. Send the color ones which I requested in 8" X 10" father than 11" X 10".

Sorry for the mixup on the page numbers. I will check my notes.

Please inform me if there is anything else about my orders which you would like me to explain. Also, convey my regards to Mr. Marion Johnson who was ill when I visited the Archives during December. I trust that he is well now.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Richard Schoener
Box 392 Mayo Hospital
Minneapolis, MInnesota
55455

grs

cc:grs
hw