

5/31/78

Dear Phil,

Thanks for the CBTU/ Ray trial clip and the explanation on Lane/Gracie from Wayne.

It is not usual for Lane do perform acts of decency. It is usual for Lane to formulate in special ways. I am suggesting that what with good intentions Wayne believes may be subject to other interpretations.

I can't imagine Gracie not becoming a burden to Lane, that she right now can do enough for him to justify what she costs or that he will permit the relationship to continue after he obtains whatever possible benefit he sees in what he has done. She is avlules as a witness, believe me.

The question is not is she sane. I don't think the hospital ever said she is not sane. The question seems to be is her brain damaged. The answer to this, before Dr. Cohen had his job, was that the brain damage is permanent.

I don't know what all happened down there. The clippings were quite helpful. But if the reporting of the contratemps was accurate the local authorities were off on the wrong issues, not unusual when one contends with Lane.

It is not difficult for me to see a situation in which Gracie is on her own again and not in a position to be able to hack it. Lane is not going to keep her for the rest of her life.

My understanding that the indispensible auspices of Gracie's initial confinement has not be a question for years. It was admitted years ago when I pointed Paul Venttine at the story. The hospital was more than willing to let her out then if she had a place to go. During the evidentiary hearing Wayne was very helpful in our being able to get some of this in the record. Its present revelance except as a Lanist diversion is not apparent to me.

I don't have to persuade my self that Tennessee justice may not be all I'd like it to be or that some of those involved in it are nincompoops or worse. But I do have tp be persuaded that any of this has any present-day meaning.

Maybe the ACLU has ample basis for wanting to get rid of Cohen other than under the pressure of Lanists. But I know of nothing he has done with regard to Gracie that is at all unprofessional or reprehensible. Even if as also is not uncommon, he over-reacted to Lane's trickery and defamations.

I appreciate being kept up to date. When you return if there are any clips on the King release to Halperin (still withheld from Cesar and me under our earlier requests) be glad to have them. My initial feeling is that this release was to a non-subject expert to arrange that only what was known and had been reported earlier (hence no real problem to the FBI) would receive any attention.

Thanksand best,

May 27/78

HW:

Wayne explained seemingly inexplicable goings-on in courtroom this past week (inexplicable if you went only by the newspaper accounts). Lane had OK from judge to take Grace out of the jurisdiction. The newsmen Lane was trying to get to back him as witnesses (present when he said Lane could remove Grace) wouldn't back him up under what Wayne thinks is inapplicable use of shield law; they weren't asked to reveal sources.

Judge Evans could not deny he's allowed Lane to remove Grace. Before assuming guardianship, Larry Nance, the guardian before, had only a brief chat w/Grace & said she was in good physical shape though she was assisted into the interview by three people. Nance's brother works for Probate Court. In making Lane guardian, Evans was seemingly agreeing that fraud had existed on part of Bolivar Hospital people, notably ~~sup.t~~ sup.t Dr. Morris Cohen--who was confining Grace even though he was merely perpetuating a bureaucratic bungle, or worse. This is all as Wayne as relaying it to me. Cohen's in-house fem atty. ^{This never printed:} knew Grace was confined under indefensible auspices. / ACLU wants ~~Cohen~~ Cohen ousted, but Gov. Blanton is resisting because Cohen came in with patronage backing. Larry Nance spelled Stephens wrong on his papers relating to her. In 1970, two Cuban psychologists at Bolivar said Grace sane. Lane even has Grace working as a receptionist in L.A. His organization out there is subsidizing her, sez Wayne. Two L.A. newsmen here following Lane. I'll be in NY next week. Hope to visit you someday when I'm in DC area.

Best,

Phil
Phil Moss