Dear Gary, 1/3/71

You may see the several things I have in mind as I proceed with this letter while, with seeming futility, I await a return call from Mary. Having been unable to sleep last night and awake since 4 a.m., as it nears 11 I should be asleep, but I'd rather give Mary plenty of time to return the call. The first report was that she was expected at 7, the rest, hourly, that she hadn't returned, the last one, apparently Buck, saying she was at work.

For reasons other than what I regard as Paul's newest stupidity, this has been a rough day for me. I psent most of it reading, with my my minf wandering. I decided to call Mary for several reasons, the chief one being to get Arch, if the copies he has ordered have not yet been mailed, to ask that they be made available to Bud or his people so that copies can be made in DC before going to him or Paul for further copying. The time difference can be important in spotting what may present some hazard, what may represent an exceptional kind of entrapment, what should not have been released and was, a nagging questio the answer to which - that I can be sure is the right one - escapes me. There can be enormousnconfusion if a number of people all ask for the entire file or any appreciable part of it, an ideal mechanism for the disappearance of some of the key pages. We have no way of knowing which they may be, my reason for deciding to try and make an inventory, and we do know the Archives refuses to replace any that get "lost".

If there is time, I plan to make several other attempts this coming week, using other avenues. When I do, you'll know. You see, where the pages are not enumerated, we have no way of knowing even how many there are in any CD.

If Mary is working this late on a Sunday night, her office must have quite a case coming up.

On Ned, what kind of writer is he, if you know? If he is a novelist and is as you represent, I now have anough for a non-fiction novel on Ferrie.

One of the things I didn't tell Paul is that one who knows most about Ferrie, one who played with Garrison after I turned him on and had to leave town, no longer enjoys the federal protection he once had. The change in administration did it. They have no interest in protecting Bobby. Sheridan lined him up with Partin, through DJ, and Partin is now being prosecuted by DJ. See the difference? This is only one of the possibilities.

I'm hoping that what I sent Paul before I got his newest insanity will be kept in the confidence I specified. I also note that he seems to have missed it. He also had the same docs, as his later mailing shows.

My letters to N.O, was not because I expected them to react, to do as I asked, but not to overlook the obvious. Nobody will do anything without Jim's ok. I do not expect it. And his ego is such that he doesn't give a shit about his personal reputation, so there is little to hope for from that kind of approach. However, I have thought of another, long-shot approach for the same material. When I can make it, you'll know.

If the Arch is copying the entire file for Arch or anyone else, I'll have trouble getting to it tomorrow. So, I've prepared a list of other files to go over when I'm there. But if I know Arch had gotten the entire file right off and would make it available, I'd be able to save a week of driving both ways and the attendant parking charges and waste of time...I fear that sometimes life does get complicated.

Sincerely,