

12/26/70
Dear Mary, I hope you are well and happy. I have been thinking about you a lot lately. I am sorry I can't be there more often. I will try to answer your letter of the 25th as soon as the chance is. I will have enough written for him to mail in DC on return, which may expedite. Perhaps I'll try to phone you tonight.

Thanks for the Nichols clip. It got radio attention in this area, but I saw no clipping. He and his approach and his arrogance and some trouble is deeply. His first version of this suit cost me the time it would take to write a book to try and save him before he abandoned that version for this one. In this case, he has not sent me his complaint and is not likely to, so I've not seen it. I should but can't take the time to try and get it. I can protect us against only so much, and we are now in an offensive, not defensive posture. And I will be in federal court vs DJ tomorrow. Most of this money we are here.

Now, the 7/4 weekend is impossible for them because else is coming for what is so important to me, it cannot be postponed. It is already too long delayed. It has to do with the possibilities of collecting such money overseas. You indicate no reason you can't make it this coming weekend, so I hope it is possible. Then you and Suk can come later. I think the change should be good for you and I think also you might draw some reassurances from that I can show you of what is not in my writing that you have.

Mine was not a "kind analysis" if you take it in a Pollyanna sense. I meant it. That is the unfortunate way things are, the unfair way they work.

With Jimmy, I regret having insufficient experience in such matters, but if he is with the staff again, I wonder if a different approach is not thereby indicated. Here Gary would know the main mind institutionalizing, where he cannot get it for a while. But I also wonder if there are not serious, perhaps overriding reasons against it. If you think this way, have any doubt, why not take it up with Gary? I would be inclined to think that is Jimmy really wants to kick it, this could help, but then, probably, only with great help after some treatment, to keep his will strong. It is possible to get him deeply involved in something that could have meaning to him. Not just girls, or gardening, but something with social significance, something that would make him understand that he is doing and can do things that have significance, that he is something, that he doesn't need this kind of escape? God, what was the size of his bail if just getting him out cost so much? Wonderful of Sue Buck is certainly right.

I've heard, but not enough, from Paul. He is very busy with what he did, his regular work and with catching up on both. You'll hear from him in time.

I presume you are getting the film from Lifton, who seems to have gotten it from or through Gary and, typically, is making money on it. I've not seen either since I got UPI to make them available to everyone through making them available to me at the Archives. On 2, I should have told you that the Archiver had to patch its own copy of a copy, the one they show, after it was damaged, from use. It just broke. I'd be interested in seeing your 2 notes, esp. if you can spare an extra copy for a young man in TV who is also studying it for me. The copies we have of the same source copy, I presume from Lamarre (and remind me to tell you this story, too), have needless splices in them in an earlier generation. I have studied the slides more closely, still believe they are the best way, after close examination in motion. I'll have a 16mm set of not the clearest slides soon.

I also have (but not here) a 16 mm positive and a 16mm negative. Neither is of real good quality. This same fellow wants to study H and M, and I've asked Gary about getting copies for him. He has seen good copies of parts of both (USIA film, seen in Europe) and has some ideas. Still another contact has seen an Italian version, supposedly of early generation, and it happens I have a contact who might be able to provide copies of these. I've directed him to that source. If I hear first reports that my best contact is no longer within reach, but there remains one at that place who knows me favorably and indicates a willingness to help. However, with formality rather than informality now the nature of the relationship, the other one are not so good.

I'm particularly interested in the earlier and later frames. In the LIFE copy provided Garrison, he easily spotted alterations. In fact, the first time I saw it I spotted color abnormalities indicative of copying from different generations. This has not been confirmed for the copies originating in California; presumably LIFE did this to key in the course of any leaked copies, and I at that time warned J. Edgar Hoover of this probability.

Mary, please try and keep this Jimmy thing in Aslania. I presume you said back about as I think it would, with deep, perhaps unrealized, suspicions that somehow you are responsible. I doubt this is even remotely the case, but even if it is, letting it control your lives and inter-relationships is the best way not to help him and to ruin everything else. Regardless of success, which is now irrelevant, it is factually tangible, and can be coped with, the variable being the degree of success. When you do all you can, and you certainly are not only trying, but seeking and asking and listening, there is no more you can do. Past the point of maximum effort and especially if saddled with guilt feelings, the results are negative, not positive. Also, other troubles of mine cannot but adversely affect him and what you can do for him, and there is nothing but more suffering in any deterioration of the relationship between others, as I do not have to tell you. It is, certainly, anything but easy to keep this from disturbing all emotions and actions, but how could one not be constantly aware of it, even if one desired to get it out of mind, but the rest of your lives should be as close as possible to what had been normal. I rather imagine that if Jimmy gets the idea he has hurt the pre-existing relationship, the problems for him will be even greater than it now must be. I hope I have not put this poorly, but I've been interrupted a number of times (a young man is visiting and working here, inferring my government correspondence and giving me things to copy for him and for the coding suite).

Work out the soonest possible. I think it will also be good for us to consider the troubles of others rather than our own, too numerous problems.

Sincerely,

I am sure you will be able to make it this coming weekend, but if you cannot, let's work out the soonest possible. I think it will also be good for us to consider the troubles of others rather than our own, too numerous problems.

Just in case I can come then, would July 2 (late p.m.) through July 5th be inconvenient?

June 19, 1970

Dear Harold:

Thank you so very much for the offer of the "air conditioned room"... I just believe I'll take you up on it in preference to the chicken coops which are fifteen miles away. However, it may very well be August before I get to make the trip.

I've had a particularly bad few days this week and your very kind analysis of the situation seemed to help me. I really don't deserve friends like you and Gary and this wonderful doctor Gary found for me... Actually, I had thought I could afford the luxury of a nervous breakdown and was somewhat enjoying it when the problems with Jimmy Lee flared up again in a big way and I had to "take second wind" and start all over. Yesterday was our 31st wedding anniversary and I think Buck and I were closer to divorce than we've ever been due to all the strain of the past few months (and the past few days in particular). However, the more irrational I get, the more calm he gets and everything is fine now... at least as far as our relationship goes.

Jimmy was arrested two nights ago with something on him, so there can be no doubt now as to whether or not he is "fooling" with it. We spent \$675.00 last night to get him out of jail and this is just the start... But, this morning Sue Fitch called me and said, "Mary Elizabeth, as well as I know you and as much as I love you, I hate to ask you such a personal question, but I must. Do you need money? I have some and you are welcome to it." I told her that I had been fortunate enough to have had enough to cover it. When I called Buck and told him what she had done, he said, "Well, that is the test of a true friend. You can have many friends until you start talking about money and then they start fading away." I'm sure he is absolutely right.

I am enclosing a piece from this morning's Dallas Morning News you may be interested in.

Have you received anything from Paul Hoch since he returned to California? I haven't heard a word from him and we are so anxious to hear about the things he learned on his last trip to the Archives.

I am supposed to have copies of the Nix and Muchmore films in the next few days. Do you have those yet? I have already paid for them but was told they would be several weeks arriving. The time is about up now. You do remember that I got my hands on the Archives copies of the Zapruder, Nix and Muchmore and actually counted the frames and examined each one of the Zapruder film? I made quite a few notes on this examination. Would you be interested in them? (I don't believe I am correct in what I just said... I made many notes on the slides but a few on the film)

Mary