

7/28/70

Gary (Dick),

The purpose of this letter is to pass along an opinion I got yesterday about the Characa suit, a copy of which Gary sent me and I read yesterday before lunch. I was impressed by it, with the tone and the nature of the allegations. I had earlier read one or more LA FP articles and had been less than satisfied after reading them, for some of those referred to as witnesses are known to me to be at best dubious and in one case thoroughly undependable.

Later yesterday I spoke by phone to a good friend who is a friend of the lawyer, Godfrey Isaacs. That he had taken the case also impressed me, for he had been ^{Art Kavin} Noguchi's lawyer. He had done well there and, I felt, knew the results of the autopsy perhaps as well as anyone besides Noguchi and his assistants.

My friend is with us on the assassinations, and I know he is one of those who was able to force the Noguchi case into a public hearing. In talking with him I mentioned having read the complaint and he cautioned me. The essence, and not for further discussion, which might lead to further dissention, is that Isaacs now has misgivings-in fact, doubts-about his own case. He is getting the idea that those involved are nuts. And checking some of the witnesses out makes him apprehensive about them.

According to my friend, only one of those he knows is dependable, and that is a reporter, not the KNXT man, who he does not know but has friends who do know him and are less than confident about his word.

I asked about the check of the existing pictures, whether or not they show the people in the positions in which the suit alleges. The answer is that they are not entirely clear on this point and by no means persuasive.

From my past experience with such outfits, I am willing to believe that the private dick is of the described beliefs and character, for these are the kind most often working in such jobs. But that also is not proof.

Especially do I not recommend discussing this with Fred, who will not welcome such opinions. My friend also knows him and I would rather not have more internal trouble and more nuts acting like nuts. So, this is for your information only and to caution you against getting involved in something that may be less solid than it appears to be.

On another subject, I have finally received the contract for COUP. It is so far from what we had agreed to verbally that I cannot sign it. I am awaiting a moment of peace and tranquility before reading it with more care and responding. As I told the decent and principled man who introduced me to these people and endorsed them personally, I have yet to meet the honest publisher...The Jerry incident looks more strange with each word. I wonder who and what are behind it. It makes no sense that a 16-year-old would steal membership files on his own, nor do I believe the FBI had him do it. Questioned on the value of what was stolen, Jerry said "\$1,000", which sounds like something he was primed with...With Stoner as his lawyer, it will take an overwhelming case to save him from 10 years...But the possibility remains that there are those, not excluding Jerry's present associates who have an interest in prejudicing his brother's case.

Sincerely,