

1/26/70

Dear Gris,

I was away all day today, which puts me farther behind than ever, and there is a full evening of mail if I answer what came today even perfunctorily. Hence I'll respond to your letter of the 22nd less fully than I'd like.

Without candor there is neither friendship, trust nor intellectual honesty. So, please understand that in my bluntness I intend nothing else.

Vince: he believes what he told you. He also knows it to be false. I will never recover in health or peace of mind what his paranoia cost me, and it diminished the effectiveness of by far the most important record we have made. He is largely responsible for the bad position Garrison took. I know. I was in on all of it and was responsible for Vince's being in on it, which is too long a story to go into now. Had it not been essential, and had it been possible for me to accomplish the immediate and primary objective any other way I would have. By the time he raised the question of forgeries there was no possibility for I had a reading of X-rays that, had they been forgeries, nonetheless destroyed the entire WR. He knew this. Vince has a great problem. He has abdicated, and the only way he can justify himself is for everyone else to fail. He really has become paranoid on this. It is no figure of speech. Anticipating it I arranged a conference hookup on a conversation with Weat, who supported me 100%, for I'd sent him the proofs in advance. I have this taped. Someday it will be an important record. Vince does nothing to help, will not - and he is in a position to afford to help as others cannot. He can do so financially and doesn't help any of the few of us who are continuing to work, not one of whom can afford it, not even with an occasional contribution to pay for Archives xeroxes. What kind of a fine guy he has been is irrelevant, as is his decent principles. I tell it as it is. Much the same is true of Penn, who even owes me money and will not pay it, on the self-justification I am some kind of agent. And you cannot know how urgently I need that relatively small sum. To the degree possible - leave these people alone. Penn does not even answer a polite letter, unless he has an insult that has momentary appeal to him. I can say none of this publicly, and I rarely do in private. But, believe me or not, you will be in a position to evaluate.... Penn has been so very wrong on so many things, so irresponsible, with the best of intentions. It is a great tragedy, for he is a very decent man with the noblest purposes.... When you read POST MORTEM III, which is the basis of the Washington trial and was done before it, you will better understand how utterly and obviously wrong Vince was and is - and knew, for he saw all of it - right here, in the presence of others.

Of really worthwhile work on the case, I know of only two others, Hoch and Schoener, both of whom have been slowed down by their school needs. Hoch is helped mightily by a young man who wants anonymity. The others are engaged in campaigns of vilification, thievery and mutual promotions, but they have come up with nothing of which I know. I understand the conservative group in Dallas has done good things also. I have slight contact with them.

I think we are past the point where spreading occasional bits of information accomplishes constructive objectives. From my own point of view, that time is not as well spent as in research and writing. I can do only so much. I have made no effort to get air time, for example, since the Shaw decision. We must let the bad things, of which that and what preceded are major, cool off, so that we can

be credited. I have made no speeches without decent honoraria. I cannot. My debt is monumental and I am flat. I cannot subsidize the curiosity of those decent people who are not motivated to the point of making meaningful contributions to this work. I would like to. But the financial and other toll, not the least of which is health precludes it. Yesterday I blacked out, suffering only minor injury, and I have been the victim of anxiety for some time. But my work continues, my output is only slightly diminished, and I am still forcing out evidence we have been denied. Another proof in today's mail. I cannot go into this, so please do not ask. Some of it is more important than anything you have seen. This is where what effort I can exert must be applied.

Furthermore, I am not interested in and am really opposed to the distribution of my completed work until it can be printed. At the risk of sounding paranoid myself, I tell you two reasons: the thievery on our own side is simply incredible, those who come up with nothing taking what is not theirs and too often misusing it. Secondly, it too often gets into the wrong hands and is used counterproductively. I have made a few xerox copies available to those I know I can trust. But this I mean to include not only personal integrity, but also to keep the word I ask, that no use, direct or indirect, be made of it. In the end, when I have completed the work upon which I am engaged, and you have had a chance to grasp its depth and breadth, its magnitude and the remaining possibilities, I think you may be able to understand it. Until then, it is a minimum requirement of the very few cases where I do let others have this. The prices range from \$25.00 for both parts of POST MORTEM (meaning each). I have not made copies of COUP D'ETAT available to any who have not helped with it, but there I'll have to get about \$35, and for the second part, without appendix, about \$45. That entire work, exclusive of appendix, is over a third of a million words.

