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12/8/71

Dear Friends,

The 23-day trip from which I returned last night seems much longer, The ~~the~~ 5-inch stack of mail looks much higher, time-requiring personal matters, especially legal problems I must address as soon as possible, were set aside so I could make this trip. So, because I'll be gradually working my way out from under the accumulation, I explain the delay in responding to those of you who have written or sent things. And a brief encapsulation of the trip and its successes, exclusive of those days devoted to Ray matters.

For the most part, it was devoted to what has come to be called "the other side". In every case, those I saw were helpful, and in almost every case they gave me worthwhile info.

Garrison invited me to lunch and was friendly. He seems to have no special interest in the JFK assassination, spent little time talking about his present legal problems, and is interested in the military, a special formulation that appears to derive from Vince's formulation from his reading of The Pentagon Papers. The CIA emerges as good guys, the military as bad. This is not, I think, an over-simplification. I found anti-Garrison media people friendly and informative and not unwilling to repeat what federal people had leaked to them. (This was also true of a number of lawyers who gave their analyses and hunches but did not have such sources.) One of the possibilities was the indictment of the former (Democratic) U.S. Attorney in N.O., Louis LeCoeur, which seems not to have happened. I haven't been able to keep up with the papers. Another was the inclusion of the last session of the legislature. It was rather a surprise to find that the judge who had once left the bench to run against Garrison (state case) appointed the most left-wing lawyer in the state as special prosecutor, especially when I had seen him the previous working day seeking information some of his former clients might have. I have no doubt he will go down the middle, with vigor. Another curiosity, the first hearing was held on the 8th aniv., 11.22. He spotted what I had, that the clearest case from the federal affidavits is of malfeasance. He announced he'd add that charge and would ask for a special grand jury to do its (his) own investigating. Garrison's physical problems are quite obvious. He wears a brace that goes up to his armpits. He seems to have aged much. He says he got a case of hospital staph when he had his disc operation. And his son Jasper had been hospitalized again when I was there with another brain hemorrhage.

I can't begin to recount all that I learned from various sources, so I'll just list those to whom I spoke by what they do and are. Media people, friends of Shaw, p.r. people, lawyers, including one of Marcello's and two in the WC materials, an ONI man, a former FBI man who was fired and a new, non-Garrison contact in the Police Department. Perhaps more, but I've not yet had a chance to unpack my back and glance at the notes I was able to make.

I would prefer to think there is a kind of symbolism in the subsequent air travel. The trip from N.O. to Dallas 11/24 is the last one on which I saw the land, for it was all in heavy clouds and fog. From Dallas to Chicago en route Stevens Point, Wisc, I saw land only when it was 300 feet low, and it was impressive to find the first thing in view hangars off the end of the runway on which the plane was perfectly centered! The plane to St. Pt. didn't get there. The last part of the trip was by bus. And when we got to National Airport yesterday p.m., we were on the runway when I first saw anything but clouds or fog! The hostess who was sitting next to me said it was like nothing in her experience. We stacked for more than an uncomfortable hour. Jim Lesar had come to debrief me as much as possible. He had Richard Levine with him. I had asked for it, esp. on Ray matters, which were already escaping recall.

The Ferralls in Dallas were as wonderful hosts as those of you who had been there earlier say. Perhaps more with me because I spent all my time there working, which caused more trouble for them. Some of those who spoke to me in Dallas asked that I regard what they said as confidential, and I think properly. In time I'll get it all on paper. They include two former FBI agents, Henry Wade, Allan Sweatt and other deputies, the detective who was to have

