

8/17/72

Dear Gary,

Had your letter of the 13th not come today, I'd probably have written you in an entirely different manner because of the snippets of information that have come to me unsought about the stupidity in which you have become involved and what it has done to you and your selective recall and your avoidances hidden by vigorous protest and irrelevant enclosure. You know me pretty well. You know, for example, that an immediate concern after the despicable thing Ned did was for what would happen to him. This is what has been on my mind about you. However, what I would have written you is already in letters to others and can be referred to later should there be any point (without reference to you) but to what you have gotten yourself into). So, because it is clear that you will not permit yourself to consider anything but self-justification of the unjustifiable, I will ignore it and will make response to what you have written. Nonetheless, I encourage you to consider what you have not, have, indeed, ignored when it was specific, to the end that if this thing does turn out as counter-productively as possible, you'll have fewer emotional ashes to heap.

One of the realities you absolutely refuse to face I begin thrusting in your face. You accomplished nothing by what I regard as a dishonesty because I had already told Cyril of what you sent him. (Jerry, your pal in what he calls "good conscience", after having no doubt received a carbon of your letter, has ceased taking credit for this himself, as he did at the outset). I had stipulated confidentiality only and the slight delay between my receipt of that material and his being promptly informed by phone was the very short time it took for Howard to send me a better body skeleton chart than I had. Howard can and I am sure will confirm this and much more because he has been through all of my relevant files not only for other reasons but because of his recent interest in this. Cyril also had the first two parts of PM and if it had been finished before this entire thing came up, he'd have had the new last part. He had a few parts, despite the fiction you love, including some pictures he duplicated. So, you refuse to face the fact that you accomplished nothing but a self-defaming thing. Jerry, consistently, also fails ever to respond to this. The fact, the hard and irrefutable fact, is that you did do absolutely nothing. And on our last meeting we had discussed this and its potential, you knew my fears, and you and Jerry did precisely the same inconscionable thing. If you were without at least subconscious apprehension, both of you would have phoned me or written to discuss it for both of you knew this was the end product of an enormous effort on my part while both of you were accumulating the comforts of life. There is nothing wrong with being comfortable, but there is much wrong with any kind of sneakiness, any behind-the-back stuff like this. And you were a sneak, you did do this behind my back, you did know what my reaction would be, you did know what it would do to Lil, you did know what it would do to our friendship, yet at a time when you can go out and buy a new car, you couldn't even phone me, not even to say you were going to do this? Come on, Gary, one needn't be a psychologist or a shrink to read this clearly. You knew, at least subconsciously, that you were doing wrong. You knew, consciously, that I would react as I have, and now you prate about friendship and all that kind of what is really shit? You now know that if you had phoned me you'd have known that you did nothing by this rottenness. And that you can continue to refuse to face as long as you'd like. The fact is that I did tell Cyril this and much more for I then was without doubt of his selfish motive. There is now no doubt about his selfishness of motive, no matter how disguised, and I don't think that what - have done of which you do not know will convert this self-aggrandizement he has in the works at everybody's expense. You ignore his malpractice business and what this can do for it. But I tell you now that when this is all over I have given Howard a documentation that his plans preclude the seriousness of purpose all you who are guilty, if secretly guilty, about having done nothing for so long you tell yourself was the only possibility. I will not tell him to tell you until this is all over, but when it is, you can see for yourself that I am not now making up a convenience and I will tell Howard to give you a copy if you then want it. As of my most recent knowledge, two days old, this is scheduled for next week with the basic plans unchanged.

Among the things you have chosen to ignore—and again Howard has seen the file several times, so you can ask him this any time without any restriction from me, it must be about two years since I first saw the potential hazard in what I then knew was possible, worked out a plan the essence of which I am sure Howard will recall, and I wrote Cyril and told him there was a way in which he and I could break the whole damned thing open safely. He has YET to respond. So much for his purity of motive and unselfishness. Which also means yours, whether or not he now shifts.

There is the possibility that as in the past you have mislaid stuff, so I'm not going to run any more risks with such "good conscience" by specific citations.

However, there is, among people of principle, nothing that can be done to relieve an obligation to confidentiality except with the agreement of both parties. This you not only did not do, you did not even try. Ditto for Jerry. That you ordered the documents you snatched from the Archives is merely an acknowledgement of intent to be dishonest. You had agreed to confidentiality and you say no more than you evolved a crooked formula to pretend to yourself to get around it. But what you have not done and what you have not addressed in your enclosure of a March 11, 1972 carbon of a letter to the Archives (long after your January visit here and our discussion of exactly this) is the fact that whether or not the Archives send you unsoicitedly the inventory to which you refer, I did send it to you in March two years earlier. You were then, under agreed-to conditions of confidentiality, a duplicate depository for me and I sent you everything. Need I remind you that we couldn't begin to afford the copying alone? But we trusted you and your word and I did, with hours and hours in addition invested, send you everything I got. Frankly, I have no reason to believe the Archives did send you that inventory when you include an irrelevant carbon copy rather than the letter with which they sent it. They send NOTHING FREE. You have to have had the offer or an agreement for them to charge your account. But even if they did, you had earlier gotten precisely this inventory from me, again in confidence. And if they sent you one separately that did not relieve you of your obligation to me or to your own honor and integrity.

