

Dear Matt,

12/20/76

Great about your adventures and Jeannine's predicatable professional accomplishments but how come no proud papa bit about those who were such wonderful (and beautiful) kids and are now young adults - all the better for the Acquarius experience. (No, I did not see the book and that is one for which I'd take time. And the contents of the empty envelope never did reach me.)

I knew generally about and loved the Greenpeace mission but did not know of your connection with it. The intensity of the work I continue to do at the pace you will recall has ended all reading for pleasure.

My own ecological interests go back to before the word was well known. With the soil and with animal to the 1940s. I even duplicated some of Lorenz's work in behavior before I heard of him. Even now everything except the waste paper (to be reprocessed) and cans and bottle (no reprocessing here) go back to nature - all the scraps to animals and the rest to rot out and replenish the soil that around here is usually thin. I build piles, not compost, and the animals winter in them until they compact. So I am prouder than most to have friends in the forefront.

I had to let you know about Penn, not knowing what associations you now have, so you could protect yourself against the next insanity. You perhaps do not recall that I told you he had flipped out. Tragic but he is crazy as hell and has been for years.

Please be careful about the King material and please do listen to me. The whole thing is pretty Byzantine with the nuts and self-seekers now rushing into where they know nothing having made an awful mess of their whoring around on JFK. It is not only that people can get hurt from some of that stuff, some of which I have. It is that there may be valuable material there that only two people can understand. I am one. The other is Jim Lesar, who has done most of the legal work.

Let me explain some of this, if I did not. I remembered enough of those parts of the notes I have, some of which I did use in Fraps-Up, to analyze an FBI disinformation operation correctly and come up with proof of a Coantelpro operation in Memphis. It is responsible for King being there to be killed by having provoked that violence. I was not then able to do much. I had done too much when I tangled with David Belin and forced him to come out for a new investigation. So I started working with a great person and a first-rate reporter, Les Payne, of Newsday. Some of those in your notes who would not open up to a hinky did to him. He identified the fink of whom I had proof and did other worthwhile things. He wrote about some in two copyrighted and syndicated stories. I followed up a couple of months later and learned more. It is still part of an ongoing investigation. Exposure of what is known now could lead to still new coverups. At least two of those people have been turned around. One has been ruined as a witness by the unique Mark Lane touch when he goes around trying to steal what he does not understand in his unending scavenging. Connally did use the right word. He has already been a disaster to the blacks, who have yet to learn it. You'll do better to burn than to let him have anything. He has done the best possible job for the FBI already. It really is this bad and if you have any doubts I can refer you to other solid people, not only Lesar. You may recall Gary Schoener. (He now head a walk-in counselling service, a clinic, in Minneapolis.)

How I wish someone out there could arrange a speech for me! You are not the only old friends out there I'd like to see and have not since 10/68. I can travel but I can't afford it. My only proble, is that it is unwise for me to drive to an airport. I always am able to arrange other means. I got to Washington without driving, so I can move my feet and legs and avoid the puddling of blood in them. If I could get out there I could also explain more of this to you. I have a notion that you might still remember what is not in those notes and something about people who could still be helpful.

I can't begin to tell you all I've done on this. Between us in Lesarx and I have at least 15,000 hours of work, probably much more. And now I'm getting copies of once-secret government files. I'd rather you did not speak about this because the nuts and

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then can get the same stuff. It is not merely that I do not like doing all the work and going to what is great expense for me - Jim is entirely unpaid, too - to have these scum pick it all up. It is worse- they invariably misuse it. I got up at 4:30 this morning to complete reading the last of some 1,300 FBI documents I'm getting at a rate of not less than 500 a week, depending on whether the judge speeds them up. I'm to get a minimum of 20,000 pages - the entire Headquarters file at the minimum.

Do not misunderstand this. I am not keeping everything secret. I have already arranged for a permanent public archive and it is started. Unless some foundation comes along with support it will be at the University of Wisconsin system, the major deposit at the Stevens Point one where there is a great history prof who can and will supervise it responsibly. I was there for a week last month with Jim and Howard Roffman. I carried what I could then. The only reason for the support provision is that I have no help and need it. Cuts down on what I can do so much! But they have already arranged the initial minimum for the deposit, file cabinets, etc. And it is not only on the assassinations. I'm hoping to be able to get my old files on native Nazi activity out there by stationwagon. I sure need the storage space here! It is going to be an assassinations archive but it will be much more. I've got about 20 file cabinets of records now and others in boxes.

