

Threats-note on

12/26/72

My chief purpose is to record a remarkable coincident that I have no basis for considering anything more than a coincidence but I also think should be entirely ignored. I don't believe I was aware of it at the time. I forget if I was. It springs from the diaries I am going over for our civil suit, for the lawyer in it.

Friday, January 18 was the strange hearing on Garrison's subpoena for autopsy and other materials, where Nouma Bertel got the stranger in-courtroom phone call just as he was to have put me on the stand as a witness and in which, in the afternoon session, I had gotten into the record what I wanted there..Sunday early I left for New Orleans, was met by Oser and Alford, aorked with them until supper time, then told them they'd lose and should and way. (That night I started writing PM at Mattz Herron's, rather the now second part and preparing for the to-be Halleck hearing.) Returned home after midnight Friday 2/24, with the question of Garrison's not quitting the effort in DC up in the air and a letter to give to Bud to proceed if I could convince Salandria. Salandria came down Sunday 2/26, with Tom Katen. Bud came up. As I noew recall I backgrounded Cyril 1/25 and all of us had a conference-call discussion with hime p.m. 1/26, from here, after midday meal. It was a pretty rough nusiness, and I went after Vince, who was supported by the self-important Katen, with vigot. Vince was furious as he was paranoia and unreasoning. He loved his suspicion and the hell with fact, or at least so it seemed. The question still hung fire, at that hearing was not until 2/14.

In this tense situation, I got the most sophisticated threat at 2:25 a.m. 1/30, by phone. (The diary includes a name I do not recall and in the note on this threat. It is Fred Harris.. The only name ~~of that~~ Fred Harris of which I have any record is that of a preacher who had won a "Freedom's Foundation" award.. I do recall that a little earlier, with the same voice, I'd gotten a call asking about Garrison from a man who said he was in Philadelphia. Pa.) This threat included the playing to me of part of the sound track of Shane. Two different police departments later decided it was a serious threat, one voiceprinted.

I do not suggest or beloeve that Vince had any connection with this. I have no reason to believe that it was related to the suit in which the government had so much to lose. On the other hand, I don't believe everybody has the soundtrack of Shane and is ~~equipped~~ to pipe it into the phone lines at 2:25 a.m. either. or ~~has the~~ disposition to do it at that hour of the morning.

Had it not been for me and a vigorous and successful fight with Garrison plus Alcock and Sciambra and then with Vince and Katen, really hard fights, the whole thing would have died 1/17. At this juncture the issue was unsettled and I was fighting entirely alone. Bud was only an observer when he was around, and he was not around most of the time! We could and should have done much better with Halleck, but we won more than enough. The government had a prearranged stall, something I checked out as soon as Halleck decided. There was time for ~~the~~ court of appeals to hear the government's appeal and to rule, as there had been time for the entire thing to have been completed 1/18 instead of the copout. Garrison, presumeably in consultation with Vince, but not with Bud or me, wired Halleck that it was moot when it wasn't, ending our one courtroom victory to that point. But that was much later Halleck's second hearing was 2/14

Another interesting thing emerges in going over this year's diary. It was after midnight the morning of 1/18 when I first saw the panels' reports and the government's arguments. We spent that day in court, until close to 3 a/m., after a couple of hours of sleep at Bud's. I was furious when I got home and first unpacked everything I had road to take to N.O., reservations the ones I cancelled and then used after being lied to by Oser, Alcock, Sciambra and Alford 2/19., I then had to repack everything. It was late at night 1/20 when I got the panel report back from Bertel, in N.O., and while I remained there I wa. engaged in hassling and persuading and doing other things besides writing that part of P.W. I note that I had it completed and Lil had it retyped for reduction by offset and I had that xeroxed and registered it for copyright 2/7 I got home from N.O. after midnifht 1/23. Counting all the time in N.O. and on the planes,, fighting with Vince, background Cyril and everything else, the total elapsed time from the time I first got the panels' reports to finish of xeroxing of completed work was 17 days! And, save for the rehtoric, where criticism is more than justified, there has been no objection from any critic. The contentis solid after all this time. There is no error. The analysis is still accurate and has since been validated by further investigation.