But even here you defeat yourself, and this for your own future you must face. These are your words—and you can't cite the inventory as a source:

"I am not sure whether this last item is the Navy Cert. of death signed by Admiral Burkley. If it is not the [sic] I would like a copy of that certificate which was made out in Bethesda."

Now, oh spirit of protesting purity, I challenge you to find this in that inventory! It is not there. Why you had any doubt, I don't know, since you had a copy of the new last part and that chapter is titled "An original and Six Pink Copies." You denude yourself, and instead of protesting you should be hiding your face!

Your veruopening sentence of this self-serving stupidity you wrote Rgoads is but more self-disclosure and self-defamation: "I am writing you with regard to the records of the Warren Commission." You know and you then knew God damned well that these are NOT records of the Warren Commission, not only because I told you, not only because you knew they had been withheld, but because I had sent you copies of everything relevant. And if you had by some chance forgotten all of that, you knew the whole F... story from the full PM which you also had.

So don't look to me for emotional figleaves, and don't disgrace yourself by sending me self-serving and now it is apparent deliberately deceitful letters. You wrote this disreputable letter about five months after Cyril applied and long after I told you he had. Who the hell but yourself do you expect to kind with this kind of shildishness? Your letter is dated March 11, 1972. I sent you this stuff in 3/70 and it is referred to material earlier. You were here and we discussed all of this—and I'll see if I have the exact date—January 18, 19, 20, 1972. You saw whatever you wanted then. And I remind you of the considerateness you then showed and aging and to your knowledge very tired man you were still, in pajamas when I had driven 50 miles to pick you up at the appointed time.

Gary, do not expect me to spare you. You can't undo what you have done, but I will do what I can to make you face it, and your own training should tell you that at some point this is your need. It doesn't do me a damned bit of good to take this time.

So, you ordered a Burkley document when his name is not mentioned in the inventory, regardless of where you got that inventory, your order what was signed in Bethesda, when that was also not mentioned in the inventory, you say these are Warren Commission records at the beginning, and now you try to tell me yours are the skirts of Caesar's wife! Man, if your own nose can't tell you what this is, is it possible your eyes can't and don't?

But as the devil with scripture with which to joy but as one who loved you and would have loved to be able to continue to, let me quote from your letter about this, and then get yourself a real big shovel: "...not absolutely sure when I ordered them what they were." Not sure that it was in Bethesda so you specified Bethesda only: Not sure that it was with Burkley's signature so you specify that, too? Not sure because you had seen the

whole damned thing here less than three months earlier? It is readily apparent is that the one thing of which you weren't sure is that this inventory described precisely that which you deliberately intended to steal. No other doubt is in any way indicated, and this is something I suggest you try to transfer from your subconscious to your conscious it it was ever in your subconscious.

What the hell do you mean "despite your implication that I got that list from you." You know damned well that as of that time I sent you everything. But prithes, tell me still again how you knew to specify what was NOT in the inventory?

I never said the only place you could have gotten it was from me. You invent that. I do not even dispute that maybe the Archives did send it to you, though I note that when you could have sent evidence of this you failed and instead stupidly sent what amounts to a full confession.

You have yet to explain this jazz of "Cyril, who certainly has need of it". Here you are in good company. Why does he have need for it except for literary thievery? You yourself said in January and I am sure earlier that those who are out of it should stay out of it. Cyril has never yet been in it on his own. What is this need for an examination of what he has not, genius, allowed himself time to examine?

Oh, Gary, with all of this you say, "a document I had to practically stumble on given how inactive I now am in the case." Are you so sick, so completely without shame? Not only is there the past, but we went over all of this in January. Remember your advice? Nobody else except Paul and Howard were doing any work and I should isolate myself from everyone else? You "stumbled" on what I first gave you years ago, then gave you in a book you got me involved in New with, then went over with in close detail in January, and now you "stumble" on it? What in the world has happened to you, to the man I thought I knew?

Next you go into my statement, as you put it, as though you have not seen all of it and we did not go over all of it also together, "based on your statement that you had "gotten it from the Secret Service". The truly incredible follows: "Never once had you told me that it was in the archives when I was at your place visiting and we discussed it."

