

Dear Gerry,

12/18/91

It is particularly tragic that your mother-in-law died when after so much stress and suffering for the family it had finally been reunited.

That is quite a story, new to me, about the monk peace advocate who wound up unwanted by both sides. He certainly would have been a more appropriate Nobel laureate than any Kissinger type! I'd not know that King nominated him or anyone else.

David Gallen is a friend, his father a dear friend for several decades. When as often did I stayed with them in New York I told real-life farm stories to David and his brother, then about five and six. I'm glad David remembered because if I remember correctly, I asked that he send you a copy before it was finished. He is to deposit the raw materials at Hood. I hope you and perhaps your student find the book useful.

I agree with what you say about the changes in Malcolm X and that he and King were edging toward each other. It may amuse you to know that when I was given an award for Frame-Up by Leo Kennedy, the militant and brilliant black lawyer, on behalf of a group whose name I've forgotten, and I said that Malcolm was killed when he had begun to make the changes that could expand the areas of his appeal, like no longer being a sexist, her reaction was rather strong and indignant.

It is I, not the CIA or the "Establishment" as Stone alleges in a successful campaign to make himself out to be the victim of powerful, regressive forces, who started the exposure of the rotten thing he has done in his movie. Responding, which may in all instances be no more than making a record for history, has taken much time. For this alone it is worth the considerable time it has taken. Dave is particularly pleased and proud. I have now accumulated a file at least 8" thick! Make a good study for a student, I think, too. And although with Warner's wealth and influence (corporate partner of Time-LIFE) I expect reviews that range from ambiguous to favorable the end if not here, the moving finger still writes. I think that at the least what we have done is make other wealthy and powerful outfits balance this kind of exposure and embarrassment against greed and wonder and evaluate before giving such wretches such vast sums for bad movies. From the way the LIFE reporter spoke to me I had hoped against hope for a better story. But she did not write it and I suppose the word came down from the top.

We are very sorry about your loss and suffering and hope that the coming year is good enough to relieve some of it. Have a good holiday. Remember use to those beautiful kids.

If I can I'll enclose a copy of the Wicker story in the Times. Please keep it in the event Dave was not able to get a copy out there. Too much trouble to copy.

Our best to you all,

Harold

Dear Harold,

Dec. 9, 1991

This is a letter I had meant to write a couple weeks ago, but between family tragedy and the demands of teaching at the end of a semester I put it off. Hank-Trang's mother passed away about two weeks ago. When I wrote you last there was some prospect of her living for several more months. However her condition deteriorated rapidly from the time she was admitted to the hospital. The cancer spread very rapidly and because of the pain she was on a very high level of morphine. But all of her immediate family was at her bedside when she died, even Hank-Trang's sister who was working in Japan. Unfortunately, I stayed in South Carolina with Claire and Nicholas. They had a Buddhist ceremony for her funeral. From what Hank-Trang told me, the Buddhist monk who performed the ceremony was wonderful and he helped everyone deal with the sadness. Hank-Trang brought back some Buddhist literature, including one book by a Vietnamese Buddhist monk and peace advocate during the Vietnam war who was kicked out of the country by the South Vietnamese regime and was also disavowed by the communists when they came to power. In fact, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by none other than Martin Luther King, Jr. He certainly would have made a worthier recipient than Kissinger or Le Duc Tho, for that matter.

Right after I wrote you last, I received a book edited by David Gallen, Malcolm X: The FBI File. In a brief accompanying note, he said he was a friend of

yours and that you had told him of my interest. I wrote back to Mr. Gallen to thank him, and let me thank you. In what I have read so far about Malcolm X I had encountered a few references to FBI surveillance and I recall him being mentioned in the "Black Messiah Letter", even though he was dead at the time. If Malcolm X had lived, I have no doubt he would have joined forces with some of the major civil rights organizations, if not with King himself. I am sure he would have become more of a target. Thanks again.

I have taken Claire and Nicholas to some of the holiday movies that ~~are~~ ^{are} out, and so I have seen previews of Oliver Stone's JFK. And they are sickening, to say the least! The previews make Garrison out to be a crusader for truth, threatened on all sides by the government and those he was pursuing. I did pick up a copy of Life magazine in which Stone's film and the controversy surrounding it was featured. I saw the fairly brief reference to you. However, even though they noted your criticism and indicated the documents you have obtained, they did not go into the basis of your criticism, nor did they acknowledge ~~any~~ any difference between your view and someone like Mark Lane. My impression is that the real Jim Garrison is nothing like the actor (Kevin Costner) who is going to portray him as a family man, hard working district attorney, and crusader for truth.

We are planning to spend a quiet Christmas holiday here in South Carolina. The weather here has not been very Christmas-like. We may take the kids up to the North Carolina mountains to have a taste of snow. We hope you and Lillian are well and will have a prosperous Christmas and New Year. I will be in touch.

With Best Wishes,
Jerry

P.S. Please give our regards to Jerry McKnight when you see or talk with him.