

8/24/72

Dear Pearl,

I was waiting to hear from you, as the enclosures reflect. You don't know or know of the addressee of the letter. He had written me to tell me that a chapter of what is in most senses your book is to be in October's Playboy. So, you'll soon enough learn about the book, the publisher and all the disagreeableness of literary thievery that has become so common with non-fiction. Turner happens to be one of the more uninhibited, and if you have to sue, hope he is connected with it because I can give you enough to choke the legal horse on him. Not only on the JFK assassination, where he clipped my stuff and told people once I published it so far as he was concerned it was public domain. Pretty much the same is true of his book on the radical right, where he merely pretends to give credit for what he uses of the work of others. That one is almost 100% unoriginal.

The problem with lawyers is typical, but it can change if the thievery is profitable, because the more profitable it is, the more the damage and the more from which to collect. Depositions can't be justified except in really big cases. They cost too much. There is an alternative that tells me the lawyers wanted to discourage you. That is the taking of interrogatories, where no cash cost is involved. This consists in filing written questions for written answer, under oath. So, all you can do is sit tight and wait--and then hope.

One name in that law firm raises my short hair, Liddy. A not common name and a lawyer of that name will be very fortunate not to be indicted in The Watergate Caper. He is a radical-right who was counsel for the Nixon re-election committee or the Rep. Nat. Com's finance committee. He was involved in the (mis)handling of the money and was personally fired by Mitchell when he refused to answer FBI questions. Or, connected with the caper. All other known connections, besides Republican and far-right are to CIA, of the past at least.

What you tell me of Joel's plans brings me back to where I started, the only formula for such a book, pretended fiction with all the proper disclaimers. That also has the best movie possibilities.

The more you tell me about Striso the more my original misgivings seem to have basis. He also told me he had been CIA and if I recall correctly, still had connections with those who were. I have no reason to doubt either. For whatever reason he is feeding you very bad stuff. Aside from this, the one thing that seems pretty clear is the beneficiary if you get a book published, and that is the CIA, which is in part responsible now and more so in the past for drugs in the Golden Triangle. There is a book Harper's is rushing out on this, "The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia" by a young fellow, Albert McCoy, who has already testified before a Congressional committee on this and has had extensive TV net attention. CIA got uptight, Harper's submitted to censorship, and the CIA rebuttal was so completely incredible Harper's found that backbone again and won't change a word.

Dear Pearl, I fear you are not a candidate for women's lib, for the pretty face is separated from the political mind. There is a simple means of understanding this and how wrong you, meaning Striso, are. That is an understanding of the political beliefs of the mainland Chinese and the Castro Cubans. This is complete incompatible with those beliefs. They just don't and won't do such things. One of Castro's first acts was eliminating prostitution, and soon he had drugs and gambling out, too. Gambling was quite lucrative for him. He got a cut and a boost to the general economy. But he gave that up.

There is, undoubtedly, Chinese involvement, but not mainland. Old KEM people have always been in it and still are in the Triangle. McCoy and one of the nets had extensive footage on them and this. It is one of the by-products of our criminal, anti-human S.E. Asia adventurings that the heroin trade has grown so there, with CIA considerable help, including even transportation by air. They have been getting our own men hooked, which increases the market and is an appreciable factor in the cause of crime here now. So, please, at least for the sake of argument, believe me and ask yourself suppose I am right, what is being fed to you and why. You'd do well to get a chastity belt for the naive mind. Or, play the naive and see what other crap gets dished up.

Please return the enclosed clip. It bears on censorship only, not the 70% of the world traffic that is involved. It should be enough to tell you that the CIA is uptight, without a defense, and extremely concerned about the content of the book. For why? Perhaps you can contrive a naive woman question for Striso on this. I'd be interested in his response. Don't alert him by telling him it is my idea. Max gave up on me years ago.

Telling me someone is a patriot tells me nothing. The Birchers think they are the most

patriotic of all--really its inventors.

