

7/24/69

Dear Gary,

Had I not gotten your letter of the 21st this a.m. I'd have sent you the enclosed c/o Mary in the morning. Sorry for the reason that keeps you from going to Dallas almost as much as the fact you now cannot.

After reading the letter to Don, would you please forward it to him? I also had it in the Mary envelope.

My doctor today confirmed the opinion of the one who saw me in the emergency room of the local hospital last Friday, when I went there kind of in a rush: anxiety with hyper ventilation. I'm inclined to agree and think that I may be able to isolate that one of my assorted tensions that may be immediately causative. Meanwhile, if you have a free source of meprobamate, I'm to take 4 @ 400 mg a day for a while and they cost 6¢ each. I am surprised, for I believe this year I have been more relaxed, have been trying to get more rest, getting a change for an evening occasionally, and had rebuilt a few muscles, etc. The ventilation part is what sort of startled me. Strange reaction. But I guess nerves work in strange ways. And it has been so long since I even lost my cool! I hadn't felt unusually nervous or tense, not at all, really the contrary. And I guess I should seek a source so I can read up on it and understand it better.

Meanwhile, how about really getting down to school work? I think you should.

Why did Jim write you? How did he know you were going there? That plus his letter to me, which is out of character, plus the fact that this is quite contrary to what he had agreed to in JANUARY December - he was to have nothing to do with the case - plus its contradiction to what Moo told me (nothing at all except the Shaw case) make me wonder. Add to this I asked for Finck's testimony a long time ago (I think I'm getting it from Nichols) and for other testimony, and haven't gotten it. And suppose I hadn't asked for it - I gave them what I had on the autopsy - what they used in questioning him. Should I have had to ask for it? What the hell kind of working arrangement is that? or "cooperation". I tell you it is not a good sign in any way. Need I point out the total dishonesty of his offering to pay your extra expenses, which is only proper, while poor-mouthing me and saying he hasn't the money to pay back what I had expended for him? I never expect to get it. I have no doubt it was the letter that embarrassed him into it, but I also have no doubt the only reason I had to waste so much time, wait so long, is because he told Louis not to. I have no doubt at all that Louis' total failure to respond is on Jim's direct order. This extends to not even returning what I loaned them after repeated requests.... And I am less than happy he has not lost his interest in the case outside his jurisdiction. There is no possibility of his being at all helpful. We are lucky to have survived him at all. Should he attempt anything else, we are all cooked, unless he has an airtight case entirely within his jurisdiction - and that not now until after the election. I tell you he has eschewed airtight cases in the past and I would look askance at any sudden interest in them now. This is cause for worry when he is in a political campaign and is capable of anything. Do keep me posted. Meanwhile, if you'd like, since I'll not have time to use it immediately, if John doesn't send me the Finck testimony (in which event I could give Paul what you sent) I can lend Paul my set from you so he can copy. I'm keeping on the addition to COUP, which now runs about 60,000 words. ... You do as you believe right, but I think you should have no contact with Jim now. No good can come of it and he agreed to keep out of it. He must, absolutely. Not that we can control this. But we should do absolutely nothing to encourage it. Please learn by the undeviating experience,

regardless of reason, he just cannot be trusted and in this area, as distinguished from a general law, there is not minimal competence in the entire office. Nor is there dedication, save to him. If you encourage him in any way, you court disaster for all of us. If you associate yourself in any way, you sanctify his violation of his word. What in the world can you possibly expect to come of this that is good? All his files together are worthless, and they are available in any event. Gary, I fear very much that if you go forward, especially now, you will very much regret it. There is, in addition, no aspect of the case in which you cannot better spend what time you can find.

Gary, I know this man and this office as nobody else does. Please take my most sincere assurances and stay away.

Bredley is suing the San Diego committee, the Free Press, Lane, Turner and/or Ramparts, Westinghouse Broadcasting and about 50 John Does for about \$1,500,000 (all thanks to the utter irresponsibility of need I tell you who?). I am seeking a complete file and when I get it if you like you can copy. All I now have is a clipping that says only what I have above. I think that I may already, without knowing its possible future utility, done for the SD committee what can exonerate if it ever goes to trial. I also fear that in the traditional sense he was libelled.

