

2/21/72

Dear Sergeant Spako,

I think you will remember our meeting before Thanksgiving at the suggestion of Harry Wheeler. This letter is prompted by the reading of an article in yesterday's Washington Post, written by two Newsweek reporters, saying that contrabandistas are now known to be bringing heroin into the United States from Latin America, especially from free ports.

This reminds me of something I learned from a source in one of the tougher parts of your waterfront in connection with an entirely different investigation for other writing. He then told me that a dubious (to him) character connected with anti-Castro activities was running contraband from Mobile in his own vessel. As I remember it, this captain may also have been an anti-Castro Cuban.

He did not say that the vessel brought anything back to the United States, certainly not narcotics, and I had no reason to ask him if it did. So, I have no knowledge that it did nor any reason to believe that it did. However, if this is the now-discovered pattern with aviation, as the newspaper story says, is it unreasonable to ask if it might not also be with ships?

There is a paragraph in this story that begins by saying "case after case unfolded in Texas, New Orleans, Miami and New York through the Late 60s", which coincides with my interviews, and concludes, "The Latin pattern had become undeniable - but far from clear."

If this can be of any interest to you, let me know and the next time it is possible I'll ask my source. He will not respond to letters and if you were to talk to him he would freeze. When the DA's office tried to talk to him directly and indirectly, he would say nothing, and when they persisted he stopped talking to me for a while. I saw him several times the week I saw you, and our relations are again friendly.

There has been a major development in the case that led to my looking you up. I do not know where, if anywhere, it can or will lead. But I remind you that if you come across anything that may be relevant of which you can tell me, I may then be in a position to develop this further.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

2/21/72

Mr. Steven Duke
Yale University Law School
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Mr. Duke,

I would have written you again before this were it not for the fact that shortly after our correspondence I left on a trip and suffered an inhibiting accident on my return. The subject of our correspondence is of more, not less interest, for I have since found other cases where Foreman managed to get his client, a hood, jailed when there seemed to be no need, and one in which he was imported into a major city to "defend" a man who could not afford him, where he couldn't begin to be as effective as the locally-available criminal lawyers, and the man got convicted.

If there is any more of your files that you can provide, they may well be of help in this case and they may provide leads that fit with what I have learned that may, in turn, permit me to help the police. One area in particular has to do with the French Canadian and others involved, the old car, etc., especially if you have pictures of these people and the car. The parallels are truly remarkable.

Since writing you, I have made contact with the proper authorities in New Orleans. You may remember there was a New Orleans aspect to the heroin smuggling in the case in which I am interested, and that smuggling was from Canada, something nobody in New Orleans would then have considered likely with the various kinds of traffic into that port. There has been a change in recent months, and they now believe there is a Canadian source. When I was there in November they were working on it.

Another possibility is that the New Orleans end was contrived to finger someone there should there have been a misadventure. This would seem to be not unlike what happened to Miller. The most likely candidate there has never dealt in hard stuff and engaged in a major internal fight early in his career to keep his organization in his territory out of it. Also not without interest to me, in their effort to build statistics, those in the Department of Justice you found unresponsive pressed charges against this man in an old case having nothing to do with criminal activity and got him convicted by what amounts to perjury. But they did nothing about his criminal activity, past or current.

A week ago today Ray made a stupid and unsuccessful effort to break jail, something he had convincingly promised me he would not try at least as long as legal remedy remained. Had he gotten one step further in this effort he had virtually no chance of living. The effort required help inside and outside the jail. And it followed immediately upon publication of a number of utter falsehoods about him in Esquire for March, the worst and most dangerous being that he was going to sing, if not to the highest bidder, then in court. The truth is that he consistently rejects offers to talk to anyone, and I have copies of written offers of up to \$5,000 an hour with promises to make no reference to the crime. So, if there is any further information you can provide, I sure would welcome it.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg