

7/14/69

Dear Gary,

I think the various enclosures require no explanations. I repeat the urgency of your total silence on some of it. On others, it is not by accident that I did not restrain myself.

Check on your 7/8 to Dick and 7/9 to Penn. I have trouble explaining within my concept of Penn his failure to pay me for the books he has bought and yet has the money to go abroad. I asked for copies of the 26, which he has, in part payment, and have no response. When I feel up to it I'll write him again.

Appreciate much your offer on the doctor. That is not the problem. I have written, as enclosed. I agree with your reasoning and have raised it with the men I saw Friday.

Jim has been silent, as I expect. Mos was not, as you now know. We are really in very bad shape and I do not hide my bitterness about the unnecessary, unsolicited contributions to it....Jim and Vince feed each others egos as now no one else will.

Kara-P : no further suggestions. I will return this file to you. Not realizing it was your original, I filed it. If there is anything else with it, please let me know so I can return that. I think there was another several pages. I hope to see Bud soon again. He wants a copy of the deM file and will make one for him and one for my need. I'll ask him if he wants this, too, then return. I will not now spend the money or take the time required. I do have to conserve both.

I think that if my Senator made the inquiry I expect, everyone else will get better service, if only to make them look better to him. They will explain delay to me as employee resentment at what they will call my rudeness.

You asked for a copy of the letter in which I told Fred the color was off in Jim's Z. I have glanced through the file but am not up to reading it again. However, I found a set of photocopies I may not have mailed you, for I do not know any other reason I'd have mailed them. I do not here address this as directly as I told you, saying merely that ~~it~~ "It is not a print from the original, is not good and clear, is not even complete.2 If I didn't tell Fred, as I thought, then I did tell Burton. I spotted this on first viewing and, I believe, so told you. Note my warning about N.O. more than a year ago, my caution to him he did not heed on other pix and what he did, and my offers to help. I also find in looking for this I was then feeding him some of my own material on 133A&B. Note also I had reported to him what I had done to get him pix credit and his response he didn't care about credit. I told him the whole story later. He did not need your letter on Mark. If you and Dick are corresponding about a tape of the assassination, the only one of which I know was manufactured. I have the file somewhere, complete with lab readings and interpretations. Schiller almost used it in 1966\$

Better knowck off for the night. Thanks for kind offers, feelings.

Best,

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July 10, 1969

Dear Harold,

I was disturbed to get your letters of 7/6 and 7/8. I knew that your health was not great but was not aware that it was failing in this fashion. I strongly recommend a complete checkup. The last time I was at your place we went down to a health cooperative or something like that to which you belong. They should have facilities for a complete checkup. There are all kinds of things which can beset someone your age, and which would lead to a general syndrome of just a physical breakdown, and the only way to find the cause is a very thorough physical exam with blood tests, etc. A physical breakdown is a sign that something is wrong, and should be treated as such--a signal from your body that there is something wrong. Not knowing your doctor or his professional abilities, I advise not taking any sort of assurances from him and insisting on a thorough checkup exam with tests, etc. One of the most frequent diagnostic mistakes, and the one which causes the most damage, is the failure to spot a problem or the explaining of symptoms in the easiest or least malignant manner. While I don't want to be an alarmist, my experience with many physicians leads me to advise overreaction to any sort of problem--assume that it may be something serious until proven otherwise. I have personally had to watch two patients die of neurological disorders (no relevance to what you mention is wrong to you) after having made the correct diagnosis myself just based on the following of the simple diagnostic rules as laid out by the book, while entire neurology staffs misdiagnosed something until it was too late.

