

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

Box 392 Mayo Hospital

MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455
April 26, 1968

Dear Harold,

Thanks for sending the letter to Steve Burton. While I hate to get drawn into the thing with Lane, both Vince and I agree with your point of view. In fact, I probably did more than anybody to convince the other people in Phila. of what was going on since they all knew that I first got interested in the case when I heard Lane speak in Ithaca, N.Y. late in 1964 (Epstein was also in the audience). First generation critics such as yourself and second generation people like me owe it to the country to do our utmost--something you set an example for. This thing is just too big for anyone who knows the case to goof off. If New Orleans still hasn't located the stuff I left down there before I flew to Phila, I'll send you copies; but please have them check first since I can't afford too much zeroxing.

(far more complete than the microfilm)

I checked out the name you sent me in my master index but didn't find anything. The best bet is to check with Rhoads. My index won't be complete until the summer, although it's pretty good now. My paper on the C list should be put together in the coming weeks.

Your approach to the Naylor thing looks like the smartest one. I will carefully find out what I can; but won't involve anyone else in it so as to avoid leaks. I may not get anything but this is too sensitive to take a chance on blowing it. By the way, I'm running down some stuff from Sprague from KSTP-TV--maybe the film taken by the "Babushka lady" (South side of Elm--unidentified--very close--near Brehm). Found a Dallas man up here who may have info.

I'll send you copies of the Thornely article in a few days. Your new material sounds good. It looks like the date for your appearance here will be the 15th (&16th?) of May. I won't know for sure until Wed., but it is pretty certain and I'm telling the TV shows to plan on it. Most of them aren't long enough, but educational TV will do a 1/2 hr. special on you. Sorry for the delay but I'm dealing with an incredible bureaucracy.

As for lie-detector or pentathol, the psychiatrist of the subject is adequate for the pentathol. We don't know of any place down there that would do it for free. I am going to try to get my boss to do one on Ruth Paine up here for free. As I said before, by the middle of the summer I should be reasonably competent and might be able to be useful in that capacity.

The effect of psychiatric problems on credibility depends heavily on what type of pathology is present:

1. Alcoholics or others who have suffered minor brain damage which causes memory troubles are often the least credible of all. They sound like they have excellent memories because they confabulate without thinking twice. This is something which is very hard to spot. The best bet is to ask the same question, reworded, a number of well spaced times and carefully note the answer. Another sign is perseveration or the tendency to repeat the same memories time and time again.

2. Psychopaths who lie so glibly that even a trained person cannot usually pick it up without some outside source of info. These types, however, are usually not in treatment, with the exception of periods when they meet with frustration.

3. Psychotics suffer from both lack of veridicality of perception (misinterpretation of reality) and screwy thinking which can confuse things. This group is not too frequently encountered, and can be identified by loose associations, inappropriate affect, etc.

4. Paranoids, whether psychotic or not, often misinterpret reality or selectively perceive it, so that they are often characterized by giving out misinformation. This was the problem with Kroman.

5. Neurotics, which make up the bulk of disorders and the largest percentage of patients seeing therapists in an out-patient setting, are as credible as anyone else.

In summary, if you bet on your informants credibility as long as he is not psychotic, chronic alcoholic, or brain damaged, you will usually be OK. The average person who is seeing a psychiatrist, having trouble adjusting, etc. is OK. Anybody who is way out enough to have his credibility affected could be spotted by a layman. Bear in mind, however, that a paranoid will invariably distort his information and a psychopath (many criminals--generally smooth talking, likeable, and clever) can lie without batting an eyelash. In short, follow your senses. Whether you know it or not, you are undoubtedly an accomplished psychologist due to your enormous experience with people. You apparently handle them as well as any of us who are carefully trained as to how to handle them.

I'm on to something new and may have some interesting material for you when you get out here. Take care and give my regards to your wife.

I still have nothing on Rudolph Richard (W.M.)
Davis - Agent for Western Life Insurance Co., St.
Paul - O in NO - p323

Gary

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473-8186

Route 8
Frederick, Md. 21701

April 30, 1968

Mr. Gary Schoener
Box 392, Mayo Hospital
Minneapolis, Minn. 55455

Dear Gary:

Thanks for your letter of April 26.

I am ticketed to fly to New Orleans on the 16th, but I can change it. Please try and keep the program as early as possible that week. Inform me as soon as you can so I can change my ticket. If necessary, I can fly from Minneapolis to New Orleans.

Thanks for the technical information. Would very serious accident involving head surgery figure? If so, how much could you deduce from medical reports?

With reference to the second paragraph of your letter, anything on any Cuban, camp, person of any age or activity is of immediate interest.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg