

2/22/69

Mr. Paul Rothermel
Bunt Oil Co.
1401 Elm St.,
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Paul,

When you speak as you do of Gary you make me as happy as though I were his father. He is a fine young man to whom I have become strongly attached. He is one of two who have been of great help to me, both graduate student, both serious-minded, hard-working and deeply concerned about the society in which we live. I trust both implicitly. And both are excellent researchers. The other is a physicist. Gary is majoring in psychology. He loves nature and the outdoors, almost became a forester.

The day after I left Dallas, while I was still in New Orleans, I phoned him and asked him to be alert to what might be of value to you and later, when I knew some of your specific interests, I told him of them. He will send you automatically anything he thinks you will want. I am sure he has already. As you know, when I didn't have time to copy some of my files he had, I had him do this for you. He is that kind of young fellow, unselfish and willing to help others if he can. It now looks as though school will keep him from spending the summer with me and working in the Archives. We had already discussed his searching for what you might want. Eventually he will do this. When he does, wherever it is, he'll get for you what he thinks you'd like.

Most young men would have been embittered by experiences that have not changed his attitudes. Before the summer recess of college, he went to the help of a strange white man being attacked by about 20 young Negroes. He was so thoroughly beaten he was though unable to survive it. He did lose the sight of an eye, may yet lose that eye. He is the only one who went to the help of that man, yet there were a number of observers.

By a strange coincidence, I also had visitors recently and I also was not burglarized. In my own case, I suspect it was for the placing or removal of a bug. I have discovered nothing missing, but some things were not as I had left them. It is often possible to plot my comings and goings by eavesdropping on my phone. Anyone knowing me would have known, in any event, that I would have been in Washington for the hearing on getting the pictures and X-rays of the autopsy for Garrison. This was last Friday, 2/14.

As I wonder about who could have this interest at this late date, I can relate it to but two things: recent threats and my interest in the people behind "Farewell America". I have had some pretty smooth threats. It in one case was so professional I taped it (by phone) and took it up with the local police, who are friendly and fine people. They are concerned. I have not hidden my interest in Lamarre nor my reasons, for I could not, my best possible sources being from those who had an intimate relationship with him. Some of them have

trusted me and responded well. However, only these two young men have known I was in touch with you, and neither Gary nor the other would have said anything about it.

If I were, on insufficient basis, to draw conclusions, I would think that, having frustrated one of the more immediate objectives of the "Farewell America" operations, effecting a mistrial in New Orleans and the attendant very bad publicity, the purpose could have been to see what I have learned to see what is still possible. I have no doubt at all in my mind that I have established a connection between this operation and penetration of Garrison's office. In fact, they did much more than penetrate it, but explanation of this will have to wait until we meet again. The effect is obvious to me. It has made him paranoid, destroyed his and the office self-confidence. I see it in the trial, in what they did not do, in how they did what they have done. I know some of what they could and should have used and didn't, of questions they should have asked and have not. It is partly for this reason I have foregone the trial, to do other work I regard as essential, and I have done it. It may serve as a kind of protection, a kind of backstopping.

In confidence, I tell you it was a tough fight to keep Garrison going as far as he went in Washington. As it is he quit in the last minute, with only a day or so to go before they government had to appear in appeals court with an argument. I know some of the influence used with him against it, and it is part of the same paranoid approach.

He did not use some of the evidence and witnesses I had arranged for, although he did use others, and effectively. Some of your local people who have come to trust me were very good. I regard as most important some of what was not done, and I am not certain in my own mind, in the more important instances, that I understand why. He could easily have arranged a total, public destruction of the Warren Report, in a court of law, under cross-examination, and this he did not do. He could have anticipated what I am confident will be one of the main lines of the defense, and that he feared doing. They will exploit the indicting of Oswald as a conspirator and will use it effectively because Garrison has done nothing about the "false" Oswalds in his case. His "and others unknown" provision in the indictment could have been used for this and was not. I am satisfied it was not the real Oswald at Ferrie's home, and I have and have had independent confirmation that essentially such meetings were held. They were unable to go further with this than I did, and I turned this over to them more than 15 months ago.

I am now also satisfied that if Shew is convicted, it will be reversed on appeal. Some things were early done that I believe would have guaranteed this anyway.

My chief purpose in writing was to inform you of what might coincide with your burglary and thank you for the kind comments about Gary. I am no less convinced that there has been and may still be an agency operation afoot, and I am without doubt that there is agency involvement. If my beliefs are right, if my understanding is correct, there will continue to be an agency interest, as long as we try and bring the truth out. But, if that does not now happen in New Orleans, I am not without some hope that it might in Dallas. When I can clean up what I am most immediately into, I will return to what relates to that. In a few days I will have a limited edition of a third book and then, until commercial printing of one or more of these three seems possible, I will have the time for it.

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg

2/22/69

Mr. Paul Rothermel
Hunt Oil Co.
1401 Elm St.,
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Paul,

When you speak as you do of Gary you make me as happy as though I were his father. He is a fine young man to whom I have become strongly attached. He is one of two who have been of great help to me, both graduate student, both serious-minded, hard-working and deeply concerned about the society in which we live. I trust both implicitly. And both are excellent researchers. The other is a physicist. Gary is majoring in psychology. He loves nature and the outdoors, almost became a forester.

The day after I left Dallas, while I was still in New Orleans, I phoned him and asked him to be alert to what might be of value to you and later, when I knew some of your specific interests, I told him of them. He will send you automatically anything he thinks you will want. I am sure he has already. As you know, when I didn't have time to copy some of my files he had, + had him do this for you. He is that kind of young fellow, unselfish and willing to help others if he can. It now looks as though school will keep him from spending the summer with me and working in the Archives. He had already discussed his searching for what you might want. Eventually he will do this. When he does, wherever it is, he'll get for you what he thinks you'd like.

Most young men would have been embittered by experiences that have not changed his attitudes. Before the summer recess of college, he went to the help of a strange white man being attacked by about 20 young Negroes. He was so thoroughly beaten he was though unable to survive it. He did lose the sight of an eye, may yet lose that eye. He is the only one who went to the help of that man, yet there were a number of observers.

By a strange coincidence, I also had visitors recently and I also was not burglarized. In my own case, I suspect it was for the placing or removal of a bug. I have discovered nothing missing, but some things were not as I had left them. It is often possible to plot my comings and goings by eavesdropping on my phone. Anyone knowing me would have known, in any event, that I would have been in Washington for the hearing on getting the pictures and X-rays of the autopsy for Garrison. This was last Friday, 2/14.

As I wonder about who could have this interest at this late date, I can relate it to but two things: recent threats and my interest in the people behind "Farewell America". I have had some pretty smooth threats. It in one case was so professional I taped it (by phone) and took it up with the local police, who are friendly and fine people. They are concerned. I have not hidden my interest in Lamarre nor my reasons, for I could not, my best possible sources being from those who had an intimate relationship with him. Some of them have