

Dear Mary, (cc HR)

8/17/72

You will remember that when the whole nastiness involving Gary and others first came up, you said you wanted to phone him. I discouraged this and encouraged you, with all the trouble you can't escape, to just be removed from this. If I had expected to send you a copy of what I am enclosing, I'd have made a carbon to bring with. The closer I got to the end, the more the what to me is an astounding self-disclosure I'd never have expected dumped upon me in what ~~me~~ to me is some awfulness, the more I felt that having said what I did, I do owe it to both you and Gary to send you this letter, both its enclosures, and my response. If you for one minute thing that what he has written is really responsive, quite aside from the parsing I have done of his instant letter alone, you can have copies or you can see them here. After this more than ever would you be good medicine for Lil, who didn't want me to respond at all. I do fear that the Gary we once knew will at some time confront this record, and that is why I took the time. I think I have been forceful enough to get his attention, but I don't think he'll see his therapist. Now, because I didn't expect to send this to you, I am sending you the copie intended for Howard (8829 Blue Grass Rd., Phila. Pa. 19152). I have no objection to your making a copy if you want it. The one objection I'd have is what I'd not expect of you, use against Gary. Please then, whether or not you copy, send to Howard, for him to keep, except for the uncopyable page from the inventory. I want you both to read that. Even though I have the original (and I think I sent you the copy of the note on the front page of the copy still in CIA files although Bud got them for use only as my lawyer), I want to keep his defense intact in my files, for whatever use or value they may in the future have to others. You can reach your own conclusions on whether I was right to urge you to not get involved. You can reach your own conclusions as to the validity of my original and unchanged position. The one thing I will add is that I can't believe the Gary we knew is as stupid as the Gary who sends me this totally self-destructive evidence. At least as I see it. So, while I will have nothing more to do with him, I do hope he will take my equivalent of Hamlet's advice. By the way, I don't really know why he went to a therapist to begin with. I never asked and know only because he volunteered it. Believe me, he has every copy of every letter each way with the Archives and the SS for the relevant period-to the time he told me it was too much and he had to get out. Best to you all,