There is important info in the Miami tapes. All I know of that Penn has published is the Barry stories. Penn, owing me money, cut me off his mailing list for non-payments of subscription, and that is just as good, for the last I saw was worse than a waste of time. More, I have gotten much of what relates to ~~this~~ this tape, as well as its complete text. That is in COUP I. I cannot take time to tell you and I cannot permit its use. One of the reasons for this is that I hope to at some point be able to get the book printed, and it is against my interest (and I suggest that of all of us) for any minor, piecemeal use, which would take the edge off and could not be in proper context. Communicating with the persuaded accomplishes nothing at this point. Or with those who will do nothing with their knowledge.

Fast comment on "The Shape of Things to Come", which I read for the first time while making it: Par 3, "administrations", plural. McCarthy-end quote. Comment- he also will not interest himself. Par 4: your written comment is, in my opinion correct. I know of nothing to support Garrison on this. Next-Barry is not alone in rewriting this, and he added nothing to what the police released. He also refused to carry it further for me when I asked him to. The end of the quote is correct, but that man, now (natural causes) dead, was more than a Klansman. Next-for your information only, both FBI and SS withheld from WC. (And Miami is not the only case I have) Next- Russell goes further-while believing Oswald the shooter, he also believes there was a conspiracy. Next, tragically, Garrison "found" it is right-he came up with nothing of his own on this, only loose talk. (FYI)...By and large, it is good, and it is the right context (not quite the same as the one in which I put it).

Before ending, for I've no time, I make this vengeful comment, as a man whose entire life has been non-violent: non-violence is effective only against men of decency and principle. Where there is no morality it has no effect anymore.

Sorry I've no time to correct typos. Please understand I am speaking straightforwardly, for I think anything else is unfaithful and no favor. If you do not now credit these opinions, you eventually will.

Best to you all,

Griscom Morgan

Rt. 1, Box 275

Yellow Springs,

Ohio 45387

January 22, 1970

Dear Hal:

I deeply appreciate your letter so promptly written, and it gives me joy to have this contact with you again.

Without communication and sound information sources the rumors begin to make inroads into one's mind and doubts begin to accumulate. I want to be a source of sound information when I am questioned, and I feel the importance of the assassination to our nation is such that I do not feel like letting it slip out of my attention.

So I want to know what you have published that you say you have xerox editions of, how much they cost, and which ~~of~~ particularly feel one should have to keep up to date and informed.

I spoke briefly to Vince some time ago and his difference with you as he saw it was that he felt that the Xrays brought into court as evidence would be forged and would greatly harm the case. He said a lawyer on the opposite side commented that they'd have been suckers to have gotten them. They might have been easy to forge and the Kennedy family would have had something meaningless in their possession in them. I gather that was a major point of difference between you. Vince yet felt friendly to you.

Who is continuing the work on the case? Would it be possible to make a brief summary of the material in your xerox'd books and publish it for the people who feel the need to keep up to date, alluding to the presence of the longer xeroxed material as sources for those who desire to go into it more fully? I'd like to see small classified adds in a number of popular or appropriate periodicals so that those who want to keep informed could find this and send for it. Even if it were an inexpensive duplicated form it would be better than leaving the concerned public out of contact with sources. In my own field and work I do this and the demand is constant. I use a Gestetner mimeo machine and can change the stencils as the information changes and develops -- which it does rather rapidly. I don't duplicate more than I will need for the next few months so that I can change stencils, alter or edit stencils or add to them. It does take time to duplicate and collate. In one of the projects we are involved with we have a man who has assumed this task of duplicating and mailing, and he does a lovely job of it -- all free as the rest of us do, with contributions paying for materials and other such expenses, as postage. A devoted and concerned group, even though very small can do a lot of communicating this way.

I don't want to take your precious time, but if there is important information on the "Miami tapes" beyond that published by Penn I ought to have it. I will inclose the mimeo sheet that I wrote on it bearing on it. I realize that parts of this are probably wrong or ought to be changed; I did it more than a year ago and cannot defend the mistakes I then made.

