

Dear Jim,

12/10/78

Fascinating as the Peoples Temple story was from the first, and horrible, for me in recent weeks the Lane part has become especially interesting. It is showing no new Lane but how it confirms the old one!

The Post was late getting to a Lane angle, although there were mentions in long stories, sometimes long and details sections. I think all his clamor about press/CIA cooled Gardner, who was assigned to it. He is finally on it but I think the wrong way. He called me from Memphis. I don't think there will be many Jones sources available there. Lane sources, sure, and I suggested some. But I doubt they can do more than repeat what they heard and refer to their sources.

Tomorrow's Newsweek is going to have a piece.

There is much talk that this will do him in. I'm not at all sure, although I believe it is merely the most recent of a series of rotten things few people would or could have survived.

Several days when Gardner was agonizing about doing/not doing a story he asked me about this. I told him that if Lane fell down in an undercleaned barnyard he'd get up with a monopoly on fertilizer.

I have no way of confirming the reports I've seen and heard but they come to \$20,000, cash and check, Jones fee; \$25,000 LA Times for five pieces; \$25,000 from German publications. However, several days ago the LATimes clobbered him. Over \$\$\$ and lies about it.

I've taken no initiatives and do not expect to. This time there are plenty of others anyway.

Besides, there's too much else to do.

I was away for a hard week and held up rather well, considering everything. Couple of speeches, some New England weather that wrecked the airport limousine schedule and held me in Boston an unexpected night, and ending up helping Lesar with John Ray.

By the time I was home we were having spring again, until yesterday morning. Then it started getting cold. Tonight it is below normal for the month. But three days ago, believe it or not, the chiggers were out and they got me. That day it was so warm I was as close to barefooted as the supports permit and walked around in sandals until I had to go into town. Didn't watch thermometer but it had to have been close to 70. Imagine that for December! I enjoyed the opportunity for outside work. (After the wind lays I'll be out again, only bundled up some.)

I've saved all the Jonestown stories I've seen, not only those on Lane, for Dave. He'll need the Lane part and the rest may be of use. Now that the USAtty in S.F. is in the case there may be some developments. Not much reporting of that here.

The degree, virtually total, of mind control, is incredible and makes one wonder. Surprised nobody seems to have gotten interested in the George Hunter White files at Foothills College in this connection.

Lil has just suspended typing the current affidavit for you'll never guess what. To check the tomatoes we have on the porch. I think she'll now bring them in. We've actually been eating our own. They were late and the first several frosts missed the spot in which we had them. Before a hard frost we picked what remained and they've been ripening. But tonight will be too cold for them. So she's bringing them in.

She's been putting a 3cl mailing together. Guess it will go soon. Mostly China stories but one Sunday mag. piece on FOIA and UFOs, probably including your Amiz. friends. ...Guess you've been staying busy with your good works. Hope you are okay.
Best,