On Mary: the close tie exists. What can be accomplished is basis for exchanges, willingness for which already exists. Someone to be more familiar with what they have could be valuable.

On Julia Ann Mercer: please stay away from Jim. On anything. Do not in any way encourage him. For the moment assuming you believe him and the statement she gave him, it cannot be as good in potential as any encouragement, no matter how slight and indirect, can be bad. If he has any time to take from his campaign, for Christ's sake, why doesn't he spend it on the cases he already has filed, on none of which is he prepared! We should, I think, consider her story passed and not spend any time on it until at the least we establish her dependability. There is too much of it that doesn't make sense. It is too dangerous. And it will not now be heeded, no matter how solidly it is supported, simply because he used it. There are too many promising things that can be worked on and above all, we must try and keep him from hurting us all, all over again. He is the DA of NO, no more, and he is a strange man capable of justifying anything to himself, and has abundantly demonstrated that he has only selfish interests, is a real lemming, and is so entirely irresponsible he is a walking disaster to us. If he had shown any sign of regret, and recognition of the awful things he had done, perhaps it might be argued, but he hasn't. And stop it all he is plain dishonest. Gark, PLEASE, NO!

Butler: maybe somebody else has followups. Do not spend \$\$\$ on it.

Northwestern: no answer, but will send if I get. I heard on radio.

Gary, important as your work is to all of us, and especially to me, personally, you owe it to us as much as to yourself to take care of school first. I have belabored you with this in the past and will not again now. I merely ask you you do what you know you must, so that, aside from doing what your own interest requires, you can be of more help on this to everyone. School first, and intensively. If you need a break, take it now, near there.

Say nothing about it but Bud has agreed to represent me in a suit that is deliberately limited. I'll keep you posted. You may not have caught it when I sent it to you, but I have finally gotten them in an outright lie and outright violation of the law and he agrees. If you haven't caught it, it will have to await explanation -and it is nothing you can help on. I just do not want to risk telegraphing until we are ready. We discussed this today, I gave him the documents, and he will be going over them. It has other urgencies I'll not spell out but perhaps you can surmise. Best wishes and try and muster some good cheer respite car.

July 21, 1969

Dear Paul,

Thanks for your letter of July 14 and its enclosures. My car just broke down, which is draining time, will drain money, and has prevented the Dallas trip. The latter is quite unfortunate since by the time it came to get set to leave, it became apparent that there is much that I could do there. Also, I got a cordial invitation to visit New Orleans from Jim Garrison, so that I could have done something about getting things of relevance for us from the files.

I agree about trying to diminish friction between critics, which is why I finally got angry at Dave. I did not enter into that fray until his charges about Harold, and eventually me, became outlandishly inflammatory, and even worse, involved other critics. Further than that, it was all done in front of Fred Newcomb, and until I replied to a number of series of charges with data of some sort, it was extremely difficult for me to even communicate with Fred and Marlynn. Having been fairly close with them, I suddenly found myself hit by a barrage of attacks from both them and Dave, with frequent citation of material provided by Dave and so identified by the Newcombs. Besides the fact that it would waste your time, I cannot send Dave's letters to you because he has forbidden it (forbidden my sending copies to anyone). If it would serve any purpose, I would have liked some impartial party out there to have examined the stuff, and thus saved me many 5 page letters (I spared you about 9/10 of it). Right now, however, at least the Newcombs seem to have realized that there are two sides to every story, and often Lifton's version is the farthest from the available evidence. As for Lillian, it appears that Dave misconstrued what she said. One of the major points I tried to make in those arguments was that the critic's grapevine was unreliable and should not be used to help render decisions about people or things.

I am familiar with what Joesten has written on Crafard. He has similar ideas, but for reasons which I don't consider very good ones. I have always assumed that Crafard was the guy who looks like LHO who was at the electrical contractors, but that doesn't make him an Oswald double agent. Enclosed is a memo on Crafard which is a very preliminary memo done by Mrs. Jackie Dolan of my group. The speculations in it are to be taken as no more than that--just ideas. Other items which she will discuss in memos to be done later are the fact that Crafard's wife and children could have been the woman with children who accompanied that man to the furniture mart.

