

10/13/69

Dear Gary,

Glad to get your 10/10 from Dallas. What you say of Mary is, if you recall, pretty much what I wrote you after I met her and Arch at Bud's. I do not know how much I'll have time for and still get this in tonight's outgoing mail. You'll find a day's reading when you get back to Mpls. I've been accumulating many things for you and will mail them in time, now that I know your projected plans. If I didn't tell you earlier, Moo has promised me the transcripts. I also tell you some of what he promised could have been here by now.

The real reason for haste is to assure you it is fine to give Mary the WDSU footage. However, be certain to caution her that as a condition of getting it I "swore away my life", as Planer put it. This boiled down to no use at all. It is merely for our knowledge. She should not permit copies to be made by anyone. If it turns out there is someone who she thinks should have a copy, we can get her a better one from the negatives Patsy made and I would like to pass on it. Truth is I invited Mary here to rummage through my files. There is little she cannot have and just about nothing she cannot see.

My chief concern in mentioning the west-coast nastiness was that she not get taken in by Lidton. Glad that is not the case. "The old critics", on the west coast and in Texas, means Maggie, Ray, perhaps Bill and Penn. None of this concerns me for I am satisfied about my personal behavior with all of them, of which you have seen a small sample, and am without apprehensions about my "professional" conduct. Maybe William also? Some comment.

If I am surprised that Lidton has finally gotten something really significant - and I am - I am also worried about how he'll use it. I know what he told me. I also know the ease with which much of this kind of material can be misused, and I regard him as one more likely too having had my own experiences with him along that line.

Agreed on John. However, the record is already the other way around, for it is I who gave him access to unpublished material, with the request he not use it, and as you know he has gone ahead, after failing to get it and with my proof of its existence, to duplicate it. He has pre-empted much of my work because I cannot but support his suit. I proposed at first and later that he make me party to the suit. He hasn't, hasn't even responded. You have a copy of my unpublished work, and you know none of his material is in it. Sorry he feels that way. I'll still help him all I can, and I've done a very time-consuming job for him and given him unpublished material for his Brief. Your Betzner concern is not without warrant.

I knew Mary and I agreed on Box and Turner. She is right to seek what crumbs she can get from Box. If she gets any, I wish she'd share them, for some of them might mean to mean what they may not to her/him.

You say "they have tracked down the numbers Ferrie called, Shaw called", etc. That is something I would very much like to be able to go over. As you can imagine, I have an enormous number of leads with both. And I've spent much time talking to friends of both. If she wants to place any restrictions, okay. Anything with numbers, tho, she really should send to Paul, for they have done an enormous labor on that. They should also have from him out set of the doc indexes, if she doesn't. I believe it costs Paul about \$15 to make a copy. She told me she had the radio transcript and was going to consider letting me see it. What should be done is a comparison, word for word.... Give them my best,

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Dear Harold-

10/10/69

Saw Nichols - he has a number of fantastic slides which I don't think he showed you - he is a very unusual guy - I had a nice tour of Kansas City, a good dinner, and a discussion of his suit. He is very paranoid about someone stealing his work. We saw Betyner who was very friendly & cooperative. We are virtually assured of copies of Betyner 112, and have a chance for 3 if Nichols handles it right & Hugh B. III is in a good mood when his father phones him. I got along very well with H.B. Jr. but Nichols is a bit bizarre in such conversations.

Mary is very fine & has high respect for you. She had heard neg. comments about you from the old critics (?) [not Lifton & Fred, who were apparently afraid to say a word] of the type w/ which you are familiar - Mark Lane type stuff. She feels these comments were unjust. By the way, I have good reason to believe that she is extremely frank w/ me, & we get along very well, so I think that my comments in this letter are pretty accurate. She has now been wised up on Jaffe and is pondering her relationship w/ him. He seems to be aware that she has seen the things he wrote about her & has not contacted her in some time. She is close w/ Boxley, who dropped by twice in an obvious attempt to catch me alone, but thinks he is a liar. Her view of him is that he is a sick man and not CIA, & that he never was CIA. She continually tries to pump him for info since she feels that some things he found may be significant despite his incompetence & craziness. I agree. She feels that Turner could be an agent & in any event is malevolent. She feels Boxley did as much damage and was as much trouble, but not by design. Boxley seems genuinely upset about the loss of Jim's friendship. He claimed not to remember having met me when at breakfast w/ you and only after probing remembered having sat in for hours when I met w/ Davison.