driven the lead car in the LHO transfer, a member of the Texas Board of Inquiry, three Parkland doctors, media people (without my asking it I was TVed in Knoxville and Dallas), two bank vice-presidents and H.L.Hunt (these three are the only ones who produced nothing, unless the offer of a job by Hunt is something!). I was able to open up two new archives and to have MF accepted there as my confidential secretary for her to go through those files when she has time. I have skimmed them, spending a day and a half on one and an afternoon on the other. They do not seem particularly rich, but they have produced some worthwhile info already. It is possible that by going over each page, MF may find more. I have learned more about Ruby, but ~~nothing~~<sup>nothing</sup> that bears on conspiracy. He was in bad financial shape, paying bills with purchased American Express money orders. I examined some of the cardboard stubs. The cash he had with him seems to have been what is called there "turnaround money", the minimum for daily operation, although it seemed high for that to me. By an unofficial source in a position to know, I was told that he had been an FBI CI (criminal informant), recruited by Will Hay Griffin, who had been transferred from N.O. where he had handled the French Quarter. When he shot LHO, the Bureau started to reconstruct its files to eliminate what it would have found embarrassing. Ruby seems to have been sicker than I'd thought, some of the evidence being the practise of cumilungulus in public, the fondling of the breasts of a 13-year-old girl at the fair where he displayed his twist boards, masturbating a bog, attempted rape, homosexuality - you name it. He did confess premeditation, and he did tell Senator Saturday night. Specter (Spectre in Alexander's notes) had two polygraph "experts" with him, chased the only real expert out of his own room for that "examination", and his experts had but two weeks of experience before this "examination". Ruby's lawyers were divided on the polygraph examination. Specter insisted that the prosecution be present. He and Sweatt had a fight over something personal. Ruby was interrogated daily once he was transferred, by a deputy, for periods of 2-3 hours, and I spoke to that deputy.

What Wade got his hands on he kept, every scrap that was in the car or on Ruby's person, even empty boxes and newspapers now yellowing. The FBI seems to have given him almost nothing, only three reports that are not identified by CD numbers but do have the written pagination. Ditto for the Dallas police, unless the files have been purged (and if this is the case, I don't think Wade did it). However, the DPD reports that are there indicate that the WC materials do not include all of them and certainly the Library of Congress microfilm doesn't. I have a printout of it. Our hero of the tender sensibilities wore non-brass "brass" knuckles in a cute leather pistol-like holster. There are many cases of his administering severe beatings. And there was an immediate arrest of a man fleeing the scene of the LHO shooting, but he was "determined" to be a "sightseer". Name given as Goffney (sic). I found two people who had seen another outsider inside Decker's security at the time of the transfer. One declined to identify him but the second said he is the bondsman Max Rudberg. Sweatt denied it. One source is Jim Kerr, experience WBAP (NBC) TV News reporter who has long covered the sheriff's office and the courts. (He had been promised an interview with Ruby by Decker hence was at Decker's.). Everybody I spoke to believe Revill's account of his encounter with Hosty (pronounced as in post). I spoke to Revill's wife, who told me they had until then been best friends. R was out of town. He now works for the Bright who financed the CUSA ad. (Everyone else I wanted to see I did see except Wright, who was at a civic-group meeting the only time I could get to Parkland, where I was an entire monring.) I have gotten to the root of the Hudkins story, but asked to preserve the confidentiality of the source, one of those parti pris. It was not Sweatt and was official. And not Dallas...A Dallas news photo of LHO on the stretcher, full profile, gives an entirely different cast to his features than any I've seen (I have a xerox), as does the suppressed Martin film (which I have), in a different way...The DPD pictures in Wade's files (incomplete) are clearly labelled "reconstruction", in ink, as those of the WC are not. Judy Bonner had these pictures, to have been returned by 1/9/69....Bowron left Dallas in about 1965 and the whereabouts of Henchcliffe was unknown to the doctor on the surgery staff to whom I spoke. I didn't have time to look up Doris Nelson, who is still chief nurse in the emergency room to learn where Henchcliffe now is. Clark, Jenkins, Perry, McClelland and Carrico are still there. I didn't check on others. I think Giesecke still is, too...Dean Storey, TCI, has the DPD file on Walker in his archive and MF will examine it. We have a fresh, unofficial source on the Sikes, La. thing, whatever it is, that is still classified in the Archives. His source predates WC, is the former La. NAACP head. MF is handling. He has promised to type notes.