Fraternally,



Griscom Morgan

The Shape of Things to Come

Science should teach us of the dependable relationship between cause and effect. If this is true in nature, can it be untrue in the affairs of society? And if true of society, cannot we predict with assurance in terms of science -- as long ago the prophets predicted in terms of theology -- that a nation which unleashes devastation upon a small country as America is doing to Vietnam will itself experience devastation? It was Jesus that said "all who take the sword shall perish by the sword." It should require no crystal ball to know with sound knowledge that a nation which has placed its trust in having superiority in weapons of destruction and which has used them as the United States has done in Tokyo, Hiroshima and Vietnam will by the order of cause and effect experience destruction. The military empires of Europe and Asia were laid low by the same processes as those by which they had reigned, and the same was true of the Aztec and Inca empires. The non-military pueblos of America's Southwest are among the few undestroyed civilizations of the continent.

War in the style of the Vietnam conflict is nothing new in the character of America. In this manner the American Indian was dealt with during the past two centuries. It was in reference to such aspects of America's character that Thomas Jefferson said "My heart trembles for my country when I reflect that God is just."

With the official cover-up of the assassination of President Kennedy by the subsequent administration an era of American history has past. Before that time there was sufficient virtue in the nation to maintain a significant degree of adherence to the basic character of constitutional government. Senator McCarthy has pointed out that "assigning the Chief Justice of the United States to a highly nonjudicial proceeding can in no way be squared with the intent of the framers of the Constitution. It may have helped to get the people to accept the Warren Commission's findings more readily, but because of the nature of the findings the Commission would have to report, it was bound to reflect adversely on the Chief Justice and on the Supreme Court.

The involvement of leading political figures in the coverup of the political assassination, implicating an innocent man (who, according to District Attorney Garrison's information was acting as an informer on the plot for government agencies,) and even more the acquiescence to this process of coverup by the public media of communication and the intellectual world -- all this spells the end of an era of democracy in America. Let the reader who questions these assertions but consider a few of the facts that have been covered up by the Establishment.

Bill Barry, of the Miami News, has reported about a tape recording by the Miami police two weeks before the Kennedy assassination of an interview with an underground political leader of the right wing telling "how it would be done." Barry wrote,

He said that the President would be shot with a high-powered rifle from an office building. He said that the gun would be disassembled, taken into the building, assembled and then used for murder...

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this is
not true

He then said: 'They will pick up somebody within hours afterwards ... just to throw the public off.'

He said that the Klansman whom he named as the man who might kill the President was a member of the hard-core underground. He said that the Klansman was in on the bombing of the Birmingham church in which several Negro children were killed. .. The Klansman had tried to Kill Dr. Martin Luther King and that now, he had his gunsights trained on the President of the United States."

The tape that was taken by the Miami police through a concealed microphone, had been given to the United States Secret Service, and had been made available to the FBI. While it included only a few of the many facts of the assassination procedure, those few appear to coincide with what happened in Dallas. It is understandable that neither Secret Service nor FBI had this warning published in the Warren Report. This is but one of many comparable items of evidence that had to be kept out of the Warren Report for its conclusions to be credible.

Where necessary to make the Warren Report plausible there were in it instances of what to its authors must have been patently untrue representations about the evidence, as was pointed out by Jay Schwartz in the Journal of Forensic Sciences. It should be remembered that Senators Cooper and Russell did not believe the crucial one-bullet-two-victims theory of the Warren Report they signed. Senator Cooper said of it "there was no evidence to show both men were hit by the same bullet." Congressman Boggs said, "I had strong doubts about it."

The conclusions of the Warren Report were thus political and not judicial findings. The motive, as Jim Garrison found it, and Harold Weisberg shows in his Oswald in New Orleans, was to conceal the involvement of such agencies as the CIA. It is only the ubiquitous propaganda in the public media in support of the Warren Report and against its critics that has persuaded even the considerable minority of the American public to believe it. The assassinations in fact are our military and foreign policies coming home to roost.

This reference to the Kennedy assassination is relevant here because it is a landmark by which to recognize the true state and point of development of our nation. Without landmarks we are easily misled and lost. And it is crucially important to know where in history we stand, what we may expect from the future. If the Warren Report's conclusions are false, if their acceptance by the intellectual establishment was against the whole trend of the evidence, we may know that we must do our thinking and acting against the trend of the establishment in other matters as well.

It is not enough to decry war and to work against the horrors of another more terrible war. It is necessary also to use clear judgement and foresight of what will in all probability come to pass, and to prepare for it.

Before the second world war Richard Gregg wrote, "War is of the very tissue of our civilization. The only way to do away with it is to change, non-violently and deeply, the motives, functions and structures of our civilization. Such change is required in order to meet successfully the vast changes of our environment during the past two hundred years.

more to follow / omit