

NEWADDRESS: Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701:::473-8186

12/26/67

Dear Steve,

Glad to get your letters of 12/19 and 21, the second arriving today.

Dave Lifton has done what he clearly intends as an attack on me to which my reply is enclosed for your files. If he hasn't given you a copy of what he did or you cannot get it, let me know and I'll take the time to photocopy it. I can make no sense out of this except as an act for Liebel. Obviously, I hope this is wrong. But to believe otherwise is to believe he is a fool or simply incompetent, and both, I think, are not the case.

Instinct tells me to shun Kroman, as it has from the first, and as I have. However, instincts, including mine, are wrong. There are a number of things that make me fear his genuineness and for his sanity. After all that both the alleged effort to kill him, he is left entirely alone? As a man in mortal fear he travels only by car. He has (from your memo) forgotten entirely about the Cuban stuff of which he first sounded off. And he knows on the basis of no evidence whatsoever that a) Oswald was a double agent and b) Garrison known the name of a man who has so told him. Also, he is too coy. Why does he fear giving Jim what he has? Do not allow my opinions, which are based on too little evidence, to influence you. But also reconsider the last sentence of your summary to JIM: "However, there is a question as to whether Kroman is completely sane". How sane is a man who is less than "completely sane", particularly when the doubt is in the mind of a layman. The only part of the addendum that might have significance could have come from a) the newspapers or b) anyone, like Steve, who has seen him.

I know nothing at all about Bradley or, at least, I recall nothing at all about him. I have not seen the LA Times story. Art did tell me (by phone) of Bradley's radical-right connections.

When you hear from Rault, I'd be interested in knowing what he says. It seems as though there is no more T&C.

In principle, I am all for Jim's being helped, including by money. I have just returned from my second trip there at my expense (save for the motel room). This means \$132.30 in plane fare and a considerable amount out of pocket, perhaps \$100.00 on both trips for cabs. However, I think it may well be desirable that we exercise more influence on how the money is spent. I'd like to talk to you and Maggie about this when I am out there. I am to be in SF 2/3 (As I have written you, it would be good if I can use this trip for other purposes, such as a UCLA Associated Students' speech, etc. I doubt the Pyne Show would repeat me this soon, but the reaction to it in the east is fantastic. Total strangers are coming up to me on the street, even when I'm dressed in denims (customary at-home garb), unshaven, etc. Of all the ~~the~~ people I've seen since my return from N.O., I think there is but one who did not comment on that show. I think it also reached an entirely new audience for us, to me a surprisingly large part of it not an "unthinking" audience! One of the purposes that I think we should consider using money for is to help at the trial. I have already mentioned to you the possibility of having Hal Verb, who is without funds, present to make his own knowledge available and to act as a liaison with what is available in SF. I shall try and get myself a press assignment. The chances are slim, but I have several things that are possible. There is little time to go into this now. Let us plan to

talk about it, at least you and ^{Maggie} Geife and I. I hope this time we'll be able to get together for a chat as we did not last time. By the way, I have interviewed Jones and, secretly, taped him. He says "almost positively" it was not Oswald who picked up the FPCC handbill. Maggie may want to add this to her ms. I can get her the exact words. I do not have the tape with me but am getting it back.

Your idea of an informal communications network is an excellent one. Let me add a few who are either on our side or who are really fair and will give both sides:

Jerry Williams, WBBM, Chicago (get in touch with his producer, Paul Fanning, who is a fine fellow-WB6-4000-lives at St. Clair Hotel, in station often 4 p.m. Chi time and always a few minutes before air time-can talk while Jerry is on air but must take occasional breaks for work, like commercials)

George Darby, KFH, Wichita, Kansas.

Bruce Dumont, the ABC A.M Show, Chicago (limited by TV and format). (WBKE)

Steve Fredericks, WMBX, Boston (use my name with him and all I give you).

Bob Ruark, WLCY, St. Petersburg, Florida (radio but feeds to TV)

At this point Art Kevin phoned with the report of Jim's press conference. I suggested he ask you to accompany him to Lake Isabella. It has interfered with my train of thought.

Jack McKinney, WCAU, Philadelphia (Linda Gallo, day producer).

Art Ford, WPIX, NYC (WPIX-FM).

Boss Yockey, WVUE-TV, New Orleans.

Garret Jones, Jr., WNOE, New Orleans (has a tape he made a my request on which Walthers admits Liebler did not ask him about the finding of a bullet).

Phil Donehue, WLWD-TV, Dayton, Ohio (TV format limits-producer, Mincer).

There are others I'll try and note as I think of them and tell you. Ford and Ruark are waiting for dubs of the Garrison SC Press speech (from N.O.) so they can use.

Yes, Ed Devenport, WWL Radio, New Orleans (Roosevelt Hotel-spends much of time in press room courts bldg., boss Fred Hammond).

Peter Kihss, NYTimes.

Steve Barber, Sunday Telegraph, 12th floor, Louis Heren, Times of London, both National Press Bldg., Wash., D.C. Also M. Anfrol, French Broadcasting System, Nat Press Bldg., Washington.

