

2/2/70

Dear Mary, Gary and Paul,

Relet 30, Penn will not send me his book, so I am glad you are getting it.

With Sue and Arch this is not the case, for I have no reason to mistrust either and formed a high opinion of Arch when I met him. With them it is merely that I think it would do more harm than good because they are and are entitled to have their own preconceptions and would find much of my belief uncongenial. The unfortunate thing is that in other cases, my mistrust has first been earned, there seems to be no end to it, and there is always the potential of interference with continuing work, as with something very current and very busy—and very important. I'd prefer that everyone be able to read my work and make suggestions while it is in rough draft, but this is not feasible. When I heard from Sylvia in 1965, I loaned her a copy of WHITEWASH. In 1966 I sent the ms of WALL to Calif, but got nothing but flattery. That is pleasant but not helpful. But please understand that this is not the question with Sue and Arch. You have read enough to understand why I feel they'd react as I anticipate, especially Sue on Panabax. By the way, Bud has agreed to copy the appendix and I'd soon have a copy of that to send, perhaps to Paul for further distribution to those who got the book(s). It will, tentatively, be unpagged. My wife is almost through the entire text carding for index, but this time of the year, the three months she has employment, she'll have little time for completion. And Gary did tell me how careful you are...

On the Russian, if you type it, I'd appreciate it if you'd make a carbon for Gary and one for Paul also. They have interests in what I am pursuing here. If it is not clear to you, I hope you'll be able to get here someday before too long and then you'll understand. With luck, I may be back at that writing before too long. This is not a rush job, though I am anxious to know what it says. These are my only copies of the articles, but Paul has a copy. My interest is in Davison, chiefly.

AG files: the microfilm is not complete. I am sending it to Paul when I get it back. Neither of you has responded to my question, should I send it to you for reading first or to him first? It was my intention for him to keep it. I have a printout. It is entirely incomplete, but it is what passes for the real thing at the Lib Congress. My inquiries of Carr were largely fruitless. He said only that he got duplicates of the report (of which I have no copy) to every Texas library, or probably university library. Most of it is nothingness, but there is some good material. I have sent Paul a list of the contents, except for one part, of course, that I haven't had time to go through. I intended sending you a copy and may have slipped up. If I did, he can xerox ones or then any of us. If I could get a list of what is missing, I met one influential member of that group I have a hunch might help me. It is only a hunch, but I'd try it. If I can ever get to Texas again, I am confident he will see me again and, when I show him what I can, may just turn on. I cannot now make copies of any part of the printout, but Bud will soon have one and he can afford it. I am lowest out of 3M paper and if I had the money to get a new box other things are, alas, more urgent at the moment.

On the Z film: despite what may seem to be the case from the restriction I sometimes place on things, the opposite is true and I tend to trust just about everybody. I gave my copy of Z (better than average) to a young man who called me up, came to see me, and has photographic facilities. He will make a dupe of the film for himself, with my okay (my print is better than average) and 35mm slides for me. This

means, assuming he is on the up and up, as I assume, that I will have a set of positive slides and the negative film from which they are made. In turn, that means the negative step can be eliminated in the future, and positives can be made from my negatives. Looking toward that day, I have asked Gary and Bernabei, both of whom have photo facilities available to them, if either can do this for the others. I've had no response from either. I assume both are quite busy. But, unless I am wrong, I think it would be a good idea to know who wants what before we start, for that would require less handling of the negative film and might reduce the cost of each print. If you three down there want a set each, for example, and Gary and Paul and Dick, then we'd know that initially there should be six sets of slides, unless the volume reduces the cost and someone might think it a good idea to have an extra set or so. There has hardly been time for my new friend to get this down, for he had to squeeze it in with his regular work, but soon I should be hearing, and it would be good to know who, if any, can take least costly care of getting dupes made for the others. If I have heard nothing from any of them or you by the time I get this back, I'll write Paul R and see if he is interested in having a set for himself. I presume also this would provide the means of getting a 35mm movie print without negative cost...On the subject of film, I've persuaded the SS to make the original LEO WDSU 8/16/63 footage available. It is much clearer than any other version I've seen, including, I believe, WDSU's file copy. At first I thought I saw a few frames in it that were not in the copy I have, but apparently I was wrong. This runs 41 seconds on the clock. No frame count yet. It does include frames printed for the FBI and not given the Commission. I have also given Ed Planer my word I will make no use of this film, and I, of course, will keep that word.

Our knowledge on O'Sullivan grows, but slowly, with the other things now of higher priority. If I could turn Jim on, we could make a big jump. I have just tried on someone else and will let you know if there is something significant and I get it. I have been promised that the transcripts are being copied for me. When I have them, I'll let everyone know what I have and if Paul is still willing, will send them to him for copying. No Shaneyfelt. No Regis Kennedy, no Cobb, so far as I now know. What there is I just do not know until I get it.

Morse ... is V and used to be testing signal when I was a ham (forgot code), was also used to keep circuit open (then). If you can get me a dub of that part of the tape only I can take care of the ham part locally and competently. But do restrict it to what you want interpreted. I have a friend who is both a real whiz and a fine engineer in that field.

Police work sounds interesting...Gotts get to other things. Any thanks,

Sincerely,

2/2/70

Dear Mary,

Your letter of the 30th arrived this morning, with much other mail and at a time when there are many balls in the air. I respond to one part in haste, to express my appreciation, and to explain something to you so you will understand.

