

To Jim Mesar and Dan Alcorn: Garrison's book

1/23/89

As I told Jim today, I want no mention made of what I wrote Dave Wrone about Jim's new book. Copies enclosed. I want no hassles, I'm not up to them now, and if you make any reference ~~of~~ ^{to} what I've done it will, inevitably, get around and there will be hassles.

Jim says Dan will be interested. After we spoke, that reminded me of something I think that, if done properly, would not lead to your discussing with Bud what I now report, from recollection. If Jim were to tell Bud what will in a moment be true, that I told him that Bud was in New Orleans for part of the time I was working on preventing the anniversary observation disaster Jim and Boxley had cooked up, Bud may have some independent recollection of some of it.

I'm sure that I got Salandria to go down there with me, on the theory that it takes a nut to reach a nut. I think I also asked Bud, just for support in any argument I might face with Garrison. I am pretty sure that for at least some of the time Bud was there and I'm pretty sure that when he saw how I was working he bought me a bottle of Scotch. I'm reasonable confident that he and I went walking through the French Quarter the night I finished it and he picked out what turned out to be a good French restaurant on the second floor of a street at right angles to the river, where we had a good meal and I was able to relax and recover a bit. Because of the pressure of time and the potential of the utter insanity I felt I was under considerable pressure. I do not think that Bud was with Salandria and me when Sciambra took us to his home the next day for an Italian meal that was as good as he'd boasted it would be.

I've looked in my office Garrison file and my copies of what I did are not there. They can be filed elsewhere. It was a long thing I did off the top of the head, without being able to plan it out in advance. As I came to a need I'd ask Ivan or Sciambra to get it for me, such things as the details of the N.O. apartment house where the alleged plotting went on, the log book at the morgue, handwritten, in a bound notebook. State police reports.

It may be that Bud was with me when I gave Sciambra what I'd done because it was right after that that, as I now recall, we went to the Quarter. It was Saturday night that I gave that stuff to Sciambra. Bud may have been at Garrison's office then. I don't know if he also stayed with the Herrons, as Vince and I did. I had the souped-up Chevy II that had been taken from a gangster and Ivan always loaned me. (Nobody else would drive it and Salandria once told me that I should get the Congressional Medal of Honor for being able even to start the damned thing when it was damp. *A dangerous car!!!*)

If Dan is really interested in all of that, why doesn't he come up some Sunday, or any time he can, with you if you can, and we talk about it and record it as an oral history.

I checked under Boxley and found the files in the basement. Not as thick as I'd ~~remembered~~. *remembered.*

Harris