

2/26/90

Dear Gerry,

I'm glad your Rotary speech went so well and that it may lead to a more significant appearance before a larger audience. I have never found any civic group that was not receptive and it has been many years since even a single doubter or skeptic said a word to me at any of them.

In part I'm reminiscing from time to time to make a record, as with the letter to Gary that I'm glad you found of interest. Wisconsin talked about oral histories, as did Hood's president, but the faculty never has time.

Gary and Salandra were friends. Gary comes from Wila., where his father, I believe, is or was a school teacher.

I never know in sending copies, not only to you but to a few others, whether you are or can be interested but making the copies is no problem and you can always ignore what is not of interest.

You refer to the fact that you gather from the book Racial Matters that nobody in the government ever stood up to Hoover and the FBI. As I think of this I can't remember a single instance, save for Sullivan's stealing of the Kissinger tapes and giving them to the Nixon White House. Which was not really standing up to Hoover anyway.

The reaction against him was incredible when the then general counsel of the Defense Department made some understated criticism of the report LBJ ordered that became CDI. Maybe I'll remember his name. How anyone with any sense at all could read that garbage and not vomit I don't see yet but they all feared Hoover and the FBI.

I often wonder if I've had so much trouble with them because I've not feared them and have fought back.

They seem not to be able to take that, regardless of who is director.

Jerry is working away at his Poor Peoples Campaign records and is finding their content useful.

Best to you all,

Harold

McNaughton.

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Dear Harold,

Feb. 22, 1990

Thanks so much for the recent letters, especially the one which contained a letter to Gary in which you described your efforts along with Vince Salandria to try to keep Garrison from derailing. I recall that you went into that story when I first came up to see you but my notes were sketchy and this letter helped to make sense of them. Also, I especially enjoyed the Haynes Johnson column on Nelson Mandela. It is uplifting to know there are still people like Mandela around given all the Bushes, Quayles, Norths, etc. etc. that seem to monopolize the air waves. Thanks also for Jerry's article "What If JFK Had Lived?".

I thought you might be interested to know that my Rotary Club speech, despite some personal misgivings, was very well received according to the president of the club who wrote me last week. The president is also a history professor at a small college like Wofford and he asked if he could submit my name as possible convocation speaker at his college next fall. I will let you know if anything comes of this.

I have continued reading Racial Matters and find it good. In addition to the FBI spying and dirty tricks, I find it just as amazing that it seemed no one in government stood up and told Hoover what the FBI was doing was wrong, especially when Hoover circulated some of the dirt on various civil rights leaders they were illegally gathering. My colleague in the history department here seems to be getting more interested the more I tell him about what I have been reading.

I will be in touch. Take care.

Yours,



Dear Gerry,

2/26/90

I was a bit hasty earlier today and did not perceive your interest in efforts to keep Garrison from de-railing, as you put it. Except for this one time, when I used him simply because of his hold on Garrison, he was part of the derailing machine. Crazy theorizing that Garrison loved and listened to. As I recall, rather Trotskyite.

He was hogging forth on some of that nuttiness, with a pie chart, as I recall, on the almost government-wide conspiracy he saw, when Boxley's call came from Texas. We were at the NOAC. I guess you don't know those initials. New Orleans Athletic Club. He had the insane notion that it ~~was~~ would be harder to tap his calls there. Easier.

I annotated his last book for Dave, on the book itself. I don't recall whether I did a memo or not. If I did you are welcome to a copy.

It is difficult to convey the completeness of the dishonesty of that book, it is that dishonest. What I was involved in would be entirely unrecognizable if I had not been involved. The Boxley matter is but one of many such incidents.

Another is where he pontificates about how careful he was with his funds, where he says he sent Boxley packing back to New Orleans. Quite the opposite, and I'm sure that at some point I have something on paper about the reality, he took Boxley to Los Angeles with him, where they were both clowns.

That was from Albuquerque, as I recall, where he spoke to the college.

In retrospect, Sylvia Meagher's instinctive reaction was correct. She described him as an ~~syn~~ stand-er.

The New York Times reported that when the Shaw trial opened I was sitting at the counsel table. I wasn't. I was never in the courtroom during the trial. I had agreed to be what he called his "Dealey Plaza expert" but when the Sunday before they started to empanel the jury I learned what his alleged case was, I told them they'd lose, that they deserved to lose, and that if they proceeded along that line I'd be on the mddday plane back Thursday. *I was*

among those who I recall not believing me and kidding me was Bud Fensterwald.

If you have further interests along these lines, perhaps when you are here we can tape an interview.

After I finished Oswald in New Orleans, which was before I testified to the grand jury, I think toward the end of May, maybe June, I wrote the new last chapter in which I was so very wrong!!! when I was in New Orleans my interest was Oswald.

Plus a strange young woman, then 20 or 24, who was a narcfink and became an informer for me. I still don't know whether she served another interest. But she did know some of the Commission's kid witnesses, and I developed quite a story on one, Philip Geraci III.

For about two weeks I was the guest of a woman of the far right whose son had been allowed to escape from an asylum to kill Garrison and instead broke her arm. That was the middle of 1968, and I interviewed him in the tougher hospital in which he was then confined. That woman also knew him and his house, although the mother did not remember her. The tapes are fascinating. I'll transcribed some.

Marge Kirkpatrick had what had been a fine house in the Garden District and it had a separate slave quarters she'd rebuilt into a nice small home. I had it free, the best accommodations I ever had in N.O. Until she invited me I was the guest of a professor I knew was an FBI informer. He drove me to her place because my luggage would not fit in the sports Fiat I had been loaned by a dealer who knew I'd befriended his former sales manager, who'd grown up with Castro and had been a Bay of Pigs prisoner. Douglas Kethbridge.

Much of it was like a novel. All I add for the rest of the page is that Oswald was much more active than the official records reflect. Best,

Harold