

7/21/70

Dear Gris,

Your letter of 7/19 gives me pleasure, a little lift on a day that is one of more than the now-customary weariness (not attributable to the literal stubbing of a now-swollen toe!). You approve much of what is not at all commercial in COUP, which I welcome, and we have rapport on other areas. We also have disagreements that, for the most part, are probably attributable to a combination of my lack of initial lucidity and my not taking time to reread, that time being used for other things for which, otherwise, there'd be no time,

There is no doubt that, as all the works, should have editing. Aside from the fact that I am too close to them to do it, in the time required I could write another book. With the oppressiveness, the unpublishability of the subject, I've had to rethink and recast my role and function. I now regard my primary responsibility as the making of a record, without either the commercially-desireable value of editing or the comfort it can bring to the ego.

When I make personal comment, I assume it is to you alone and will go no further. Long ago I had a long talk about this with a great guy, Matt Herron, who is also a friend of Vince's. He knows Vince and Vince's circumstances very well, having lived in Phila (now N.C.) and been very close. Matt had the notion that with the slight financing required, Vince could provide the means for a young, unattached person to do this editing, living with me and going over the stuff as I reamed it out. Vince never responded. There are other areas in which he could help and once would have, but refuses to. I suspect it is a deep, subconscious trauma, for he abdicated long, long ago. The summer I completed the first part of COUP I invited him down, with Gary Schoener (wonderful young man). Vince then read this and POST MORTEM, said, excitedly and enthusiastically, that both just had to be published, really raved about COUP, and then forgot all about both. He could, without financial hurt, have financed both, and I feel he'd have gotten his money back. However, had he not, his circumstances are such he would not have been hurt, really. So, the works remain unknown and, in order to protect myself and the possibilities of getting some future attention to them, must keep them virtually unknown.

My King work has gone much further, but I can't go into that now. I was not more explicit on the radio bit because I feared it would turn off those who live by and with an unwillingness to believe and because I think the parallel is so strong the suggestion that I believe is included should be enough for most.

On Warren, I have often said he had to have known better, was the man in charge (very first thing in very first book), has his own responsibilities that neither he nor others can unload on anyone else, but should not and must not be forced to bear the responsibilities of others. When the last of my work is done, you'll better understand how he was, really, boxed in, even those things he ordered done not being done. I think it also a mistake to regard him as a great investigator simply because of his extensive political experience and his having been Chief Justice. As a California prosecutor he was unable to solve the murder of his own father.

On the blacks, I've just had another disappointing experience. I gave Conyers a copy of COUP in February, after a year of inactivity by one of his staff. They all read it and went hard for the King stuff. Remember, he is also a member of the finking Goldberg-ACLU committee. They did absolutely nothing but sat on the copy for two months after I asked for its return. I do see copies, infrequently, for \$45, which pays the cost of xeroxing and much of the cost of a second xerox copy. The cost me that sale. And he did absolutely nothing but agonize, and that in silence. I find no easy ~~xxx~~ explanation for their unmanly abdication and none that satisfied. It is total. I must have approached more than 100 blacks, of all political orientations.

07/11/68

Thanks for the offer of emergency help. We are always in an emergency situation, lacking what is for others minimum essentials. Like ordinary paper (which I have had budget), decent carbon (which we have and use when required, but otherwise I use what is used up, often given me), a workable typewriter (but my wife has a good one for fast must look good), and the means of meeting the basic requirements of ordinary life, as who can without income, and the pressing other expenses, like interest on indebtedness (I had to borrow two weeks ago from a friend who could spare it for but a week and then make a costly trip to DC to borrow from another who needs prompt return to return to the first friend so he could meet his own obligation, due this past Friday. That I usually do this is one thing, unpleasant and painful, really, but that it takes time from work is even worse. We now have two tax bills, and I'll be borrowing again to meet them. There is ~~xxxxxxx~~ neither beginning nor end. While I ask nothing of those who have themselves quit, there are those who know and could help. There are also more than a couple who have the funds and simply refuse to repay what they owe, of whom that noble Penn is one. This kind of think is particularly disagreeable, as is the occasional letters I sometimes write them, in extremis, with never a response save an occasional insensibility or stupidity, like Penn accusing me of being some kind of agent. He has to be a very sick man.

There is the present likelihood that the King/Ray part of COUP will be edited out and made into a separate book by the publisher who, next to me, is the country's mellest. I'm now awaiting word. He regards the work as an important document and is seeing what he thinks he can do.

My thanks and best to you all.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Route 1, Box 275  
Yellow Springs, Ohio o  
July 19, 1970

Dear Hal:

I pushed right through reading Coup d'Etat because I don't want to have this reading hanging over my head and must get on to other work; so I will get it mailed back to you and must now write some comments about it.

It is considerably more impressive than I had conceived possible. I am grateful for your labors and wish I could help in its publication. It does need editing for there are big obstacles to the ordinary reader following in places where valuable material needed for the full treatment stands in the way of the reader who will not be able to go fully into all the digressions and angles you go into. My father's work on the army engineers is in the same way.

On the King assassination I was glad to see the treatment that I had not at all expected bearing out my contentions so fully. I would add one item. That is the sophistication of use of radio to mislead the chase of the assassin was the same as the Dallas assassination in using radio communication to expedite the job, only with a variation of the treatment. This to me spelled the same assassin team and planning. I feel that this is worthy of note. The false disproof of the radio use being by conspiracy is another strong lead as to the police involvement as at Dallas.

Now as to your comment on Justice Warren's role as I conceived it in my last letter to you. Your analysis of Warren's role does not fit with what you have said in your books, the responsibility of Warren, and the extent to which he must have known what it was all about. I value your evaluation and suggestion that Warren was not a "conspirator" to have had an agreement to go along with the Report in exchange for the civil rights bill passed. But I believe I am still right, and my argument now is that this could be a tacit agreement with no overt contact on the subject between Warren and Johnson. And that is how many such understandings and relationships do develop in life. If Johnson had not pushed through the civil rights legislation Warren would not have felt the same way about not having Ruby brought to Washington to testify away from his masters, he would not have thought only of "national security" in covering up. It was not just Rankin's responsibility, not just the FBI and Alan Dulles. You in various places assert that Warren was not completely in the dark. And the kind of tacit understanding could be something that may not have been clear in the mind of Warren, but was a kind of growing relationship that is like that of advertising which grows on one's mind to control action. It would still be in effect the trading of civil rights legislation for Warren's silence and inaction on the source of the Kennedy assassination. And this in turn gives a different light on Warren's motivation than the crude assumption that Warren was either stupid or party to the coverup without any redeeming motive or purpose, that was Vince's view, and people who respect Warren rightly won't buy that view.

On Bobby's assassination you document what I predicted in a letter published in the Minority of One, the last published issue. What you document and discuss about Bobby's motive for defending the Warren Report is much needed, a major hole in the record. And I like your bringing in the Black Panthers. I can understand the black's disinterest. They have given

to a considerable extent

up with the white world and are so sure that the same assassins were responsible in conspiracy that they don't see the point of sticking their necks out to prove what they already know. I don't agree, but really it is the whites that have the responsibility, not the blacks. Blacks are at least putting up a fight for the black panthers -- those not already bought out by the white establishment.

I hope to see your book published before too long. The time is late. The enemy is using doubt and disbelief to get the public to believe the left wing was the conspiracy. The longer they wait the stronger will be this belief.

If you need help in an emergency let me know. I'm living beyond my means, and try to make ends meet, but in real emergency I might be able to help.

In the name of the Great Spirit of us all,

fraternally

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Griscom".

Griscom Morgan