

7/18/71

Dear Paul,

Enclosed is my only spare copy of my today's letter to Rothstein embodying what a friend had to suggest and two copies of a self-listing by Thozaley. When you have read the letter, would you please forward to Paul Carson, WWDC, for return to me after he reads? You (both) can draw your own conclusions. I continue to feel that because of what may be involved, there is nothing too far out to be considered, esp. because everyone seems to think there are evidences of mental illness.

After a month, nothing has happened on my appeal. I have written the district-court clerk again, making a further record that if my time is wasted, I am not the one who wasted it, with a clear if polite suggestion as to who did.

My continued reading of the DJ affidavits re M.O. and J.G. continue to inspire apprehension, not inconsistent with what I have already suggested. I also continue with the fear that if George Lardner is assigned to the story, despite his undoubted competence, his understandable dislike for Garrison may keep him from seeing or understanding or even being willing to consider the possibility of a still bigger story. From various sources I am getting a complete set of clippings from the States-Item, an occasional one from the Times-Picayune, and the affidavits as they appear. I am reading and marking these. When they are all printed, I will then go over the official copies, which I now have, for having gone over them once I may find otherwise obscured meaning in the earlier parts. Certain patterns are emerging, one of the more obvious being that everything really culpable about JG is in paraphrase, not in direct quote although they had every phone tapped and Gervais wired for sound and apparently always under agents' observation, except, perhaps, when in his room, that is, at the motel. They followed on delivery, searched afterward, etc. If Garrison had not been so flowery in his statement afterward, it might be possible to draw more from it. However, I have seen no response from any source, including editorial. One strange thing tending to confirm him is the fact that he did not put \$1,000 in his home safe whereas he did have \$350 in personal funds there and invited arresting agents to see. His story is that Gervais asked him to hold while Gervais was away. I am not prepared to buy this, but I can see a more obvious reason, is intent to use next day, as on debts. It is conspicuous to me there is no IRS charge vs. him,

yet he is charged with years of graft-taking. This is not consistent, not credible, but I'll know better after studying complete affidavits. It is, of course, possible they will amend charges, or place more before grand jury, and are holding other tapes for surprise. I have heard nothing from him (and didn't expect to) or anyone on his staff (I have written the one I trust for info when he has time). The latest rumor is that Loe/Sailey will take the case, supported by his presence in N.O., meeting with lawyers including the one who repped JG from the first, and his refusal to say why he ~~it~~ was there (my latest clips from N.O. source). I believe that Belli once brought Garrison and Sailey together at a lavish party when both were out there, but JG never so told me. And I think among the possible DJ objectives is a stretching of their interpretation of their legal rights re bugging and tapping. One of the most difficult things for me to comprehend is the complete failure of the skilled and wily Horvais to feed JG the right lines to elicit the right responses, plus his persistent interruptions of everyone with whom he spoke just when they were about to say something. There is a flagrant case of this with J4, which makes me believe even more than I was in this reluctantly, as a result of what was held over him, not for the incredible reasons attributed to him by government, that his son is a NVN prisoner. He had an entirely different view on this when last I saw him and he did talk of that, cursing the gov't and the war. This was just a very brief time before he became the prime informant (several more are going to surface latter, and I have some launches, in late 1/69. He was working for gov't at latest 6/69, which they acknowledge. He was, by the way, involved in the Shoulder-Morris thing, too. Or, in almost everything, besides just taking what he could from anyone for any reason and living a life he enjoyed.

When you can, I'd like to go over your questions about FRANK-UP and, in confidence, update you on what my interviews produced and show you the tangible evidence I now have. I remain concerned about any but the most definitive and unequivocal printing of anything new at all, esp. because the warden has turned Ray loose with about 350 of the roughest, toughest, after being excessively kind and explaining in detail to Jerry twice, and this is a new warden whose public statements are inconsistent with this courtesy and kindness. He is quoted as saying he would not have forced James to do this against his will, but it remains a strange new liberty when it was earlier denied him by a genuinely human warden and so soon after an attempted break. When we find time to do this, I will tell you what I now conceive to be the broad outlines of the crime, who (no names) did it and why. Best, Ed