Consult Art on how much has chance of being used. I think the newsletter is a good idea, and it should be newsy, and infrequent special releases, when they are hot enough. Do not use these for insignificant news or soon no one will heed you. But if you give real news, of significance, you will earn respect and increasingly find yourself being used....If you get clippings and tapes, save them all. Unless there is a change, I have arranged for all of my work to wind up in a non-official archive at a major eastern university and I'd like to be able to include everyone's.

Increasingly, Lifton shows as Liebel's messenger, if not his running dog or native beater. It is improbable that Liebel asked that tape recorders be turned off. I know of no case where he did this. He is amply recorded. He cannot now claim a public speech was off the record. He knows I have been using this and he has been entirely silent about it. He has said nothing at all. He has sent no such message to me, and I am the one who should be addressed. Lifton has written me and he phoned last night when I wasn't home. No such message. The only reason for now wanting it not to be used is that it is entirely destructive of Liebel and the Commission. The trouble is that I understood what Liebel said whereas he didn't when he said it, for he did not realize the magnitude of his admission, thinking he was making a simple plea for sympathy for himself. That tape is one of the major developments. Do not let them stifle you about it. However, if they try, insist on a letter in writing from Liebel in which he states his reasons. Let him explain that he rewrote the Report when it was on the presses and this means nothing; that he read the whole stack of FBI reports on Ferrie and they mean nothing, even if they have the threat to kill the President: that Ferrie and Arcacha and Oswald and others, not the least of whom was Bainster, were all connected with each other and the CIA and that, too, means nothing. By all means ask for it in writing, from Liebel not his handmaiden, and with explicit explanation of his reason for trying to suppress his own public remarks. You'll not get it, but if you do, please send me a copy, immediately. If I did not send you my letter to him of 12/9, tell me and I will. He has not answered it.

The more I think of your press idea, the more I like it and think it is one of the best ways of helping Jim.

Spoke to Vince briefly Sunday. He says Sylvia and Thompson have paired, esp. on their radio appearances in New York.

There is a typo in your rubber stamp.

Best to all, esp. the Grossman's.

Sincerely,

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY
P. O. BOX 150-45 303 WESTWOOD PLAZA
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

Dear Harold,

I must apologise for not replying sooner. Final exams threw my whole schedule off.

I will work on a few shows for around 2/3. In particular, Tony Jackson said he would like to do an interview with you one week and Liebeler the next. Maybe.

I am now trying to set up an informal communications network so that we can get info out when AP kills it. Hal knows some good radio people in San Francisco and I know some in L.A. My press service will help also. From your experience, could you give me a list of those interviewers who are on our side and would help in this connection?


I've written to members of the CCI in 30 states to see what they can come up with. A monthly newsletter will take care of less urgent news while facilities for instant mimeo and mailing will take care of more urgent news. What do you think?

I've also asked these people to send us all non-wire service articles for our records. Some will tape local TV/radio shows.

Lifton reports that Liebeler now claims that he asked that all recorders be turned off on 5/2. That's a lie and I have five witnesses. I do not believe that it should be played on the air since we do not have a signed release from him.

That's about all for now. A good friend of mine may form a Los Angeles T&C to support Jim. I'll do all I can to help. I've already written Rault.

Best wishes,


Steven J. Burton,
National Chairman,
Citizens' Committee of Inquiry

December 20, 1967

TO: Jim Garrison
FROM: Steven J. Burton, Citizens' Committee of Inquiry
SUBJECT: David R. Kroman, Attorney (Minneapolis)

SUMMARY:

On December 5, 1967, I stepped into the office of the Los Angeles Free Press. I overheard a man tell the receptionist, "My name is Kroman". I immediately asked him if he was David Kroman of Minneapolis and he replied in the affirmative. I then introduced myself.

In the course of our discussions lasting over 3 hours, the following information was noted by me as elements in Kroman's theory of the assassination:

- It was originally planned that Kennedy be killed in Washington, D.C.
- H.L. Hunt was involved before the fact (Kroman interviewed Hunt on tape (1½ hours) in 1965)
- Cities involved include Dallas, New Orleans, Miami, Washington D.C., Kansas City, and Las Vegas. Also someone in Minnesota.
- Three men were positioned with guns on the grassy knoll (he claims to have interviewed one of those who are involved (on tape) to substantiate this.)

Of particular importance to him was whether Garrison knows of a witness who pegs Oswald as a Russian double agent. He flatly refuses to speak to Garrison unless he knows and names this witness.

Kroman stated that, as an attorney, he believes that he has enough evidence to convict several people if the witnesses cooperate. He claims to have the names of several gunmen, one of whom is known to be alive, though not in the U.S.

However, there is a question as to whether Kroman is completely sane.

KROMAN'S INVESTIGATION:

Kroman claims that the original plan was to kill Kennedy in Washington, D.C.

The people involved are all of right-wing persuasion, including extremely high government officials (He has no evidence implicating Johnson before the fact). Included are H.L. Hunt and some of ~~Kroman's~~ former enemies in the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party in Minnesota. He claims to have interviewed H.L. Hunt in 1965 on tape in this connection.

