

4/3/69

Mr. Paul Rothermel
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Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Paul,

Gary has sent me a carbon of his March 7 letter to you. One of the wonderful things about working with him and one of his peers is that they never need to be asked or told. If either sees something he thinks should be done, he goes and does it. I sent him copies of my correspondence with the people in any way involved with "Farewell America". When he detected some, especially Jaffe, were holding back on me, he made his own pathways. He is getting his information, wisely, from someone who will not, for personal pique, give it to me.

One thing only is lacking in his letter. It is for this reason that I write you. The person who wrote me is embarrassed because he also was suckered in on the bum deal. It took me a long time to get him to tell me as much as he did. He is an honest man and would not consciously lie, but his involvement shades his thinking and expression of it.

Jaffez is not to be trusted because of the kind of ambitious young man he is (who does not have the ability to enable his ambition and therefore seeks to advance himself in other ways. It is not so much that he is a willful liar (as he can be) as that he wants to "succeed", as he understands success. What he said is, in essence, what I gave you. I doubt very much that he ever got any "evidence" at all from those people in Europe and I have reason to believe that if he had turned anything of this sort in I would have been able to give it to you in November. Gary did not know this. Nonetheless, it is good to check it out, as he is.

As Gary's memo shows, he has located the LIFE spread on the Frenchman. When those who saw "Philippe" see these rather inadequate pictures, we may learn whether de Vosjoli and "Philippe" are, as I suspect is possible, the same guy. If it turns out to be so, then I think you can feel confident the job on Mr. Hunt was by the CIA, for there is little doubt de V was double. I haven't had time to go further. I asked another young man to get in touch with the Topaz publishers, using his journalism major as an excuse, to get all the publicity material. He has not done it. They'd never give it to me. I also think the New York Times index should be checked on the name and the book. He might get a better picture. There was a scandal. Maybe Gary has done this,

Don't forget the stuff on the extremists. With Stoner now representing Ray, it may be more significant.

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg

4/3/69

Dear Gary

In the few minutes before I pick Lil up, hasty comment on your mailing postmarked 3/31, no letter:

Reed may be very important. It is my perhaps incorrect recollection that the official story is several of his negatives disappeared. I suggest you ask him to not let his eyewitness description of the incident await his return. Ask him to write what he now can. This may get his mind back on it and if and when other things come to his mind, he can and should also note them and send them to you.

Willis must have loaded up on Waldorf stationary. I am responsible for that. I got Dick Billings to pay his way to New York for several days in return for which Willis let him examine the unpublished shots. I got Billings to agree in advance they'd not be used without a deal with Willis. According to Billings, they are not significant. I'd like to see them. Ask him to make a set of prints for us. I think he'd do it for me. We can then go over them. He knows if we find anything he is not aware of the value will accrue to him. I was supposed to have met him in N.O. but, as you know, I had to be in D.C., etc.

Allen Swartz is a good fellow. He accompanied me on all my Hall interviews. He is from Hills. Michelle, I believe, became kind of or in his eyes Burton's girl friend or some sort of responsibility. I believe he left me early the first night I was in LA in 10.68 to keep her from suicide, as he explained his urgency.

I repeat what I said of Cubic, in spades. Christian is a fit companion. He has fleeced me in several ways in the guise of helping. I'd like to know more about Jaffe's worry about being "in on the original meeting where Bradley was chosen". The original interview of which I have knowledge was Boxley's, with Turner. I have the memo. You should.

It is possible Gary Sanders was not then on the office payroll. Louis would not, on his own, provide Mark with any kind of bodyguard. When Mark tried to sell his book by claiming the CIA was going to get him, Louis asked me "Why"? Why, indeed. He planted Gary with Jim, and Sanders is nothing, not in any way competent, except to steal the girl friend Jaffe got on the payroll. But if it can be established that Jim was paying some of the cost of Mark's promotions, I'll want very much to know- and use to recoup some of my expenses.

Adelot is suing Bradley, is his radical-right enemy. There seems to be no reason to trust any of them.

Jim Lawrence: inconsistent with what Kevin told me. If that Steve Burton memo was a letter he wrote me, that explains how Steve things I passed it on to Jaffe. I'd like to know.

The office did pay Jaffe's expenses abroad. Much money.

H

MEMO ON STEVE JAFFE - from conversations during the past week

Jaffe came over the day after Allan Swartz was here, and said that Micheline's name is MICHELINE GARCIA JOEMELLI.

Steve Jaffe also said he knew a John Christian and that Harold had talked about him. When we told Jaffe about Christian's company name on the F.A. film can, he said that Lubic and Christian were working together on the RFK case. They claimed to have solved this case, Jaffe said.

Jaffe also said that Lubic offered, at one time, to use his Time/Life credentials to steal the Z film from Life. Steve told Lubic that only his transportation back to Time, Inc. would be paid, but then they got a copy and he forgot Lubic's offer.

Jaffe said that he first met Micheline through Steve Powers (UCLA business administration student) about a year before he took a trip to France with her to check out F.A. for the office.

