

6/24/71

Dear Jim,

Got your letter of the 21st today because I was away yesterday. I am taking it as you say it, which is not to say I do not believe you or to say that you are other than you represent. However, it should require little thought on your part to understand that with what you have been telling me an opposite suspicion is possible and not unreasonable.

On Moore, this stacks up and adds only minor detail to what I know. I did not know that he had filed a written report. In other respects they did more than you say or than he told you. There is a key word here that is correct, they showed the "staff" only. And I use "they" where you use "I" because it was not I alone.

It does not add any knowledge to report that LHO is reported to have met with an alleged subversive before the killing. Hosty reported that. I did not require independent knowledge if he or his people had it. He worked with a person who could be so described by any police.

Hines also talked to Perry at least twice before I saw P. Now you know why the SS presented fake visuals. I have the reports on their change. I think Perry committed perjury and that Hines suborned it, but I do not know who made him do this. And I have interviewed Perry who, by and large, was honest with me.

You say you are frightened. There is no need to be, except of being frightened. That is the great danger, the great crippling. It prompts more mistakes and errors of judgment than anything else. From what you have told me, don't be frightened. Of course, I do not know what you have not told me. If you are in any danger, it can be because you hold secrets you have not given me. Then some purpose could be served by hurting you. Only vengeance could lead to harm if you have not been holding back, and you have indicated no one who would be inspired by vengeful feelings, neither M nor C. I think you have made a bad mistake not to do what you said you would, level with me about C., but I'm not going to coax you. Assuming you told me the truth about his telling you to see Sprague, this casts him in a farout role, for you and he know exactly what Sprague would --and did-- do, and that is as suspect as it can be. If there can be any danger to you, it can't be in the M area but might be in C's, if there is something wrong with him, as the Sprague episode certainly indicates.

Unofficially, I understand Hosty's associates were far to the right, racist, which in itself makes one wonder about this relationship. I am not questioning the fact of it, for what you have reported, except for one detail, is what I either knew or believed. No, two details, one potentially of great significance. As with M, what you reported is not generally known among critics, either. When it originates with me, as all of this that is in my opinion important does, I take the advice I give you, and I have planted at least two duplicates of everything with those I trust, and this does not mean a total of two people.

If you will bear a cross, it will be that of the crime of silence. The Sprague flap is not irreparable, if you have told me all about it. I think that in time you will be bothered by not levelling with me about C as you said you would when last we spoke.

There is also one thing you told me about the MKK part, perhaps two, that make good sense and about which I'd like to know more, but again I'm not pushing. It is that I know what you do not. You said you would put it all down and send it. I hope you decide to, on paper or on tape, not by phone.

What do you mean, you "had no right to know"? In this country? On these subjects? And you a concerned man? You have more than the right. It is an obligation. Only you should not have been less than honest.

I will not do a book on "credibility" and I will not use your name anywhere. It is Sprague who did, and if you need protection from more than the secret knowledge, it is from this stupidity. There is nothing I can tell myself that makes sense out of this, not even your willingness to do it if C asked it.

You talk in riddles when you say "There is more I could say, but the price might be too high to pay." Riddles or perhaps something else but no more sensible. There is no price as hard to pay as a troubled conscience. There is no burden like a nagging sense of guilt, of betrayal of principle and belief.

From what you say you are about to learn this.

I'm sorry.

But don't add to it by cursing yourself. That will accomplish nothing and pretty soon you'll know it makes no difference to you, either.

If you do not do what you think is right, next best is to do what you think you should.

Good luck, and thanks for your good wishes.

Sincerely,