Kroman also claims to have interviewed William Whaley and Earlene Roberts before their deaths. He also says he has interviewed one of the planners of the assassination who told him that three men were behind the fence on the grassy knoll in approximate positions marked on attached photograph marked "A".

Cities involved in the assassination include Dallas, New Orleans, Miami, Washington, D.C., Kansas City, Las Vegas, and Minneapolis.

Kroman says that Oswald was undoubtedly working for the CIA although he also was a Russian double agent..

Kroman states that his investigation is near completion. His trip to Los Angeles dealt in some way with people in Long Beach. He does not know what he will do with his information when he completes his work. He is highly concerned for the safety of his wife and 16-year-old boy as well as his brother and his family. He realizes the importance of exposing the case but is fearful anyway. He believes there will be a nuclear war within 1½ years unless something is done. He questions that humanity may ~~be~~ worth saving even though it was pointed out that he cannot be the judge of that. When asked what he will do, I heard him reply at different times 1) name names on a radio show and immediately leave the country, 2) expose it from the safety of a foreign country, 3) give the information to Garrison if Garrison is on the right track.

He has arranged for the information to be released in the event he dies in any mysterious manner whatever. It is currently in safe deposit boxes. His wife and/or brother will call a press conference and a copy will be sent to Garrison.

RE: GARRISON

Kroman believes that Garrison is substantially correct. However he is hesitant about speaking with or giving information to Garrison. He said that if Garrison knows who a witness is who claims Oswald to have been a Russian double agent he may talk. However, he still appears hesitant because he has committed some

illegal acts in the course of his investigation.

Kroman considered it an affront when he was ignored by Garrison even after March 27 when the story on him was in all major newspapers. When I wrote to him last October, his reaction was, 'it is about time someone contacted me!'. His brother had the same reaction when Stephen Jaffe went to Minneapolis.

When asked if, as an attorney, he believed he had substantial evidence for convictions, he replied in the affirmative, assuming all witnesses would cooperate and testify.

When asked if Garrison would have any jurisdiction over those who could be convicted on the basis of his evidence, he replied that if Louisiana had a "All Service Process Act" he would. Also needed would be subpoena duces tecum.

Witnesses would have to come from Texas, Missouri (two, including a 'John Doe'), California (one, very important), Washington, D.C. (seven, very important, government officials), and Minnesota (one).

MISCELLANEOUS:

Kroman stated that he was wearing a disguise when I saw him. He was 5'8", about 170 lbs., slightly overweight, puffy face with smooth skin, sandy, graying hair. General appearance was similar to Mickey Rooney.

When I heard that he was wearing a disguise, I immediately noticed that he was wearing a hairpiece and is bald.

Also present during some of the talk with Kroman were Raymond Marcus and Art Kunkin (Editor, L.A. Free Press).

SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS:

As Ray Marcus said, Kroman can be a plant, insane and wrong, sane and right, or insane and right. The first would be eliminated by me on purely impressionist reasons. The latter three are all possible.

If I had no background in the Kennedy assassination, I would say that Kroman is paranoid and insane. However, much of what he says dovetails with the findings of other investigators so I would not reject him without further information.

*Note: Not once did Kroman explicitly state, "This is what my investigation has turned up." All information was learned from passing references, some more explicit than others. It could logically be assumed that Kroman has more than what is contained herein.

FOLLOW-UP:

Kroman will leave Los Angeles Dec. 7. He did not say where he is going immediately (he drives to all places he goes). He wants to go to Dallas once more, although he is afraid he won't leave Dallas if he does.

Kroman may be reached through his attorney at the following address:

Jerome Daly
28 East Minnesota Street
Savage, Minn. 55378
Phone: (612) 890-2274

His address in Cleveland, Ohio (residence) is:

David R. Kroman
2940 Pease Drive
Rocky River, Ohio
Phone: (216) 333-2833

I suggest that, if Garrison has a witness who says Oswald was a Russian double agent, contact be made. However, this man is under great emotional stress, with many alternatives and many decisions to consider and thus cannot be expected to respond immediately and graciously.

This memoranda prepared by


Steven J. Burton

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

(213) 766-1916
December 5, 1967

on KROMAN:

ADDENDA

After finishing the first six pages of this memoranda, which were written as soon as I could reach a typewriter, the following were recalled and should be added:

Kroman asked if a search of Shaw's residence was made and if anything was found that could be used to inflict pain on oneself. I replied in the affirmative to him and he noted that some of those in Minnesota were masochists and engaged in the infliction of pain by flagellation and other means.

He also mentioned that Shaw was not a homosexual, but a flagellationist. He has no evidence that Oswald was sexually deviant.

SB. 12/5/67

Kroman, in my opinion, did not display a thorough knowledge of Dealey Plaza. He was interested in positioning the #5 man in relation to the TSBD and it was difficult to communicate the position to him, even with the use of photographs and diagrams. His own sketch of the fence, pergola, and trees was somewhat inaccurate. He stated that when he was in Dallas in January, 1967, the parking lot behind the wooden fence extended over what was once the extension of the wooden fence behind the stone wall.

SB 12/6/67