

11/5/71

Dear Larry,

I've gone over the clips and I'll discuss them with Jim not later than Monday, when I expect to see him and Bud. I've finished my statement to the Sen. Jud. Com. on Powell and think it would make a fair story that everybody will chicken on. I'll be taking that to him and Bud, too.

I see nothing suspicious in Sullivan. However, if he will speak to you, he should know whether or not there is the relationship that could be so interesting. That can also be checked readily through the city directory, going back to the date of the crime or earlier and seeing when one separates out. Remember, the mother remarried. But the address as of the date of the crime is known and makes a beginning point. Court records, depending on what are kept and how, might also indicate because of Dan's involvement. He might have been subpoenaed, for example. Or, maybe this little thing led to the beginning of his famous career?

I knew about the Stanler case, but not his role. I knew about Jenner who, I think, is a bit senile now.

UPI cribbed your Foreman story and used it with a Houston dateline. I have copies from southern papers, short ones. That may be how Mutual got and used it.

If you haven't sent a copy to JER as I asked, I'm writing him and I will. If you have, he'll have two.

Any contact with Bud or me could lead to unofficial official interest in you. Welcome to the club.

Returning to the client, didn't you notice that in all those reports I gave you his name was never once mentioned? You should be able to read that loud and clear. Aside from that of the principal, his is the one that should have figured most prominently, he is the one who above all should have been interviewed. Think he wasn't, man?

He belongs to the no-spik dept.

By the way, sometime when you have a free couple of minutes, assuming there is such a time, if you have reporter friends in other cities, men you are certain you can trust, can you make a list for when we are together again? There is always something to be done everywhere at some time or another. Right now I could use someone more dependable than I have in Hartford, Conn., for a very simple thing.

You didn't say which of the things you were to see the editor about 11/4. but when this is 11/5 and no phone, I assume the results were not too exciting. I think it is still a bit premature to rush on what seems to be panning out about our baggy-pantsed friend, but when the time comes.....There is much more in hand.

If in a city the size of Chicago there is an unusual name and fewer than four dozen people with it, it would seem to be a fairly safe assumption that the relationship of all may be pretty close, and the possibility that the odd name is a contraction or an Anglicizing. It is also not unlikely that first names would repeat, but it is not too likely that cousins of about the same age would have the same one. Makes for too much confusion in a small family.

I'm into so much I don't try and keep any but the most current stuff in kind, so it is possible that if we refer to the other criminal cases, I may by then have forgotten the names. To be able to cope with this I have them as I received them and can check. I'm been in a confused situation since before you were here, it worked out badly, and as soon as I can settle down I've got to get back to some serious editing. That I felt I couldn't this evening is why I took time to go over the clips and write. I've got them put aside for Jim, if you didn't send him any. And I've set up a date to discuss with him and Bud that to which I drew your attention in the earlier letter. ~~OK~~ To unpin a phrase, you don't know a joke when you hear one, son. Or are you too young to remember that radio tag line?

Many thanks. Oh, yes, you should know the new top man at WBBM radio is Mr. Timidity in person, so be roundabout if you are not dealing with a close friend. I know his rep from SF and I've had some comment since he moved to Chicago, dependable source. Don't be afraid of the man I referred you to. He is a great guy personally. If you feel you want to cue him in, he might be able to watch out for what you might not see. I think it would be good if we could locate some dependable wire service desk men in a couple of regional offices, of which Chi is but one. Best,

Nov. 3, 1971

Dear Harold,

We may have hit a bit of paydirt. Enclosed Xerox shows that John Groth did have a brother Dan. I still have not confirmed it is the same Dan Groth. There are about 45 Groth's in Chicago phone book.

Sgt. Dan Groth's attorney now is Thomas P. Sullivan, who is a member of Jenner's law firm. Sullivan has a good reputation, but his background of cases jumps from civil liberties type stuff to defending state legislature fixers.

In 1965, he represented the Chicago Currency Exchange Assn. which was under investigation for allegedly bribing state legislators. There is a tape recording which supposedly contains discussion by lobbyists about the bribery. It was a very famous case here.

It was killed by a Springfield Judge Creel Douglas, who is now under investigation by the Feds. for possible conflict of interest. Douglas issued a court order stopping the investigation by the state legislature. Douglas is now living in Mexico and has left behind very heavy debts.

Also I'm sending what I have left of my notes from Foreman interview. I'm working on the WBBM thing. The quotes are a bit rough and there's a little left out here and there. He mumbled a good bit and sounded very tired.

Back to the John Groth case. The state's atty's chief investigator was Dan Gilbert, now dead. He was once called Chicago's Richest Cop. He ran for sheriff but was smashed when it was revealed that he was a big time gambler. Big time gambling in Chicago means Syndicate.

I think someone is getting interested in our correspondence, or at least mine. Saturday I received a piece of mail here at the office which was addressed to my home address. It was clearly labeled with home address. I think it's a travesty when my taxes pay for Post Office inspectors and they can't even get the piles straight after looking at them.

Still no response from your friend Russ. I hope I didn't offend him with my letter. Jim did sent Bluebonnet/Singleton stuff. I am saying there may be a radio/Tv operation here, sort of. I have a meeting with the editor tomorrow. I don't see why the feds can't do their own research, use the public library, or at least the Chicago Tribune, if it's true.

Regards,

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11/5/71

Dear Larry,

Wanna feel real paranoid? Your mailing of the 3rd was unsealed when it got here and the metal clips weren't even bent down. I pay little attention to such things, or to what happened to that letter your referred to. I assume them. To let it influence you is to engage in intellectual self-castration.

I've just had an enormous amount of time wasted for me by someone else and + have to rush with too many things to catch up with what fell by the wayside. I've read your letter and your notes. I suggest you read the very last of your notes in the context I have been suggesting to you. I think you missed something.

Seems like the hunch we seem to have had almost simultaneously but separately may be a good one. If you have to go far back, try the old city directories.

Foreman gave you a bunch of shit except for a couple of little slips, one, if I interpret it correctly, being that he listened to the feds, got what he knew from them. Believe me, he made no investigation. This was a case he couldn't have lost if he'd made the most rudimentary one. I can acquit Ray a dozen ways besides what is in the book.

After I have a chance to read the clips with care, I'll respond further. This is to let you know the stuff came and to suggest you study your own notes. There is one little thing in there that convinces me my analysis is correct, as the accumulating evidence also does. If I had time and money I could do much more with this. Thanks much for keeping after it.

I'm not passing your note on. I'll discuss this with Jim privately. If I haven't already indicated it enough, I'll make it explicit: he's the only one there with his feet on the ground and any possibility of latching the yap. If you could see and hear some of the stuff that come and has always come out of there, you'd climb the wall. I just have to practise the code of the spooks, need to know, otherwise everything would be blown prematurely, and some of what has been is enough to give ulcers. From Jim I have no such secrets. He is great. But he is new and has an inadequate factual backing. His beliefs are solid, his understanding superior, he works responsibly and hard - and I also like him. I like others I don't trust because they go off out loud and half-cocked.

Again, many thanks. I'll write again as soon as I can go over the stuff. In the end, Russ will write you. He is only partly re-attached again.

Best,