Dick's idea on the photographing of 399 was a good one. The thing about the weight of 399 I thought we had discussed last summer. I discussed it with someone then. Although I hadn't looked into it as much as I had wanted, I had the idea that the weighing might have been after the taking of that sample for the spectrograph. On the McRae clipping Dick sent, his handwriting put an interesting name in the margin: Van Leuven. Remember Ceil Van Leuven who wrote you from Minneapolis? I will try to get in touch with her again now that this has come up. One never knows. I mentioned it in my last letter to Dick. Dick sent me a damn good memo on Herald so that I will know what I am doing. I wrote Dick extensively on Lifton

Your letters to Jim and Moo were interesting. The one to Jim was excellent. The one to Moo, while totally justified, may unfortunately, hinder getting your money. This type of situation is always a problem, since it has dragged on for so long, and has weighed heavily on you, and yet the principle need right now is the money. I am going to retype the one you wrote to Jim and send Vince a copy in case Jim is in touch with Vince, since I think that it is a fine statement of the situation, and shows remarkable restraint on your part. I have a terrible time living with Vince's attitudes towards Jim and his outlandish praise of him. I am afraid that Vince, perhaps like Ray Marcus and others working on the case, live in ivory towers and speak of the critics speaking out for the sake of history--a history which will never be written unless the critics themselves do it and then do things to try to insure its survival among the writings of the century. Vince considers the case solved for two reasons: we have caught the big guy--the CIA, even though, of course, we can't prove it, and we don't know who or exactly how or why this thing happened; and also, because undoubtedly such a well-oiled plot wouldn't leave anybody behind. As far as I am concerned, we have not yet scratched the surface on all possibilities on either end of the plot, and would be crazy to quit. To me it is very important to be able to construct proofs which would convince anyone who was sane, and very important to find out the actual mechanism and perhaps get an idea of the actual people or groups involved in this. Global theorizing is just not my style. And ironically, my personal method of public presentation, has already shown as far as I am concerned an even more important possibility with this work: opening a general credibility gap because for once we have solid evidence which people can see with their own eyes of an almost unbelievable great lie. This is, naturally, a strain on my friendship with Vince, and gets me no love from Livy either since she, naturally, would just as soon see Vince retire from the case completely. So this has

again become a problem of sorts. This earlier came up in the phone debate which was a three-way gangup by Ray, Letha, and Vince on me, and what much of it boiled down to, if I am correctly extracting its essence, was whether one wanted to quit or fight. The main problem with Vince's approach is that it goes well within his limited ~~##~~ ivory tower of intellectuals, but does nothing within the framework of the culture or society. It sounds great within his household, but does little outside of it. His NY speech was a good example.

Well, I've got to go now. Under separate cover are coming to you several archives documents which I am sending to you to copy and return. I would have gladly copied them for you, but they are far too light for our xerox (which needs cleaning, but wouldn't be capable of much even if it didn't)--I tried before sending. Also enclosed is an archives letter which would amaze you. It is from Eckhoff and is an answer of my letter of June 26 (which couldn't have arrived before the 28th or 29th) dated July 3! That is an all-time record for me. Has the policy changed there. I usually get letters answered after about 3 weeks at best. Even more interesting is that they also sent me the documents I ordered with that letter. After you return these and I get back from Dallas I will write that Kara-Patnitski memo. Do you have any ideas for further checking either he or Minerva Machinery Co. out? Edelman has done a thorough job on the phone books going back into the 50's. What about bill collectors--how do they check out ~~phone~~ companies, etc.? By the way, this archives letter is the confirmation that CD 1373 is still classified, so we are set on that one.

If there is any kind of medical treatment or medicine which you cannot afford, but which you may need, please inform me. I can borrow a hundred dollars from my parents, and then loan you a \$100 from my account on a long-term no interest basis, with the idea that if I ever get rolling in the field and pay back my debts and am well off, it will become a gift. I am very uneasy, and have been for some time about your financial situation, especially as it affects your health which concerns me not only because of the warmth and friendship I feel for you, but even because I feel that your ability to continue with the type of work you are doing could affect the society itself. So let me know. The fact that I am myself in a small amount of debt means little in this case, at least to me. I am dead serious about this offer.