I suppose that our circumstances are such today that any check, no matter how small and at whatever time, comes in time's nick. However, I have to go to Washington again tomorrow, having been there Friday and Saturday, and, although Lil had drawn her first pay, by the time she selected out the most pressing of the accumulated current bills to pay them, we were again cleaned out. So, you can see that it seems tiny to you, that ten bucks will take care of this week's transportation, for we both have dental appointments in DC Saturday, and the round trip is 100 miles. Downtown, parking is expensive. Tiny or not, it is now quite significant. Let me make a "deal" with you: if you'll stop apologizing for how small the sums you send me are, I'll not go out of my way each time to tell you just how really helpful it is. I assume you can do this without serious personal hurt, else I'd not accept it at all.

One other thing I tell you, to go no further. Paul and more, Gary, know. I blacked out completely a week ago, for no apparent reason. I don't mean fainting, with the slight advance warning one then has. I mean not knowing until afterward that something happened. The injuries sustained were negligible. But it is frightening. I regard the testing as inadequate and have asked for more. But I am trying to rest more, meaning more sick time. Apparently one of the tolls of the years has been anxiety, not discovered until late this summer, but it seems not to have had any real effect on my work.

To add to the tensions, last week I decided I had to make another effort to stop smoking. I was on cigars. I got cigarettes and yesterday smoked only six, which was tolerable. I found before that cold turkey makes me dizzy, makes it dangerous. The doctor told me not to try and stop now, but I've got some kind of sore on the tongue (I'll get it looked at tomorrow) and that is scary enough to provide the overdue impetus. But I do not think it will benefit my nerves immediately.

I'll go over your letter shortly and respond, I expect in time to mail when I pick Lil up tonight, but I did want to say thanks immediately and to include the Russian for translation in case I get jammed up.

Sincerely,

4406 Holland
Dallas, Texas 75219
January 30, 1970

Dear Harold, Gary & Paul:

Penn's book, Forgive My Grief III, is out. I have one copy. But, I have ordered ten copies and asked Penn to let me know if he had mailed copies to Harold, Gary, Paul, Jim Schmitt, Fred Newcomb, David Lifton, etc. I think he will be truthful about it and tell me if he has. I will send a copy to all those who haven't received a copy. It is a very small book, about 80 pages, and everything in it has appeared in the Mirror except about three pages. But, since we all collect every scrap of paper, I guess it is necessary that we all have copies.

Harold, I certainly understand your reticence to pass your work around. I have no argument with you about Sue (although she is one of the dearest persons I've ever known). I am inclined to think Arch is more balanced and would appreciate your work, but I am so close to him that perhaps I am prejudiced even about him. Of course, Sue would appreciate it, but you are right that she would misjudge it. However, you may rest assured that I will not let anyone see anything of yours. (I have to keep a list now--can't show Sue's work to Arch, can't show Arch's work to Sue, can't show David Lifton's work to anyone, can't show--etc.) As Gary will tell you, I have locked file cabinets... with one key, which is always with me.

I have been studying Russian for almost six years now, on my own, with records and about fifty textbooks. I shall certainly be happy to try to translate anything for you, Harold. But, let me warn you. I studied Spanish six years, in high school and in college. We went to Mexico in 1963 and my family really "made fun of me" because I couldn't ask what time it was... and if I had been able to get that out, I wouldn't have understood the answer. I can read and write Spanish fairly well, though.

You asked about our interest in the Texas Attorney General's file. We are very interested in it. Arch and I have been corresponding with the Texas Attorney General's office for some time now... and we have gotten some of the wackiest replies. I believe Arch sent some of the replies to Paul Hoch... I am not sure. But we do eventually want it all.

You also asked about the slides from the Z. film. Yes, we would be interested in those, too. We have absolutely no connection with photographic people, however. You asked if we would be interested in any particular portion of the film in blowups. If you will remember, Harold, I got my hands on the Archives copy and counted the frames. I established the fact that 313 was where 313 is on our copies and then I examined the portion around 208-212... the frames which are omitted from the volumes. Maybe my eyes were playing tricks on me but I would be interested in blowups of those frames.

I am very sorry but I don't have a "file" on O'Sullivan. Wish we did.

Our current project is with the Police Tapes. You know, I copied the actual tapes, right out of the police department. Together, Arch and I are about to transcribe every word... many of which do not appear on any of the transcriptions. Nothing really startling but little things. Probably the most interesting thing is that about 12:25 p.m., there is a lot of interference and, what I am almost certain is, Morse Code in the background. At 12:32 p.m., there is a very plain "three dots and a dash"... I am trying to locate a Ham Radio Operator to listen to it with us and see if they can decipher it. I believe that a Ham Radio was causing the garbling at the crucial time.

Arch has taken a city map and marked off each police district and numbered them, putting the officers' names in their districts. We are now following each officer on his "moves" that day... when each one was called outside his district, etc. Arch has numbered the transcriptions and has a card for each officer with each of his transcriptions on it. I am at the office and have to trust my memory but I believe 91 was the district where 1026 N. Beckley, Neches Street, Elsbeth, Neely, and Vaganov's home were located. Anyway, that officer (I think it is 91) has some interesting transcriptions on his "card." Tippitt, 78, was the only one who ever gave his location when he wasn't asked for it. We believe he had actually given the location earlier, when it appears he had been called but didn't answer, and it was moved over to the place where he was "ordered to be at large in Central Oak Cliff."

My "boss" just came in. I know everyone in the office "wonders about me"... I am the only one up here who stays "busier" before their boss gets in than they do afterwards...

Best regards,

P.S. Harold, here is a tiny little check. You may buy a book or bread and potatoes with it. Wish it were ten times as much.

Love,

Mary