The growing of the plants is irrelevant. I am sure that once it became clear that a) we were pretending to do something by buying out the Turkish crop and b) the market had increased enormously in the US, largely Silesia vets, all sorts of appropriate climates were considered and some may well be producing. But the monopoly is in the triangle and channels for handling are established and functioning. Mexico used to be an important transshipment point, but I think that has been seriously reduced. Any that came in from there could not have come from Cuba or China. In those days most refining was done in France anyway (and SDECE, the French CIA, not only was in it but recently got caught in MYC in a large and sophisticated operation).

Machete: I need on I can carry in a sheath now, not at the happy time you are in the chips again. See when you can if you can get such and let me know the cost, including shipping. I wasn't asking for a gift. One example: can I push a lawnmower and carry a machete at the same time? Or in cold weather, an axe, a saw, other tools and still the dangerous blade of a machete? I can spend only so much time a day in the necessary outdoor work that daily grows a bit more ahead of me, so even going back and forth to get tools becomes a problem. However, I don't want this to be a problem for you.

I'll return to the WC Caper after I take Lil for a dip and we sup. But I don't want to forget, Ogarrio's real client in this case was not likely sugar by Houston's Gulf Resources and Refining and the cats in that pro-Nixon outfit, already named in DC. Try that on Velasquez. I'll give you the names I have.

Later. This involves the \$69,000 only. Originated Texas, southwestern states. FBI has questioned Robert H. Allen and Emmett E. Moore, chr. and treasurer ~~XXXXX~~ Nixon's Texas finance committee. Allen is Pres. Gulf Resources and Chemical (right, not as above). Ogarrio's former partner, probably typo in name, Juis (sic) J. Creel, Jr., says O has represented Gulf "for at least 10 years". Enough? Two ~~xxxx~~ others questioned in Houston: William Liedtke and Ray Winchester.

The sugar part was too pat, too without sense, too much like a deliberate false story, as are the alleged aliases of Eduardo and Lacho. If you have any Bay Pils contacts who have training pictures, you may have a valuable literary property if you can get them ~~XXXXXXXX~~ if my hunch is correct I know the right names.

Alejandro O's denial for his father was much too limited and the Times man has to be a dope or a fink to have accepted that O hasn't known Hunt in 1971 or 2. How about earlier? Hunt was in Mexico with a State cover for CIA 1950-3, as I recall. Not more likely then and subsequently than when Hunt left CIA abd was at "White House and in CIA-connected and Repub. connected p.r. outfit?

If you can get anything worthwhile from V on O and this link, there may be greater than literary value in it and let me find out for you. I have been in certain contacts and I can approach the Post, which has a syndicate. But I don't know how they pay. And I presume V would not want to be quoted. Which makes less story possibility.

It depends on the competence with which the Democrats handle this what the end will be. I am confident that it goes much higher than indicated or suspected and that it can ruin Nixon. I am certain that entire liberate Martha thing was contrived to liberate John Mitchell instead, for one not new and seemingly far out think. Already \$500,000 in unaccounted funds have been pinpointed, and at least \$150,000 not for alleged "security" but for security and intelligence.

I don't believe Striso has a source in Red China, not for a minute, unless he continues with CIA connections. and I am so disillusioned to learn that the Chinese invented spaghetti. Wasn't gunpowder bad enough? I'd like to see his whole letter. That Bay Figs and JFK stuff has to be phoney. And it would not have been at party hq if true nor would it have required any bugging, certainly none of this kind, and why five men inside and at least that many already known outside? Really more than five outside. Bad medicine. Stick to herbs and my analysis, which I let you know is this and not fact. You'll find it is correct on all I've given you, dope being one example. Some things I don't pretend to understand, and there are some aspects of this of which I'm not certain, but of what can't be involved and of some of what is I'm without doubt. My file is too large to send.

Cut the swim short to finish this and now I cut this to take in the TV news because some kind of break has to be close, the covering-up has become that scandalous. I suspect delays in issuing indictments are for further covering and making deals with pussies. Best,

Aug 17, 1972

Dear Harold,

Just got all your notes for which thanks mucho and will answer immediately.

