

6/16/71

Dear Sylvia,

With thanks, I return the Thornley letters. There is one where the typing is different and pale, that of 12/7/68, which is done on identically the same kind of machine as one of the two used in this threat. A different machine, even different size type, was used for the envelope. I have not copied any of these, even those that refer to me. I'd appreciate it if you would copy the one on top and let me have your original. Obviously, this kind of scientific work is beyond my capacity, but the clearest possible sample is the one that would be required. As you understand, such a thing can exculpate as well as incriminate. To say it is the same kind is not to ~~xxxxx~~ say it is the same machine.

I had a copy of the Clint Bolton column but lost it, but I didn't copy any of this.

I hope that at some time you will see your way clear to let me have copies of those things that relate to me. They are rubbish, from beginning to end, but these are sick people who are more dangerous than they otherwise would be because they are sick. Gary can tell you the technical name for Thornley's. He was here once when Thornley called me, or I called him, and heard the entire conversation. It is typical of something or other.

Actually, had it not been for me Thornley would have been in worse shape. I saved him from a Mexico charge, as it was to turn out, at some risk. Worst plane ride I ever had, that awfully bad. Ahh, of course, nothing in it for me.

If I haven't told you, I had nothing to do with whatever JG did, was not consulted before or after his grand-jury appearance, do not even have the indictment or information, and never had that interest in KP. The only thing on which I was consulted was so ridiculous I ridiculed it to a late-coming death, that NBC had offered him a big hunk for a chapter of his book. Had those stupidities listened to me, Thornley would have been better off (and you \$100 richer). There are others with a superficially more important possibility of involvement where I did the investigation and they were not bothered. In Thornley's case, as it turns out, I am just as happy this did not come to pass. There are still some things requiring answer, and he hasn't answered them. One that I am sure he didn't tell you is that after the first interview he went back to the FBI to offer to fink.

Over the years, I have often wondered how much of this is Lifton's doing. They did get together on an affidavit that framed ohm Rene Heindell.

I must have misread your letter about the cat. We, until the last, always had an abundant supply, so the distress at the loss of any one was offset by the presence of the others.

It is the style and language of the threat that suggests Thornley, as it also suggests a deliberate effort to make it suggest him. He is not the only one, and of the others, I also have samples. From here on I do nothing. It is up to others. There is also an inherent threat against Mc Govern. It was sent to Gravel's AA at his home. From a Rockville (fictitious) address on my birthday with I.F. Stone's name on the envelope. Gravel ~~it~~ took it seriously enough to call in the Secret Service. It begins "Can Mr. Weisberg translate", and nobody in Gravel's office had ever heard of me. I suppose SS told them. But what a combo?

Hope you have a good vacation. Envy you. I hope to have Agent Oswald written by your return and I'd like you to go over the ms when I do. Two months is outasight, no matter how much you earned it. Enjoy, enjoy!

And thanks,

14 June 1971

Dear Harold,

You must have read my letter too hastily, for you completely reversed my actual meaning. What I said was that non-cat-people might not understand my distress but that you, since you were a cat-person, would be aware of my state of anxiety without my needing to spell it out in detail. In any case, my dear cat died last Friday, while under care at a private animal clinic. A very large mass had been discovered near her kidney but before surgery could be performed, she expired, having become very emaciated and feeble from what was probably a malignancy of some kind.

Because of my emotional anguish and even physical devastation, I have not been able to deal with your letter of the 10th with the same care that I would normally give it. I never had very much correspondence with Thornley and what there was ceased in 1969. However, I am enclosing herewith (1) a batch of his public mailings and circulars, which are the originals and which I should like back some time, no rush; and (2) an envelope containing about eight sample passages from xeroxed copies of letters written by Thornley in 1968 or 1969, to me or to other persons with copies to me. I have tried to select the most innocuous passages in terms of content, for obviously I am very uncomfortable at being in a position of sharing parts of letters not intended for persons other than those who received them, or seeming to share your suspicion of Thornley as the writer of the anonymous letter in question. If I am sending these excerpts at all, it is with the hope and expectation that they will serve to eliminate him from suspicion, or eliminate his typewriter(s). It seems elementary that anyone writing an anonymous letter, especially a threatening one, would be sure to use a typewriter that had little or no known link with himself. That being so, the failure to match the anonymous typewriting with anyone's known typewriting is rather meaningless. However, I did want to satisfy your request, so far as I could, since I had been unable to meet your preceding, unrelated request for the Texas A-G- materials, so here is what I was able to dig up for you.

Needless to say, I hope that the anonymous letter is nothing more than a crank letter and that there is no genuine danger to you from the writer.

Although I will be away for all of July and August, urgent mail sent to my usual address will still reach me, so that I hope you will let me know of any really major developments. But probably we will be in touch at least once more before I actually leave. Do take every care, Harold.

As always,

