

5/31/72

Dear Gordon,

Having immediately sold a piece to one of the journals of lesser repute on the Bremer att mpt against Wallace, in equal haste I sent them the enclosed. It is, for their sensation-minded audience, a bit toosophisticated. (I simplified it by omitting the more arcane, I thought.) I send it on the chance you can place it without much effort, on the chance it may entertain you if you think it not worth the effort, and on the chance you see a novel/play/movie in the general idea. Through an editor at Bantam, who did see the possibilities, I had expected a collaborator, but he changed his mind. I feel I can't afford to take the time from what assures my bankruptcy for doing it.

I will also be doing a bit on what should have made a sensation and has been almost totally suppressed, the double-crossing of the federal government by the former friend of Jim Garrison's it intimidated into double-crossing him. If I get started on it before I mail this, I'll include a carbon of what I have done by then. It is so far out it can't be credited but is, I am confident, entirely factual, and my own notes of the time the charges were filed against Garrison constitute a kind of validation. I am, remember, one who considers he has the devil's love of scripture, and that was, to me, scripture.

If I do not get started now, when I do I'll send you an extra carbon of what I do. With the enclosed and with that there will be no need to bother returning.

I have known the character used by the government since 4/18/67, when Garrison had him size me up. What he then began telling me would make a TV series. When I proposed it he demurred, saying it would get him killed. He may change his mind now. The idea is mine and when I can I'll broach it to Sidney. Too broke to phone him. The essence is a kind of All In The Family cops series, of the anti-cap image, the crook who is so honest he is no longer a crook but an honest man.

I call Pershing Gervais a character not in the sense of a moral judgement. He has been my friend, done me minor favors when he could, and entertained me and provided me with some great story material. Some so hot I can never use it because it is true. I have the records, an arrest of a member of what in another country would be called a royal family. Under circumstances suggesting homosexual misadventure. But I'd not use such stuff anyway. I have drunk with him with judges, lawyers, race-track types, bail-bondsmen, detectives, football heros of the past, and probable unrecognized syndicate figures. And thus heard much. He is a man of such enormous gall and cunning that I think the combined FBI, Department of Justice and Internal Revenue Service failed to fathom him or understand his capabilities. He has, I am confident, not only ruined their case against Garrison (which was transparently entrapment and almost as clearly contrived and without merit), but has probably blown the chance they had had they not been crooked of jailing syndicate figures and on-the-make cops, one of whom I suspected for different reasons that turned out to be valid. He may thus have written excellent life insurance, except against federal retaliation, not impossible.

This is one of the real things he really did as a young cop. Knowing the time of delivery and means of distribution of graft in his part of the police department, he twice arranged to get to the captain's desk when the boodle was untended and both time hieisted it. They knew he did it but could do nothing short of the physical because they could not charge him with stealing graft without admitting they took graft. After ~~ix~~ he left the police department, he told the story freely. He told me "Give me 24 hours and I'll fix any case you want the way you want it. Chage your mind, and I'll need another 24 hours to fix it the other way. With affidavits." He could, too. And make it stick. Probably did more than once.

Hope you are well, prospering and happy,

Sincerely,