Steve is bringing over copies of Nagell's letters with Bill Turner's explanations of what they mean this week. Will write when we see them.

Jaffe is worried because he was in on the original meeting where Bradley was chosen, and that he wrote a very strong memo about Bradley/tramp photo - that he retracted verbally, not in print, and that he could well understand Vince's charges against him from only his written memo's. We think Jaffe is easy to snow - not an agent.

Anyway, he talked to Mary Farrell and she said that Jim trusted Steve but didn't like his company - and that he finally understands what she meant.

Think he may be able to put some of this puzzle together.

Forgot the story Allan Swartz told about the office sending a bodyguard with Lane while he was promoting his book - but forgot his name. Our intrepid valley stringer took pictures of Lane and we showed them to Allan and he pointed the guy out. Today Jaffe said that guy was Gary Sanders - (see enclosed photo). How come the office sends bodyguards on a book publicity trip?

Last week, while talking to Steve, he said Kroman was a Minn. lawyer who was involved in insurance fraud and because of his claim of knowledge of the Kennedy Assassination was sentenced to Springfield Ill. pen for observation - first he had the cell down the hall from Nagell and then was moved to a cell across from him. Thought Kroman had written a book on V.P. Humphrey. Nagel was either Army or Navy intelligence, Kroman told Jaffe.

One of the Bradley witnesses in California was Carol Adclot, who Burton talked to quite a bit - and we have met her on several occasions, mainly at Steve Burtons.

Re: Jim Braden - Turner found the original information from a California driver's license bureau that Jim Braden had changed his

name in September, 1963. This was passed on to Steve Jaffe, we questioned him how Turner got it and Steve said that his impression was a police source.

Jaffe said in the W.R. volumes they mention that Braden has an alias, Eugene Hale Brading - that in September 1963 he adopted the name Jim Braden. He gave his address to FBI or Dallas Police as 208 Beverly Drive, when questioned about his appearance in the Dal Tex building after the assassination.

Rose reportedly checked the building at 208 Beverly Drive and found Jim Braden's office, same office as Harvey Dunn - Chase, Bier and Dunn, suite 402/tel. 274-8561/CPA office. Rose reported it was a CIA front, without even going into the office - that was how they worked.

Jaffe said that he re-checked this office and that Jim Braden was a client of the CPA firm - the clients use it as a mail address - but was never there (the man in the CPA office has never seen Braden.)

Turner and Rose had suspicions that Jim Braden or Eugene Hale Brading is Eugene Bradley. Jaffe said JG told him this was important to investigate.

Jim Lawrence (ABC-TV Newsman) told me that Art Kevin checked with the State Department to see if E. E. Bradley had a passport, as he said he was in Europe for McIntyre for a year. The State Department answered that there was no record of anyone by that name having been issued a passport during the year Bradley said he was in Europe.

Regarding the enclosed Steve Burton memo - we left it out where Steve Jaffe was sure to see it. He did, read it and laughed through most of it.

Burton mentioned an envelope arriving at KHJ (Jim Lawrence) and was forwarded, as per instructions to him. "I opened the envelope only to find a smaller envelope "to be opened by Bill Turner only." I phoned Turner and was advised to simply mail it to his home, which I did."

When we questioned Jaffe about the "envelope to KHJ-Steve Burton-Bill Turner" thing, he couldn't remember sending anything from Paris. He said of course he had Turner's address and would send anything directly fr to Bill. He said he called Bill from Switzerland to see if Ramparts would publish the book and if they wanted him to go back to Paris, he would need some more money. Turner told him not to contact Jim - to send everything through him. He sent Steve a personal check for \$500.00 from a San Francisco bank in the name of Frank Washington. We asked who he was and Steve said someone who had \$500.00 in his account. He had trouble cashing this personal check in Paris. He figured the envelope mentioned was a check from JG - sent through KHJ-Burton-Turner so it couldn't be connected with the office.

In Steve Burton's "Addendum to Hopburn Memo" he mentions a personal friend, who was in Paris while Jaffe was there and who was in close touch with Jaffe and reported the following significant incident: --"Jaffe phoned from Geneva to say that some men in a bar were trying to get him drunk and ask him questions. Jaffe thought it might be the CIA."

Jaffe confirmed the personal friend was Micheline, but said that the phone call from Geneva was false.

Burton's memo said: -- "Jaffe expressed doubts about Lamarre's credibility until Lamarre presented him with a gift addressed to "my friend". This touched Steve and at that point he opened his information to Lamarre and gained great respect for him."

Jaffe said that the gift, mentioned in Burton's memo, was, in fact, a newspaper that Steve wanted, and he received it the night before he left Paris, and didn't "open his N.O. office info" to Lamarre.

Burton's memo said: "In Geneva, Jaffe was in Lamarre's hotel room when two Americans knocked at the door. They said they wanted to buy the rights to the book and were prepared to offer a great sum of money. Jaffe indicated that they could not possibly have known where they were unless they were tailing one or both of them. CIA? (Alternative theory: a set up by Lamarre to impress Steve.)"

Jaffe said that these two were not Americans but Germans, and it was not in Lamarre's room, but in their room.