As for Mondale, he continues replying, and continues to get letters from his constituents who often hear me speak. I am pressuring Minnesota Congressmen from as many angles as possible more as an experiment than anything else. Also, I would like to be able to tell their constituents that they have seen the material. Several already have. I am aiming for HHH, who I have reason to believe has some information of importance.

Your remarks on the archives were interesting. I have never gotten a fast reply, until the last one, no matter what I asked for.

I have all the Powell documents--got them several years ago. I have been unable to track him, and so has Dick Sprague, who was after the photos. I had a promise of help on him from someone who knew him, and was Army Intelligence--but that was Jim Murray, and within a week he was shot to death in Alaska. I am still trying to research his death, because, despite everything, I had gotten to like him. I would like the pages on Lawrence, since I don't know whether I have them. Garrison was pushed towards him by the unfriendlies, and Bud considered him as involved in the assassination as of last summer, but when confronted on it, he could not defend this position. The biggest item was that he left a car parked behind the TSB and picked it up the next day, or something like that.

Well, best wishes. Got to go now. Still dispondent about the cancellation of the Dallas trip. Have a good summer.
cc:Harold

Gary

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July 21, 1969

Dear Harold,

The Dallas trip is off for now. My car unexpectedly broke down, and the problem has not yet even been diagnosed. Until it is, and fixed, I must remain here. Also, I do not know how much it will cost. I am hoping to get the first two weeks in October off. If so, I will be through with prelims, not under pressure, and the weather will be better for a long trip in my car. In addition, I will be able to see Stuart Reed who will be back in Dallas then. This was a big disappointment, but I have come to expect them over the years. Car trouble or money has always prevented me from going to Dallas.

I just got a letter from Big Jim. It was extremely friendly. He wants me to either come to N.O. or let me know where I will be in Dallas. He even offered to pay any extra expenses I incur coming to N.O. More important, however, is the fact that he sent me (at my request) some of Finck's testimony. I have mentioned this to no one, although it would seem that Paul should get a copy. Under separate cover I am sending you a copy I had made for you. The only other one is mine. I will leave it up to you as to how it gets circulated. If I can get there before the election, I can probably copy many of their files, so figure out what would be most helpful to have. He sounds in good shape, and seems very interested in pursuing things. My contacts with Jim, although I have mentioned them to Paul, should be kept quiet, so that there is no sabotage.

In your letter to Lou you mentioned a "Bradley suit." Is he suing someone among us?

On your letter of 7/17, thanks for setting things up with Nichols. I will write or phone him of the change in plans, and also brief him on the other info. I will relay the rest to Mary in my next letter.

Glad to hear that you are in better shape and that you checked with doctor. Got your letter of 7/16, with enclosures. I hope to take Mary up on her offer in October. I agree that the most important single thing I can do there is probably to establish a close tie with us. They seem to have done much, and more important, they are there and can do much in the future. They apparently know the case well, and are active.

On Square, I do not subscribe, but rather wanted the articles by Butler. It is too expensive to subscribe to. If you want that issue of the Square, keep it, and I will send for another for myself. I can't find that clipping on the Northwestern Psych Prof. I will ask Jim about Julia Ann Mercer.

Although tests don't usually worry me, the prelims which I will take on Sept. 22 and that whole week have me anxious already. Much is riding on them, but more important, there is an incredible amount of studying necessary just to come close to passing. If I fail any, I must retake them and waste more months studying. That is my biggest worry, since I am taking some of the most difficult ones. Once they are over, I will suddenly turn out a great deal of work on the assassination--all those things I have been planning all year and haven't gotten to.

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

Gary

PS: Along with the Finck testimony, under separate cover, will be coming a preliminary memo done by Mrs. Jackie Delan of my committee. She knows the volumes extremely well. The speculations it contains are just that in her mind and mine, but there is much more to come as soon as she returns from vacation--like Craford's wife and kids who are about the same age as Marina and hers (as in the furniture mart).