12/17/71

Dear Gary,

Jerry phoned at lunchtime today, when I was a bit breathless from exercise. You knew multiforas. I was removing old ones—40-50 feet long and inches thick. With the honeysuckle undisturbed for so many years, it was good exercise, but a bit much. So, when Lil called me to the phone, aside from panting there was the midday news to which she was listening on TV, and I'm not certain I really understood what Jerry said.

If I did, he said you still seem to be troubled by the Ned affair. You should not be. It is past. It is something from which we can all profit if we learn from mistakes, and we all made them. Aside from that, it is, today, spilt milk - and that is for cats only. I suppose everyone involved is troubled in a different way. But it must be part of the past and the past may not impinge upon the future. Or present.

I am aware of your silence, to me, and I am not concerned about it. I can attribute many explanations, but I take time for none. It is now irrelevant, except as part of learning for all of us. There is not and never was any doubt in my mind about your intentions, as I am reasonable certain there hasn't been in Ned's. I do not consider him a fink. And in the preceeding sentence, I meant what Ned told himself, what he considered to be his intentions.

What I have sent you, after my original correspondence to Ned, has been so you might in the light of it evaluate your own judgement. To this I might add one thing from my recent reading. If you want an appraisal of Katzenbach and what might reasonably be expected from him, I recommend Truth Is the First Casualty, Joe Goulden's pretty good book on the Tonkin Gulf Reichstag Fire. It is indexed and, atxx least recently, was being remaindered for $1.00. I also recommend it for the obvious reasons.

The only part of this business that lingers in my mind does disturb me. It is something I should not have had to write about and have written about several times, without response. Ned has not returned my materials to me, nor has he given me the assurance I asked, that he would neither use nor permit to be used any of the things I gave him in confidence, with the specific stipulation they not be used in any way. The one exceptions was in his planned approach to John Cowles, and that neither happened nor is nor possible nor has been for more than a month. I see no reason for his silence, his failure to do this on his own and his failure to do it in response to my request. I've too much in this for any tricks or misuses. Returning it is and was a simple matter. I tell you frankly I am uneasy about it.

Aside from this, I regard this matter as one of the many unfortunate things of the past. I hope you can. When you are here there will be too much to talk about to spend time on that. If there is any of it you want to explore, I am willing. But I prefer not except if you feel you should be satisfied about any of it. There isn't enough time for what can serve a useful purpose to waste any on recriminations.

There was a time when I was concerned about how Ned might ultimately come to consider his conduct in this. I took time to try and go into it. It may have been unwelcome. It certainly did me no good and it did take time. As you know, from the time he left here I knew it was all off, for I told you, as I also told you I'd say nothing until he had his say. I just don't see how I can do or try and do any more along that line.

My recent experiences in Dallas, with Arch, whose resources Mary estimates at not less than $50,000,000, are part of a fairly consistent experience with the wealthy. From Maggie I learned never to seek them out, much as I'd welcome any kind of help. Maggie, I'm told, wound up disowning her own daughter - from practising what Maggie preached. Arch wanted me to go down to Dallas. Mary phoned me before I went. He made no offer to bear any of the

cost. And my time, of course, is the time that is without value. He took me to dinner the last night I was there. He did not invite Mary and Buck(!!!).

So, we do look forward to seeing you again. There are many things I'd like to talk about. This affair is not one. But it also is not a taboo. If you want to talk about it, no restrictions. I do think it is better forgotten, with what benefit can be extracted from the experience. However, if you have any criticisms of me in it, I ll be prepared to hear them all and then to respond. At this point I just do not see any benefit that can come out of further post mortems. Bitterness we have, as all do, in too great a supply to pump the duct full again.

Do try and let me know your schedule so we can adjust to it. We want to see as much of you as you'll have time for.

It seems as though this trip was mentally or emotionally wearying as earlier ones were not. I've been feeling it. I began in Dallas, where for the first time I had insomnia. I'd lay abed for hours without falling asleep. That is a new experience for me. Since returning my sleep hasn't been good. I don't know why. I've been trying to get more, but Lil says I'm restless. I suppose it may be the accumulation of so many things, the unsolved problems of the past and those that are current.

I expect a new friend from Mexico the end of the month, the world's greatest expert on the Kaplan/Vidal case. I've declined an offer to collaborate on a book on it. I also see no connection with the assassination.

If you will have any use for a car when you are here, I think you'll find it cheaper to rent one and stay here than to stay at a hotel. It is but an hour to DC. Unless you have night meetings. Or want to spend nights with your associates.

Before you come, you might take another crack at Patsy, if you can find the time, to see if that missing print of the WDSU footage has turned up. As I wrote you, my relations with "The Other Side" were even better on this trip, and from them I've learned another thing excised from the original footage. Here I'm talking about the footage that survived the original editing on 8/63, what was seen by two people who viewed it after JFK was killed. One reason for its disappearance could be to see if I had a print that showed these people.

In any event, have a good holiday.

Best from us both.