

Dear Harold,

Jan. 23, 1990

I was very glad to hear that your operation was a success and that your recovery so far has been good as well. It probably has a lot to do with exercise routine you have established over the past several years. That was something I recall my father was never able to do despite the fact that he had health problems similar to yours and the doctors kept urging him to get more exercise.

Since the beginning of January I have managed to do a fair amount of reading. I got back to Frame-Up and finished it. Ray's initial legal representation was truly bizarre. After Percy "Fourflusher" got through with him I found it incredible, and sad at the same time, that J.B. Stoner was allowed to mess things up the way he did. In the course I teach on criminology we devote some time to the legal system and plea-bargaining. In the future I believe I may use this as an illustration of the dangers of plea-bargaining.

Toward the end of the book, I was intrigued by your story of how you tried to confront the Justice Dept. and Attorney General Mitchell regarding your requests for a copy of the extradition proceedings of Ray in England. It certainly reveals how all the high-minded rhetoric about the Freedom of Information means nothing in practice. These days news commentators always seem quick to praise the existence of freedom of information without acknowledging stories such as yours. Along these lines, I am curious to see what happens in the Noriega case -- I do hope he has a real trial and everything comes out, but that may just be wishful thinking on my part.

Just a week ago I received another invitation to speak on the JFK assassination. The person who invited me said that he was intrigued by the letter to the editor I wrote back in November in which I challenged another former FBI specialist to take a hard look at his own FBI rather than criticize writers like Lifton. I will let you know how it goes.

With this month off from teaching I have at long last sat down and begun to do some research and writing on JFK. I did a fairly thorough check on professional journals in sociology and criminology and found not a single full-length article which deals with the assassination. (over the past 26 years!) One I found in a psychology journal was almost laughable -- it talked about people's willingness to believe in conspiracy theories in complete ignorance of the facts. What I plan to do, as I know Dave has done in history, is to suggest sociologists and criminologists take a hard look at this, at how it reveals the failure of institutions. Sociologists are supposed to be sensitive to what really goes on in society, not just what the politicians or the media says goes on.

Finally, I have begun to read Garrow's book on the FBI and Martin Luther King. When I finish with that I have O'Reilly's Racial Matters sitting on my desk. As I told Jerry McKnight in a recent letter, I still plan to obtain those files on the Invaders and Sanitation Workers, but there is no hurry. Spring break in early April or late May might be times in which this could be done.

Best Wishes,

Dr. Gerald Ginocheno  
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Dear Gerry,

Reur 23: there is much more on Foreman and the plea-bargaining in the evidentiary-hearing of which Jim Lesar and I have transcripts. Not that you'll need it, but in case there is some later interest.

Likewise, in the transcripts of my FOIA litigation is there ever so much more on the official attitude toward FOIA. Dave said that in them I wrote history. He has copies of most, Lesar and I have all, and in time the official copies will find a memory hole.

I'm sure the government will try to suppress all the past from the Noriega trial, and I'm sure his lawyers will do their best to bring it out. It will be interesting. In time DJ may decide to drop some charges if that can avoid disclosures.

Good luck on your coming speech!

That the sociologists and criminalists failed means no more than along with all our other institutions, all failed us then and since. I fear the volume may frustrate its use but I've saved all the thousands of letters I've gotten for sociologists. In today's mail a reflection of the nuttiness. I'll enclose copies. There has been a fair amount of this but it is the inevitable consequence of the failure of our institutions.

Also the shrinks. The Commission gathered a panel, gave them what it wanted them to consider, and they came up with an Oswald-guilt thing that defames their calling, it was that dubious a job. This exists in an executive session transcript I have.

I've not read Racial Matters but Jerry thought it a fine job.

My time is fine on copying the files you mention.

Jerry is plugging away at the Pocam records. If you do not know, that is the FBI's contraction for the Poor Peoples' Campaign.

Don't recall whether I sent you a copy of what I did after reading Abernathy's Memphis chapter and then the one on King and the one on Pocam but Abernathy is not dependable and is often wrong about matters in which he was personally involved.

I'm surprised that in their criticisms of him others of King's associates who were there did not comment on his factual errors. Even the day King was killed.

Best to you all,

*Gerald*