7/28/71

Dear Gary,

This hurried note before going to bed about something has has been on my mind for some time, part of which I've gone into before.

It has been so long since I sent you a copy of the "threat", called that for lack of better designation and because it may, indeed be, without even acknowledgement, that I must conclude you want to break from this kind or work more than you have indicated or are not well. If the former, there is nothing wrong. You should feel neither guilt nor embarrassment and should say so. There is a limit to how many masters a man an serve and serve any well, and you do have professional responsibilities plus the needs of your own further preparation. 'ong ago I suggested that the latter should be your first consideration. Nothing has changed since then, including my opinion.

However, in this case, I wanted two readings from an expert: is this consistent with what you know of a potential suspect; and can it let you say anything about the author or authors that could be helpful in determining the possibility of serious intent?

On the chance that some poor sick man or men might really try something of this sort several of us have been giving it what time we could, and have kept a record of all seeming possible interpretations, whether or not we believe the or even believe them likely. Determinations can be made later.

Getting close to August. Hope you do get to come. No word from Mary. Bud says that Buck is quite sick.

Lil is making slow progres. Her leg is bothering her a bit more tonight, but she walked more freely during the day that she had. On the other hand, during the day she found water-temperature too cool for its comfort and got out earlier than usual, while yesterday, when the water was cooler, it didn t seem to bother her a bit. Tonight she went to bed with a pillow under it, the way she did for some time after the fall, for the first time in a long time. I take this as a sign that it is more uncomfortable than she wants to admit to me, not to worry me.

If it did not appear in your papers, F. Lee Bailey has announced that he is undertaking Garrison's defense on principle, convinced of his innocence, and without charge. I am glad. I also hope he knows what he is getting into. I haven t seen the story yet, but I was told about it. I knew he was there two weeks ago, and Belli did bring them together three years or so ago. I have read the affidavits and am convinced the government has motives not yet visible and that there is not yet enough available for definitive analysis. I am pretty certain that part of what is in mind is an extension of repression and a further rewriting of the meaning of the laws through judicial interpretations. I am satisfied they have needlessly jeopardize faily certain convictions of Dervais and the pin-ballers and that for this they must have something or things important to them in mind. Further than this I can't go. I do think they do not have a federal case on Jim, that they might have a non-federal non-feasance case but couldn't get a conviction on that in any event, and that even without the probability of a jury favorable to him, that case is far from strong and would not be without reasonable doubt. There is absolutely no evidence of the purpose of paying him anything, and the only inferences are that it was for lobbying only. That is not illegal, nor would it be if he accepted fees for legal services, not there. I have heard nothing from there, reached these beliefs from previous experience with the various personalities and the contents-and omissions- of the papers.

Best,