The file and my copies, the ones you saw, begin with a covering letter from Tom Kelley. You don't have to remember that. The separate heading on this, despite your 'whistling-past-the-graveyard' deception in your letter of 3/11/72 with some care distinguishes this from WC material: "Related Material Received in 1969 from the Secret Service." They use caps.

Can't you be honest about ANYTHING?

Do you know of anything that was ever given spontaneously to the Archives by any agency?

Mus I remind you ~~xxx~~ that you have all the memos, all the many letters, leading up to this delivery to the Archives and your own repeated, include herein, caution about the advertising to solicit misuse by the butts and irresponsible, who you have now joined? There is not a single step of my work on this you do not have and didn't have contemporaneously.

I tell you frankly Lil told me to stop wasting this time. She read your letter only when she came in and asked me what I was doing. And I think having spent this much time I really should recognize that if this is not really a waste of time, your writing this kind of letter makes you not worth the time I have been taking to save you from the potential of your own disreputability to begin with and such dishonest as would tax the Commission's lawyer in this letter.

I'll be short r with the rest. With this history, this record of your own making you next rejecte my charges, expres resentment based on long friendship, (you have wuite a definition) and say of me "You have made charge after charge by bending the facts or ignoring alternative explanation". Given the foregoing and to this day the absence of anything worth even looking at, I'd still like to be persuaded that the man I loved was worthy of it and is not as dishonest as you have in this mailing alone made yourself. The rest of this graph I ignore except that sub-Grade B stuff, "I am ~~xx~~ saddened that you make such charges and lay waste to a long friendship..." I did this, on your record in this mailing alone?

This tears me up because of the feeling I did have for you, so I'm going to stop. If when I resume besides my typos you find a discontinuousness, you'll understand it. If you would.

I've let several hours pass because this is not pleasant, and with the other problems we have to confront even less so. But I not only tell you, I defy you to porve otherwise: There is no single substantial statement in your entire letter that is honest or correct. I can't say that badly about the Warren report, and there is, to me, a difference, I never held strong personal feelings about any of the soum involved in that. The remaining thing

has to do with what you can't even identify correctly. You refer to the GA files and the things on Oswald as an Agent. They are, rather, the GAI files. When you are probably correct in saying that rather than using my account, which I told you to do, you used your own. I've never wasted the time to try and keep books on my Archives account and this is the kind of thing I'd have expected of you, so I can credit that, basically, however, it is irrelevant and the overall cost was greatest to me. I made copies for you and Paul for example, at greater cost than yours.

After all this time I wouldn't want to have to swear to it, but my recollection is pretty clear. Paul knew that Hal at least was coming. I don't think it was my idea but Paul's that I ask him to check this file. Whether it was Paul's or mine that this would show I don't pretend to remember. It could have been either or both. But he and I have worked together on this and on other things, beginning when we first met in the Archives. Quite the contrary of the kind of self-deception you practice in your ostrich-like behavior and thinking, if that is the word, there have been so few secrets between us that it may well be that he has copies of some on my handwritten notes I've handed for him on some aspects of my entirely independent investigations that I've not even taken time to type. I have in mind what I think I wrote him on a plane from Dallas to Chicago. I know I did write him in longhand, a special kind of stricture, but he has never complained about it. The question here is not one of your deceptiveness, of property. So far from the truth is this that, while I won't waste the time on the kind of man self-exposed in your letter of the 13th to go through the files for a copy for you, if, indeed, I haven't already sent it, I have done these things against personal and property interests on this subject: I've encouraged Paul to write a book in direct competition with one I first and long planned, one stemming from my initial work; I've sent him carbons of every damned word of that book I've written; and I've encouraged him to come here and go through my files before he does any writing. If it doesn't take care of selfishness and property, I believe the flaw is in you. Ask him. I not only invite you to -I dare you to.

But despite what you now say about your intentions of years ago, the fact is that I asked you to make an examination of those pages. I am certain we can find Paul's letter making the suggestion that the GAI files be examined, and I recall none on this from you, written or verbal. My recollection of that entire period is this clear: I recall you were delayed getting here, so concerned that I have the police looking for you.

There were other things you got. Dutifully and without compensation, I copied them all when the Archives sent them here. There was, for example, much on deMohrenschildt, the Paines (trivialities at best), a whole series in the 900 range. Is my recollection clear enough, for your age or mine?

I can't spare you your own words, "what I have dug up." Pray tell me what besides suspicion you have dug up? Not this stuff, for if not all, at least part originated with Paul. What else? Kate-P? The people to whom I took you when you were here? What one thing of consequence is there that is yours for all your effort? You force this bluntness on me, in your own interest, whether or not you now so regard it. Getting me to see Mondale's Herb Jasper? I did it. I made a trip to Washington because you wanted it, spent a day with him at the Archives, and only terrified him and Mondale since, no less than I indicated to you earlier was inevitable in trying to discourage you from such ventures unless they yielded you a return that would help your work.