Take it easy and give my regards to your wife.

Gary

PS: My date of departure will probably be near next weekend, but it is not certain yet. The car needs some minor work, and certain other details must be arranged.

PSS: Enclosed is a copy of my last letter to Penn, a letter to Dick (which is partially not there due to the carbon's having been folded, but I have no carbon myself, so I can't correct this), and page 18 of that LA Free Press Negouchi interview. Page 18, as you will discover, is an important one, and it is good that I was able to get it from Mrs. Burgard on my committee. There are things on that page I didn't know of.

me they couldn't help him pump me for info. Part of the reason I feel this way is that I have not had the kind of realizations in their letters which I hoped for, besides the fact that the first true letters from both of them and Dave came just after I sent Fred a copy of the Muchmore in B & W plus some other newsfilm which Fred had never seen before. Lifton kept his cool with me for quite some time and then decided to try to do what he has done so often in the past--get me alienated from Harold. He was in for a shock, and then got really up tight when I sent copies of just my replies to some of his letters to Paul Hoch. Since I was replying explicitly to sections of his letters which I had quoted, this exposed Paul to his backstabbing and propaganda against Harold, maybe for the first time. He is very careful with Paul not to show this side of himself. He was careful with me for quite some time, and I guess he was with you too, and then he exposed himself by miscalculating. He is far more trouble than the opposition, and has caused more trouble than most of them. Fred and Marilyn's sudden estrangement from me came at the identical time that they became close to him, and they used his stuff against Weisberg and Garrison when they began their cold letters. No inference was necessary to see what was going on. You cannot understand what a shock this was unless you could see Fred's glowing and warm letters and thanks to me over many months, his praise of me, and his comments to others that I was great and that I was the only critic he felt he could trust after the Turner-Boxley thing. Right now I cannot trust Fred with anything which I want kept from Lifton or the other side, because of his close association with Dave. By the way, I strongly suggest writing for Fred, not Dave, for anything you need on RFK. Dave gets his stuff on this largely from Fred. Fred and Lillian have done the work and have the stuff. They promised me those photos some time ago, but I have yet to see them. In fact, Fred has yet to send me a list of photos he has. The stuff about the ceiling has to do with the fact that I am almost certain that they removed tiles from the (panels I mean) ceiling as well as the wall the next day. I saw that on newsreel. I don't know what to make of the Kimble story, but something on that McRae clipping in your handwriting fascinated me, the name Blanch Van Looven (probably Van Leuven). A woman named Ceil Van Leuven, from near Mpls., contacted Harold, and he turned it over to me. She was very strange, and hard to get a reply from by mail, and didn't have a phone. I haven't gotten to interview her yet but she was very elusive when I tried before. Perhaps I ought to drive on up there and see what gives. She sounded like a nut more than anything else, and I have little time even for real leads these days.

On the color changes in the Z film and your PS, I agree with your analysis and cautions. It was just such comments which got Fred enraged one day. Fred says that there are splices and that the color changes correspond. He argues that there is stuff missing and that the frame numbers are the same as in vol. 18 and therefore the archives, and therefore if there is anything missing in his copy, it must be missing in the original, due to the way in which the numbering was derived.

On the Wilma Bond slides, ask Sprague or Fred. Fred never answered me on what exactly he has, so it may just be magazine stuff. Sprague has them if anyone does.

Did I lend you my memos on Rose-McNabb, "new info in the case of Richard Case Nagell," et. I loaned out some memos dealing with Vince Rose and haven't gotten them back, and don't know where they are.

As for contacting your brother, don't you think that your letter has a better chance of success given that you are his brother? I think that it would be less likely that I could get and might be something which should be low priority. I would, however, appreciate his address, phone, and any suggestions you have.

Thanks for finding time to write and send me all that stuff. Keep in touch. I will do what I can for you in Dallas. Warm regards.

Gary