The King archive, with all the FBI records, will be unique in our history.

I have already found a doctoral candidate who is using some of my JFK work at Harvard, her thesis. On the executive sessions.

This reminds me: which of my books do you not have? I've lost track. You'll find they are still as convoluted because I have never been able to arrange editing and can't spend my life doing that. I keep pushing ahead, as you correctly perceive in your letter. I'll include the list. Let me know and I'll send the others.

So I want everything used. When I can arrange for good use, like Wes Payne's, I do it. But misuse, as you may remember from New Orleans, has been the big curse. Take poor, self-deluding Penn. Did you forget he called me a CIA agent from breaking up the planned insanities before the Shaw trial?

What would be best would be if you xeroxed the notes you have and sent me a copy. I will then go over them. When Payne gets back from South Africa I can give him a set. He now has sources in Memphis I do not have and can deal with blacks as I cannot, being white. The only tapes I have are those you played to me over the phone, if you recall. I transcribed the one with Kyle for the warmth but did not use the others. One was the blind man and the woman who supported his story. Another is the employee of a wholesale house who sort of fingered a cop. The others I do not have. But I now have the result of other work that fits some of these and I do not have a clear recollection of the other notes and have never heard any other tapes. So I do not really know if there is significance. I do know that it would be good to have right now while I'm going over all these secret FBI records, including from the Memphis office. Especially because one of the two official backup stories for when this one comes apart is that the nasty red blacks did it. But do not use the ACLU on this. For years they have been refusing to do anything on the subject.

It is no longer doubts only about the committee. It is certainty. I have the proof that on King they have a DJ man doing a DJ job. The two Richard Spragues are not one or related. The other one is nuts, too.

Jeannine's work sounds fascinating. And so worthwhile! Hope you do the book in time for the movie. And that you all have a good holiday and a wonderful year ahead.

Best,

December 2, 1976

Dear Harold:

Thanks for your letter and ~~for~~ the enclosure from Penn. \* The Penn thing made me mad and I ended by writing him. Cheeky bastard. I've been nothing but a friend to him all along, and he ends by laying this on me.

I received your letter the day before I left on a five months journey that took me to Hawaii and into the North Pacific as navigator and photographer aboard the 157 foot James Bay, the Greenpeace foundation boat that tried to stop the Russian and Japanese whalers. You may have seen my article in last August's Smithsonian on last year's Greenpeace encounter with the Russian whalers off Cape Mendicino.

Anyway, I didn't have time to act on your letter before leaving, or even decide what to do, so I took your letter along with me, but it and all my other correspondence remained unanswered---the summer was too long and too heavy and my head just wasn't into other matters.

I still haven't decided what to do with the King material, except to feel that I must make it public sometime soon---not that I think there's much of significance there. I share your doubts about the congressional committee, and have begun making inquiries through friends in ACLU as to what I should do with the material. Incidentally, is Sprage any relation to the Sprague who did all the work on the photographs???

Sorry to hear of your phlebitis. I'm sure it didn't come on as a sympathetic reaction to the ills of our late departed unlamented President. But the tone of your letter reassures me that you haven't let illness get you down. Still in there fighting. Don't give up. Keep in touch. Sorry I'm such a lousy letter writer.

Best from Jeannine, too. She's now a Phd doing full-time brain research with Robert Ornstein and David Galin in San Francisco. Is hosting her own international scientific conference here this spring on ~~left~~ hemisphere specialization in the brain, called The Sinestral Mind. Also has contracts to do two books, one popular, one scientific, on left-handers and the brain. Very busy lady.

I will probably do a book on Greenpeace that may coordinate with a film on the same subject in the works at Warner Brothers. Could make us wealthy and famous or poor & obscure. Our first book, The Voyage of Aquarius, about the African voyage, surfaced briefly and sunk like a stone. In retrospect I think it was quite a good book that suffered from inadequate promotion. It sometimes to sell well on the west coast where it was well promoted. If you never got a copy, write & I'll send you one.

Must stop now, all best.

