

1/29/68

Dear Dick,

Yours letters of 1/24,25 arrived. Thanks for info on Farewell. Of those names, on the basis of what I now know, I think I am more interested in Philippe. In my own mind, without proof, I think I have a tentative identification. I suspect Gene is a brother.

On Jerry A. Herald, with the slowdown on me, I think you'd do best to write directly to the National Archives, Washington, D.C. Address Marion Johnson and do not use my name, which will only slow you down. Send him either a couple of dollars or ask him to let you know cost. They charge 20¢ per page. I do not know if there is anything. I have nothing.

On Dr. Lincoln, fine. But I am not giving them odds and ends from a book. I have had that book written for some months. The black attitude, aside from whitey, is sure, we know, so what. They have instant knowledge and understand and demand, as a right to breathe, that whatever it is they think they know and/or understand be believed and understood and accepted as beyond question. I've made numerous approaches, want help, and have given them up. Perhaps Lincoln is different. I hope so. If you are in touch with him, John Friedman, UN1-3575, NYC, has the ms and would be glad to let him read if it is not at a publisher's. I have it ready for the offset camera as soon as I can get it paid for, which, which is now improbable. However, once I clean up the immediate on the autopsy work, I want to make a few minor touches, bringing it up to date in some respects. There is no error - it is just that some of the things have come to pass. I have all the documents here. He can see them here, for I do not dare send. I do appreciate it. However, if he is able to get them to be reasonable, take an ordinarily sensible attitude, he'll surprise me. I think there is a much better chance he might do something personally because he is the kind of man you say. Sorry I've had no copy of the ms to send you.

Be careful who you send to Sprague. He is a fine guy, but his work is irresponsible and his attitude amounts to that, too. This is not his intent. By the time Huie saw him and Trent there was little chance of pooling forces. For example Sprague insists on acceptance of his "tramp-picture theory, whichever one at any moment is the one he is certain is correct. He has never done any checking. When I, to prevent a disaster, have some work down on this, taking time and spending money I cannot spare, and begin to get what may be fact, he begs me not to waste the time and gives me utterly irrelevant citations only one of which comes close and that, if accurate, destroys his entire contrivance. There seems to be no possibility of any meaning in any of those pictures. Yet he insists and persists, developing new theories, embellishing them, sharing with others their imaginings and enlarging on them (accepting each totally), all without any of the basic checking at any point. This has nothing to do with him as a person. He's a nice guy.

On COUP D'ETAT: it also has the Birmingham church story. The local NAACP turned on, but to no avail, so did people at Howard, but they got afraid and both have fallen silent. Approaches elsewhere are without response. However, I am certain that any black group arranging for the publication would more than get the not-great cost back from what they would make by selling to their own. They should have little difficulty showing a profit and fast. Trouble is they know, will not look and have attitudes that I just cannot comprehend. Neither King nor his wife ever responded to anything I wrote.

In time you'll know the story of the Clark Panel(s). I've got that written and must return to reading. Both panels lied and knew they were. They tried to skirt but could not. Both are ruined and they ruined govt with themselves. HW