

Mrs. Mary Ferrell
4406 Holland Ave.,
Dallas, TX 75219

*not sent after Robohm's
phone trade*

4/12/93

Dear Mary,

Thinking during my early morning walking and then during the physical therapy about how to keep what I intend to tell the state's attorney this afternoon as succinct as possible I also thought of the information I've been able to get not all of which will then be relevant but does lead to some questions I take up with you. I ask that you and Peggy and Gary Mack, to whom I'll send copies, keep this confidential for now.

When Harry was first open with me about this crazy conspiracy kick on which he has launched himself he was quite explicit in saying, repeatedly, that he was working with the FBI and that it was working with him. I know that ~~Harry lies~~ ^{Harry lies} that he is sick in the head, that he imagines much, including what is not that he wants to be. Although I indicated to him that I do not believe it but if it is true he is being ^{used} in an effort to damage us all, he denied the latter and insisted upon the former. He has boasted ^{of his deal} ~~this way~~ to others.

As I thought back over the records I have, including letters he wrote, I realized that careful and dubious as we should be with any about anything he says, he has given enough if slight detail to prompt at least caution and perhaps FOIA inquiry.

After Detective Adams phoned Farris Rookstool at my suggestion, Farris phoned me. He said that Harry was only a nuisance to him, that he has no arrangement with him or any kind and that the office does not, and he described the volume of what Harry has given him. I have not heard from Farris since I sent him one of Harry's letters saying that they have some kind of cooperative arrangement. I sent it some time ago.

Whether or not it is true, I have a letter Harry wrote in which he reported ^{just} spending about two hours with I think Rookstool but definitely with the Dallas FBI office and that he left with what he described as valuable information. There are several such references in what he wrote and that I have copies of.

So, I wondered this morning, suppose, unusual as it is, it is true and that the FBI has for some reason decided that something of the nature Harry refers to can serve its interests? It can and usually does arrange for deniability ~~but~~ often when it has made ~~vehement~~ ^{vehement} denials I have the proof that those denials are blatant lies.

I do not know Rookstool as you do. I know him only from phone calls and a couple of letters. I have not even asked him the nature of his job. He can be a clerk as well as an SA for all I know. But from time to time I've wondered how the FBI feels about his contact, even if private, with critics, particularly friendly contacts. That is entirely different than the great volume of records I have indicates FBI policy is. Even retired SAs check with HQ before contact with any of us or the media or the Congress and report back to it. I do believe as I told Harry that nobody working for the FBI would have any contact with any of us without official approval and that the most likely reason, if approved, would be to learn what can be used against us.

Getting back to the supposition, that even if exaggerated Harry was essentially truthful, should we do anything or should we think of what we might ~~do~~ at some point want to do?

I think that if we can get a Dallas lawyer to represent us if that becomes necessary we should consider filing a joint FOIPA request the nature and focus of which we can discuss later. I am just raising the question so we can all think about it and perhaps discuss it.

I do know that the Dallas FBI has records on critics from its own records. I have reason to believe that it has records on me it did not disclose in response to my request of all field offices for their records on or about me. There is wide noncompliance. I also know where Dallas and other offices hide some of their records they want not to disclose. Some of those, I believe, it would not destroy. It could and it has ~~lie~~ about having them. What I believe it would not destroy is what the FBI believes it might at some point need or ~~want~~ want. On the three of us and probably also on Gary Shaw it should have records for which it could anticipate future need.

The request would be directed at any help, directly or indirectly, to Harry. But this would require that we each file privacy waivers in favor of the others who may make the request. It should also include a request for copies of ~~anything~~ given to Harry, directly or indirectly and any records relating to any cooperation with him or requests for cooperation from him or anything given to it by him. Perhaps also for copies of any ~~of~~ specific or what was interpreted as standing authorization for such cooperation.

I am now doing no more than raising this question. We do have to believe unless we know otherwise that Harry is going to charge all of us as conspirators and given the profitability of these trashy books in general and of High Trash 2 in particular we also should believe that the promise of profitability will encourage Carroll & Graf, perhaps Graf in particular, to publish the book anyway. (Reportedly royalties at last accounting of about \$280,000 to HL.)

Until we know that the book is going ahead toward publication I would not be for doing anything. He is due to turn the manuscript in this week and publication is scheduled for October. I believe the request should be filed in and processed in Dallas although to be able to stall it could send any records to FBIHQ, where it could get lost in the backlog. There is nothing to keep Dallas from processing them and nothing of which I know to require it to send records to FBIHQ for processing. Our first need for a lawyer would be to enjoin the office from any referrals or other dispositions of its records.

I also believe that any discussion of this should be with due regard for the possibility of eavesdropping. Harry has written that his people have planted bugs and that he has a "phone man" and he ^certainly has had accurate information none of us gave him, about him and even the Baltimore police supposed internal investigation.

So, in no rush, I'd like to hear from you on whether at some point you might be for some such effort. Best ~~is~~ to all,

Harold