My original source re China, Cuba and drugs from China in general, is Striso who was a prisoner there - the circumstances of which I am not too familiar. But I do think it is responsible for his being frankly - slightly hysterical about China, CIA and drugs. He told me he was threatened with death daily for over a year, that he actually KNOWS about the drugs there, and from his hatred of the CIA and his love for the United States (really, he's a patriot) - I can only make the conclusion I have made. Now - only recently (when Nixon went to China) a CBS newsmen bluntly stated on the radio that Nixon made a great concession when he overlooked ~~that~~ the fact that China was the greatest producer of heroin (I think that's the ~~drug~~ drug) in the world. This backs up Striso, no? Which doesn't mean it still can't be wrong - but it certainly needs explaining. Also, when Anderson writes about Chinese, why doesn't he identify what Chinese? Since we now are buddies with mainland China this is confusing. Or, does he ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ think we understand "Chinese" to be from the mainland since the others are Formosans. What is also not clear to me is: how is it The Chinese and not the citizens from the "Golden Triangle" countries are doing the peddling? Also not clear is: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ could the plants be grown in mainland China and processed in the other countries? Are these 3 other countries capable of growing such quantities without China. Also, note that Anderson identifies the Chinese seamen "most of them from non-Communist Asian countries" - which would bear out what you say - all of which leaves me uncertain to ~~ex~~ put it mildly. So, if you can clarify - would appreciate it.

Re machete: When and if I get another trip partially paid for like the last one - the other part of the trip was borrowed and is still owing. RD said they were scared to death of the repercussions of such a story and won't print it. However, Franz ~~Furtx~~ Furst is handling it, but won't be back from Europe until the end of the month. Talk about broke, like we're all work and no money!

Re: Watergate: Up to the present have been able to find out from ~~xxx~~ Velasquez (Kaplan's former attorney) that the Mexican attorney involved doesn't appear to be innocent at all in light of his cloudy reputation - and said in checking his clients I would run into sugar dealers. Which is the contention of the NY Times man, since he is theorizing that the Mexican connection in this could be funds from the sugar people here to support Nixon because US controls the sugar quotas and how much and for how much can be bought ~~xxxxxxx~~ by the US which pays much more than any other country. For all we know there might be a ~~xxx~~ drug connection - smuggling would be so easy - Kaplan did it. At this point, how ~~x~~ can we really know who is on what side? One faction of the CIA, for example, is fighting trafficking while another is helping it. Like if we got a substitute for money, maybe they'd go out of business.

As soon as I have further info on this will let you know. The American Embassy is silent as death and the press officer said confidentially they were told to pretend it didn't happen.

Re Kaplan book: Finally contacted NY attorneys thru reliable ones here: Liddy, Sullivan, Hart, Daniels Y Baxley. Said they'd be glad to ~~xxx~~ take my case on contingent basis ONLY I would have to pay out-of-pocket fees as they occur, plus if it goes into litigation, would need thousands of dollars for depositions, my presence would be necessary, etc. All of which makes it impossible for me to pursue. Then, there is the latest rumor, that Kaplan himself is doing the book, which would leave me without a claim at all. Asinof, by the way, never did come to see Velasquez' files. How can I find out who actually is doing the book - not that it would matter - as I've said it doesn't seem possible to even sue. Perhaps my best bet is to wait until the book does come out and then write my first person version. It would be a lot more fun and give a lot of personal insight to the case. Actually, the first book might just be good publicity for mine. What do you think?

This Italian and ~~Mafia~~ Chinese mafia affair could be a riotous movie. Like look what happened because Marco Polo discovered spaghetti in China! Did they really have to get so friendly down the centuries?

Striso's letter which accompanied clipping from NY Times re Watergate article of June 26 said:

"...the word from my contact in Red China is that a deal was made with ~~xxxxx~~ our people in not pushing the narco operations which are vast and would make them look bad. You were right..." (He is referring to what I wrote above about the CBS newscaster.)

"....the break re the Demo hqtrs is interesting and you should read it carefully. What were they searching for? The Democrats picked up some of the stuff re Pigs and the JFK killing which you have been working on. We may have a break in this election..."

Well, chum - guess we've got things to do. Best to you and Lil,

Handwritten notes:
* Kaplan's book -
* is coming
* is coming