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10/2/91

Dear David,

This in haste to make tonight's mail on our way to the Hana restaurant for supper. Harry phoned me this morning. I explained to him why I'd not sent him the MDW records it had given Lifton. I then asked him if he really did have any reason to believe that Rick had worked for Lifton. He said yes and he asked me if I'd ever spoken to Mark Crouch. I said I hadn't. He phoned Mark and Mark phoned me later and we spoke for several hours. From Mark said there is no question about it. I omit the details but he says he has knowledge of payments by Lifton and some of what they were for. Including copies of what was Harry's.

So, as they say in your business he had motive and opportunity.

The latter is something nobody other than you had when you were here with him. Nobody else has ever been interested in that material.

Lifton, of course, was anxious for me not to have it and my critical analysis of Best Evidence. Anxious enough, too, I think, to pay well for them.

There seems to be little reason to doubt that Mark had a long and close relationship with Lifton until he broke it off this year.

He says that Lifton boasted of blackmailing Rick. Lifton said he had a friend in the DA's office and he told Rick that if he did not do what Lifton asked Lifton would tell his friend all about Rick's misuse of police computers and information and he'd be fired.

I'm very sorry to feel that nobody other than Rick could have done this. He borrowed the MDW records to copy them for Harry and made no mention of the analysis. If he had copied them and returned my originals, they'd be here. You are the one who searched where he said he filed them. They are not there. I checked my office file. Neither is there. Only Lifton had an interest in my not having copies and there is no other reason I can think of for Rick merely stealing them rather than making copies. Also, I believe he did make copies.

I know he can't get Lifton to return my originals so I'll accept complete copies of both. I do want them, please tell him. and that I'm sorry for him. I am.

I hope Lifton makes no trouble for him. I think he'll be wise to tape any phone conversation with Lifton, particularly any threat. Once he has a threat on tape he can tell Lifton that he'll charge attempted blackmail. Whether or not he can Lifton won't be crazy enough to take any chances.

If Rick stole anything else I'd like to have it returned.

I hate to ask this of you but there is no way I can reach him. Thanks and best to all

David