DAVE OR FRED IN LETTERS TO MARY IN MY OPINION. THEY SAID NOTHING ABOUT THE BIG CONTROVERSY, PROBABLY BECAUSE MY LETTERS TO THEM HAVE ESTABLISHED A RECORD WHICH WOULD RUIN THEM WERE THEY TO PUSH THE SUBJECT AGAIN, AND IN FRED'S CASE BECAUSE HE HAS REPENTED AND IS EMBARRASSED A BIT I SUSPECT. LET MARY HAVE FURTHER DEALINGS WITH THESE PEOPLE AND LEARN WHAT TYPE OF PEOPLE THEY ARE, ESPECIALLY IN DAVE'S CASE. IT IS BEST GIVEN WHAT I KNOW OF THE SITUATION, SOME OF WHICH I CAN'T TELL YOU WITHOUT VIOLATING MARY'S CONFIDENCE, TO LET HER EXAMINE WHAT I HAVE TOLD HER AND THEIR BEHAVIOR WITH HER. SHE IS NOBODY'S FOOL, AND IN FACT, IS ONE OF THE MOST CAPABLE AND SUBTLY DEVIOUS PEOPLE I HAVE MET IN THIS GAME. By the way, I understand her relationship with Jaffe, I think, now, but as with the case of Boxley, have no doubt that her files are closed to them. So let this whole business sit with her, and I think that any chance of them misusing her kindness will drop measurably.

I think I will be meeting Sue and Arch tonight or this weekend. We hope to see Penn, and I want to see Phil Williams and his slides, Wanda Schaeffer and that photo, Reed and photos, Jarnegin, Harper, and as many others as I can think of

The Crafard file will blow your mind. It is incredible. I will send you the whole thing when I get back from here.

Don Olson has been in touch with Paul and seems quite happy out there. Edelman is settled at Cornell and is contacting Kilgallen's ex-husband, Kollmar.

Henry Lippman called me late one night from Washington, and I told him to call you and see if he could do anything for you. He is largely untrained, but quite bright, and pretty useful if told what to do. He is the son of a well-known psychiatrist. If I remember correctly, he called me either the night of a prelim, or at least some night when I was pretty wiped out. I told him to ask you if there were any original testimony transcripts you wanted checked since he could do that easily without training.

Nichols and Mary have both been very good to me. Nichols put me up at the student union in a very nice room and took me for a fine dinner, and Mary has offered to do anything for me she can. Nichols is a very weird guy and is very paranoid about those slides of his. (i.e. Because they weren't marked as copywritten material, he continually mentioned that they were so as to comply with the law in case I was going to use anything from them.) Help from you and Dick has put him more in touch with the facts, but he has a quality of sloppiness which reminds me of Jim. His lawsuit, however, is being handled by some top lawyers, which should keep it sound. He was worried that you might write about them not being able to view the brain in one of your books, and I reassured him. He has a much more charitable view of Fisher than I do, and I argued against it, but have no idea of the effects of my argument. His views are hard to judge. Mary really has her feet on the ground, is incredibly knowledgeable, and the group as a whole has done enormous work. I realize that this is redundant, but in certain areas they have far surpassed anything I have seen or heard of. They are very slow to give out their more secret info, however, perhaps because it represents an enormous amount of work, but more perhaps because they are afraid that some possibly innocent people would get hurt. In other words, they have stuff on many people which could be used to ruin them, but even though they feel these people may be involved, they are fearful of making a mistake. Correction, they are fearful that it would become public knowledge and hurt those people wrongly. Fitch is close with Hunt and Rothermel. One of the liason's made in Mary's last trip to New Orleans was Carlos Marcello himself, not to mention other Mafia figures. She is very sneaky and very clever and those are good traits in this business. She can also pull stunts that you and I wouldn't stoop to or wouldn't be able to, like that of the dumb housewife. Did you know that she and Arch got inside the vault of classified material in the archives and that it almost caused Johnson to have heart failure? They didn't see any documents unfortunately. Mary has a close relationship with Simmons which could be useful. She got to look at the Z film for 3 hours in a film viewer all alone and says she could have stolen it easily. She says that it is the same as the copy which we have and that those splice marks are on it.

Well, I'd better close now. Best wishes.

Jary

PS: Do you remember those printouts Patsy made from the WDSU footage? I have an extra set which I kept for safety reasons. I think that Mary could make good use of the faces--ie she thinks that she knows who the woman is who stands near Steele. She would keep it in confidence and it might pay big dividends. If you send an answer airmail, I should get it before I leave here, since I won't leave before Thursday or Friday. Ironically, I brought that stuff by accident due to my haste in packing and she happened to see that frame.