

Dear Howard,

4/18/77

Your 4/13 story on Lane and Pollicoff is what I'd heard before, attributed to Kevin, perhaps, or from Jerry or both. I'm pretty sure Jerry did tell me. I have no trouble believing it. It does not bother me except as it could because Jerry had anything to do with so evil a work and stinking a person. When you read what Lane did with Jerry's McMillan file you'll see for yourself. He tried to make Jerry Ray a hero with it.

He called me in advance of the Oltmans broadcast. As I now recall that was the morning of the 4th. I prepared him. All those things you attribute to him I gave him for him to use even though he had said he'd decided not to do the show.

I did not know of the deM-Epstein mutual hatred, if it is factual, but I told Jerry about the \$5,000 deM got for that interview.

The Dallas reporting has been good. This time I've been getting it promptly.

What Jerry did with it, if it is as good as it could have been, has little meaning.

It reached fewer people than any news account in the print press. The people it reached are not people who can make any difference.

And it merely repeated what was printed.

If there is nothing wrong with this it also means little if anything.

What can be significant is missing in your account of his report to you: what Lane and Oltmans said.

We will never know what pushed deM that little bit too far.

Jerry has his own committee hangup. He has never been right about it or good in his writing about it or even fair in his appearances about it. Given these circumstances it is self-serving to lay the suicide on Epstein and on him alone.

And this is to say that he becomes more undependable.

Best,

4/12/77

MEMO re Policoff call and DeM, Epstein, Oltmans, Lane, et. al.

Jerry called me last night to chat. He had some interesting things to say, which I think I ought to record.

First, he had recently (the previous night?) done a radio show from NY with Lane & Oltmans on phone from Palm Beach and Jones for a little while from TEXAS. He said he really tore into Oltmans, who was arrogant as a real Nazi. Lane said he was shocked that Jerry did not trust Oltmans, who he defended. One thing Jerry said he got Oltmans to admit was that DeM had not told his concocted story in late Feb. until after Oltmans brought the Earl Golz story about the Hunt letter to DeM's attention.

Jerry said it seems pretty clear that DeM was down in the dumps, that Oltmans convinced him he could make big bucks by coming up with his plot story and flew him off to Holland to tape the interview. Probably while in Holland DeM realized the mess he'd gotten into, that he wasn't going to make a cent and that he might get sued. It was then that he spooked out and fled, although query where he got the money to return to U.S.--Jerry says he was broke.

Also, Jerry has been working on a New Times piece re Epstein's upcoming book. He said he is now sure what Epstein will say because Jones Harris ran off at the mouth about it to Jerry. According to Jones the reconstruction (scenario?) involves Trafficants as working both sides, for CIA and for Castro or, indirectly, KGB, and that Castro used him and mob ties to get JFK, they in turn using the anti-Castro's to pull off the job. Thus, a foreign plot. But he also has a domestic cover-up, done because of fear of exposing fact (a la Angleton) that US intelligence was thoroughly infiltrated by KGB (enter NOsenko). Possibly will have DeM as Oswald's KGB babysitter. Who knows, maybe even double agent himself!

Jerry said that Epstein had paid DeM \$5,000 for an interview last year and both came away with mutual hatred, Epstein telling others he was convinced DeM had consistently lied to him. When Epstein interviewed DeM just before his suicide, he brought only one thing to show him--and Jerry says he has this on good authority: the Dallas Morning News article about DeM's mental ills confirmed. Evidently, Jerry says, Epstein tried to use the story to put pressure on DeM to "confess" and threatened to expose him as a KGB agent. Jerry thinks this really is what did the old guy in, not so much the committee.

Also, on the P.S. Letter, Jerry said he spoke to Earl Golz by phone and that Golz carefully explained to him all the various things the handwriting experts looked for and found which convinced them the letter is genuine. He couldn't remember them, however, when I pressed, and I reiterated my belief to the contrary.

Howard Roffman

4/13/77

Dear Harold,

Just a quick note re your letter to Jerry P., which arrived today. I can understand your disgust with him. The thanks by Lane in his book may, I think, be calculated to enrage you. A long time ago Jerry told me something that Kevin Walsh had told him. As you know, for a while Lane was really trying to cultivate Jerry, and several times asked him to be a member of the board of his committee. Jerry always turned him down. After Walsh left Lane and became disgusted with him, he told Jerry that Lane had a weird, sick hang-up about Jerry because he felt that Jerry was a close confidant of yours. Kevin said he was sure that Lane wanted Jerry to join the board because it would signal a personal victory over you, as if he "stole" Jerry away from your graces and into his. I don't think Lane ever said anything expressly to Kevin, but Kevin told Jerry this was his distinct impression. I don't know if Jerry did anything for Lane to warrant thanks in the book, and I really suspect not. A thanks to Jerry costs him nothing and gives the sickie the gratification of a stab (in his view) at you. You may feel differently, but I thought you would want to know this story.

Best,

Howard