

3/29/71

Dear Jim,

Each of the past two weeks I've gone to New York for TV confrontation with finks in the King assassination. From the first, Percy Foreman fled, from the make-up room, when he heard he was to confront me. I did Hanes is with little difficulty. On the one from which I've just returned, where I had to lean hard to be included, to prevent a new whitewash, I faced and did in Quie and the former prosecutor, now judge, Dwyer. These were taxing and took time. Going along with your friend's apprehension, when friends of mine asked if there were any I'd like to have at the show, I asked that Sprague be excluded from the invitations. He is decent, sincere, concerned and absolutely batty on this subject. Irrational and entirely untrustworthy. I could not agree with him more. Nor is Sprague the only one. Thus I repeat and emphasize the warning I early gave you: discuss this with nobody at all, else your friend can be hurt and the information will be wasted.

I'm not surprised at the RFK reaction, for he took a hands-off policy. It was not until late that he told Mankiewicz to read any of the books and Mankiewicz's report to him, from M's own account, can mean only that he is an incompetent or that he didn't read the books at all. RFK refused to endorse the WR when the Commission asked it in advance. He was, I am satisfied, as Teddy is, scared.

I agree with his opinion of the CIA, which is why I refused to join it. Its weaknesses and failures were predictable and I did predict them to Bud, who I like personally, with whom I work, and from whom I keep secrets. I have to not only to protect sources and material, but to protect him. He has some of Sprague in him. Not nearly as much, but any is too much. JGarrison is no longer on the board. He was supposed to have come off 12/68 and I don't know why he didn't. It was his or his staff's idea. I was there.

This is the day you were to have met Sprague. I hope you didn't. And under no circumstances give S any indication of who your friend is or his past. If you have, please inform me fully so that whatever countersteps can be taken will be.

I'd like to see a print of that Dealey Plaza guy whose picture you took. There was an Army intelligence man there, at least one, whose identity we know. But I know of no Navy men, and Sprague's "tramps" are nothing but that despite the ever-changing accounts we weaves about them. They were not where he says, not when he says they were there, and they could have served no purpose. Powell is the Army man. This is not Sprague's work. He does not, adding a wild imagination to that of others, whenever he can snaffle any.

Although I can understand that you are fed up with your friend, I think you should try and understand his side. On these strange people, his judgement is correct, not yours, and by not heading my advice to stick to one person, you went against all his (correct) training and all his (good) instincts. He is right in this. I hope you can be patient, earn his confidence again, and get him to understand that I will not violate his confidence. All I want is info. And there is a kind of parallel to what you earlier sent me, oriented around Atlanta but stemming from La. See if this rings any kind of bell. My info is cubious, but there is some that sounds possible. I have names if this gets a reaction.

On Moore: everything you told me that I can remember rings true, and where I know the fact or can make a dependable guess, I believe what he said. I think he is troubled, as I would be in his case. He was in a position to be troubled, and one thing I know he did would worry me for the rest of my life if I'd done it, even under orders.

Excuse haste. Much accumulated.

Sincerely,

Seattle, Washington

March 17, 1971

Dear Harold,

My friend finally came out and leveled with me about why he has been hesitant to go all the way on relating what he says he knows.

First problem he mentioned in regards to this is his earlier attempts to contact Robert Kennedy about things Hosty had told him. Apparently, there was some difficulty there - I know only that he was disappointed by Kennedy or his staff.

Second, he doesn't like the C.T.I.A. I might have prejudiced him against writing to you because I mentioned Fensterwald is your lawyer. I think he is spooked because Garrison is on the board of directors. I really don't understand this thing he has about Garrison.

Richard Sprague wrote to me in regards to his lecture coming up on March 24th in Victoria B.C. I

suggested to my friend that he and I directly see Sprague between Sprague's flights at Seattle-Tacoma Airport. He said he would think about it. I wrote Sprague that I would be uneasy about C seeing him before I could try you, since you've been real good to me.

I also sent him a negative of a federal spook tailing ROTC demonstrators after I had given an informal talk about what I planned to cover at the School.

A guy called me up saying he saw a photo I had taken of the ROTC demonstration in February of this year. He said he was in the Navy until 1967, and that one of the guys I took a picture of was U. A. Dealey Playa when TFK was shot. He said he was in and around the parked police cars near the corner of the TSBD.

Sprague thinks it might be Powell I don't know though. The guy in the picture is ONI.

I've gotten all sorts of "tips" from all sorts of people since we opened up a drive through the school and some of the University groups to get funds to get you here. I do believe the man who called me on Feb. 19th was sincere though.

I hope I haven't dropped a potentially important informant for you. I am sort of fed up with him telling me one week he's going to open up, then the next week not. Perhaps if I can get him to Sprague Hill make a decision to at least write to you. I don't think I'm going to get any more.

Sincerely
Jim.

P.S. I still got an Elmer Moore hangup - I don't believe his San Francisco story any more.