

4/9/70

Mary, Paul, Gary, Dick, Howard,

It is too early for me to know the extent of national play in the press, but early indications are that the theft of part of COUP by one Sherman Skolnick in Chicago is getting extensive attention. I didn't learn of it until about 11:30 last night and it is before sunup. My only added knowledge comes from a Chicago reporter friend to whom I spoke at midnight. He says the wire-services carried this fake story about a fake suit, which is only natural, since they ignore the legitimate ones. And while he was talking to Skolnick, Boston stations were also calling him.

This is the kind of whoring that gives credibility to the other side. Skolnick got nothing from the Archives, asked nothing of them, has no basis for any kind of suit against them (and will get tossed out of court if he has filed it), and, in fact, the Valle suppression is by Justice, not the Archives. It is a physical impossibility for him to have initiated and exhausted his administrative remedies if, in fact, he has done anything but steal.

He got this material from my friend who had done some of my Chicago checking on two promises: he would use it to follow the "olden engles and would first check with me. As of yesterday he was still pretending to the Chicago reporter that he was one of my closest buddies and had been in closest collaboration, whereas he has never been in touch.

It, again, is not just a question of my rights but of the again-urgent need to defend ourselves, to prevent this rotten accrediting of the other side. So, I am asking that if anything appears in your papers or you hear or hear of any electronic reporting you let me know immediately.

Some of you may, from time to time, have wondered at my insistence that certain things not be given to others. This is one example of the kind of thing that is always a concern to me.

In this case, if I can get a local lawyer or can sue in the district in which I live, I'll sue. I have already made inquiry about a Chicago lawyer.

And the source of everything federal this bastard stole is the agency he claims is suppressing! The irony is that the Secret Service gave the Archives nothing, on the mistaken belief this was not relevant to their inquiry because it was not part of the real assassination. Of that they could be sure, Valle having been clearly accounted for and the Oswald angle being clearly a fake.

Hurriedly,

Harold Weisberg