

Dear Dave,

2/4/78

Glad you had a chance to speak, if only briefly, to Chancellor Dreyfus about an approach to Mott for foundation funding. Dreyfus knows how. I wish he did not have other obligations and ambitions because if he did not I'm sure he would have had what I'd like all arranged a year ago.

I have no experience in such matters but I suppose it breaks down more or less this way: you have to sell Mott that the project first of all is worth his consideration and next that in competition with other matters that are presented to him it is more worthy or more unique than those proposals with which it competes.

As another practical matter it would probably be effective if one had a means of having one in Mott's trust speak to him. Another would be to have the support of those he may not know but whose reputation is such that he might heed them.

On the latter I think the Les Whitten affidavit might be considered as an attachment. Les is on a year's leave to write some novels. I think he would be willing to help if you speak to him. You have his home address in the Xmas card he sent me. His phone is 301/593-5943.

If Mott and the chancellor have an interest in the investigative-reporting aspect then I tell you this story: when I was hospitalized in 10/75 Les came to see me. He had a document he had had leaked to him from inside the FBI. He showed it to me and asked me what he could do with it. I took a look at it, gave him a name and phone number and in minutes he had established an FBI back channel. He told me then, with moist eyes, "Hal, you are the last of a disappearing breed."

This aspect of my work is little known. It is a unique kind of investigative reporting as well as what I believe will be regarded as the basic scholarship in the JFK and King assassinations. They are blended with what is also unique, an activism of unusual nature - from giving the Freedom of Information law viability, as Gesell can be quoted on from both his opinion and Gardner's article, to becoming Ray's investigator after arranging for him to have counsel and then conducting the investigations for the habeas corpus petition, that succeeded, and the subsequent hearing that provided a basis for establishing the basic fact about the King assassination within the judicial frame-work, subject to cross examination and rebuttal, neither of which was even attempted for the evidence I produced.

I don't know about sending him samples but if you think this is a good idea I suggest the 1/22/64 transcript, with appropriate places marked, is one that is not too long. Perhaps the quotes indicated on the back cover of WW IV and a reference to all there is in PM, accompanied by an offer of more.

As you know another uniqueness is my approach, not chasing a whodunit but in addressing the functioning of the basic institutions in time of great crisis in terms of these great and dramatic events.

The great volume of important materials I have accumulated needs to be available and can be made more available if I have help. A young person or persons providing help can also be serving a kind of apprenticeship, learning the know-how represented by the unprecedented credentials the DJ and the courts have bestowed upon me. DJ has told two ~~men~~ federal courts that I know more about the JFK and MLK assassinations than anyone in the FBI. The federal court of appeals held that what I do serves the nation's interest, even mandated that I undertake new responsibilities not assumed by any federal investigation, in taking first-person testimony.

Help would enable me to be more productive in the years that remain for me. There are a number of works already researched. I need help in putting the materials I have forced out of official memory holes together in form that the country can use. I doubt that anyone has ever forced that memory hole to disgorge so many thousands of pages of formerly official secrets, secrets that say other than what officials said.



Whether or not the conditions under which I did this would mean anything to him, I did most of it by adding to my debt, a debt I was able to end only by liquidating my one asset, a small piece of property. During the years of my most active use of FOI my income was so small I qualified for and lived on food stamps. (We did, too, because I did the shopping and saw to it that we used none of our slight amount of cash.)

~~Value~~ Value lies in what the records and the work mean and can mean to the country and to any concept of freedom or decent government as well as in freedom from fear of any President in the future. Value lies in the unusual archive as well as the uses to which it can be put. Value also lies in what my continuing work can mean, especially in the present, if I am enabled to do more of it by having help.

The help is for such relatively simple things as filing for me, what I have not been able to file for several years as well as what I will yet obtain.

The help would enable me to complete more manuscripts. With Howard's help beginning in several months I can produce a work that has the potential of turning the King assassination around. On completing this I would want to present it to the Department of Justice or the President prior to publication - as soon as it is completed.

It will be a work the FBI will not be able to rebut - the reason it is resisting me so vigorously and is inventing so many devices to prevent me from putting all of this down so it can be understood and used by others. You might want to tick some of this off, like forcing me to become its consultant in defending one of my suits against it because I know more than it does about the King assassination.

The FBI's opposition to me and my work forced it to make an early Cointelpro target of me. Its disinformation extended to even the White House and an intrusion into the judicial system. I have forced it to give me its records on this, copies of its fabrications about me, even its connivings in secret to "stop" me and my writing. One of these schemes was to file a spurious libel suit against me and tie me up in court. But nobody had the backbone to stand on his own feet against me in open court. No agent would permit his work to be tested in court when I had the knowledge with which to test it.

Much of this knowledge will be lost when I am no longer able to work. Here I'd mention the state of my health despite which I am still able to work long hours and with a productiveness you as well as Jim and Howard can attest. With help I can still communicate much of this knowledge to others who may then be able to carry on as well as enable me to get more of it all put together now.

There is also the value of making all my many file cabinets of information more suitable for use by a proper arranging of it now for transfer and access to others. If there is help for this while I live I can assist and direct it.

I perform a unique function for the press, as from the Wash Post to Zodiac can be established if people like Lardner are willing to state it. Others at the NYTimes, too. I have been effective in deterring misinformation and disinformation about the assassinations and the FBI and CIA. With these two agencies I have about 50 FOIA requests still to be met and others to be filed to bring suppressed information to light. There are the cases in court, which Jim has endangered his career to fight for me. And what to date they have done, in what they have produced and in such observations as Gesell's, that without me the Act as we know it today would not exist. The latter also is promise of what aid to me can mean in the future.

There is the uniqueness of the official records I have created by the means with which I have fought these FOIA cases - establishing the fact relating to the crimes and the functioning and non-functioning of government.

I've got to get to work. These are a few suggestions off the top of the head. I'm carboning Jim and Howard in the event they have suggestions. I mentioned your call to Jim last night. Thanks and best wishes - and good luck in this!