I don't think this is irrelevant. Having this longing that is not yours alone, having all this work that has yielded nothing of consequence, and most of all, having quit for good reason, and a career, particularly a career that can be socially useful is a good reason, you are eaten by conscience, feeling you owe an obligation to do something. Having not been able to do it on your own, you have kidded yourself into a vicarious doing on somebody else's back, and all your lies and distortions, those sins you attribute to me, are least unkind to you so interpreted.

The question here is not of property but of misuse, another of your self-deceptions. You prefer trying to contrive something with which you can live, and it seems easier alleging a conscious misrepresentation. You go so far that you can't even tell the truth about who went through what files. If you dispute what follows, I gave you a direct challenge again: ask Hal, and ask him to send copies to me. (Not that existing files will not disclose it.) The evasiveness of your choice of words I'll quote I will not point—they don't need it: "I did not need you to tell me to read through the GA files..." You didn't. You and Hal

divided them. I think I could come close to telling you which did which. But is it less than the truth that you did not do this alone, the representation of your paragraph on this?

Take this ego to your therapist. I don't go for it, I'm not comed with it, and I'm not giving you an emotional placebo.

By the way, I am not sending a carbon of this to Hal or any critic except Howard. Because of the beginning, this I feel I must do. I am also aware ~~xxx~~ of and have ignored the close to wholesale distributions by you and Jerry. I have not done it and will not. I may decide to send a copy to Mary but I haven't made up my mind. If I do, I will also ask her to return it.

You asked for the return of the carbon. It is enclosed. You say you are "sorry to see things go like this". The time for this was when you arranged it, not in retrospect and self-justification. If you do not intend to write again, that is where I began. I'd prefer it that way. But I again ask you for the return of everything I sent you. I can't compel it but I do want it. I think it serves your interest for your judgement in not this case alone is at best dubious. Ned is another. You knew of him what you did not tell us until you confessed it in January. That you would send to us recommending trust a man not only emotionally ill and unstable and guilt-ridden as you knew him to be was bad enough. But that in addition you knew and didn't tell us about that disgraceful thing of his talking about the shrink who was laying the woman patient and the disasters he brought to pass thereby - well, no characterization of this kind of judgement is necessary. You may have intended well, but with mature judgement you didn't do well. So if the question is not of motive, it remains of judgement. My concern is not that you have these things but that in nagging self-justification you misuse or permit misuse of them. So, I think your own interest is served by their return -all copies.

Incidentally, I have no plans for doing anything about anything. But if developments indicate the need for doing anything also about anything or anybody, I will be capable to at least attempting what I think then will be necessary, and if I do, you would be well advised to be as far out of it as you can be, for if I have to fight, what I have felt of you in the past will be far from the front of my mind of my immediate concerns. Let the evils you have already done and the lies you have already told be the end of it. Even if nothing happens, there is no way you can come out of this clean. So, don't dirty yourself more. There is nothing you can do to make right out of wrong, anymore than there is anything I can do to undo that which has been done by you and others. At some point all this gilding is going to peel and what you will then see of what you have already done will be too much. It is pretty unsightly.

Perhaps the ~~guck~~ most ghastly thing of all in the light of what you have done, with Ned and with Cyril and with your knowledge of the enormous labor and cost Lil, and I have in what you have done everything within your power to kill is the conclusion, "Best of luck in the coming years". Boy, for a man who deals with the kind and its workings this is a shocker. Akin to the shrink and his misused couch. Your record on this good luck bit is one you should examine, to yourself, not to me. First when there is within your special competence the possibility of our helping us, that you don't do. (Incidentally, that is the one part I can understand, if I felt it less than unselfishness, less than a manifestation of genuine friendship.) Then you do everything you can to hurt us, and even that like a sneak. Then, knowing the possibility of hurt from what you did to all of us, you did that, too. And you have the gall to wish us good luck? Or the lack of sensitivity to tell you that with your record these words can mean something to you only, and then only if you deceive yourself? There are words and there is performance. I go on the latter. If I begin by trusting everyone, perhaps a fault, and I remember your cautions, I have your own record against which to measure your words. Your appropriately yellow carbin that I return herewith is too much.

Now you may also kid yourself into believe that I had to unload and hence this time and length. I don't need that kind of relief, not now. I have done much the same with Jerry and for the same reason. The mind is your sphere, not mine. But I think if nothing bad comes from what you have done, you'd best go back to your therapist, for the time will come when you can no longer deceive yourself. That may be a pretty rough time. If you have brought several to us, we still do not wish it on you.

You don't have to tell me why it took more than six weeks before you could even pretend to answer. You have made it obvious.