

4/18/69

Dear Gary,

I found your letter of the 15 th and its enclosures interesting.

The Miami Herald story added a few names and it valuable. I had recognized Kolby and Dempsey immediately and notified friends in the press. We have pictures of both. Casey sounds familiar but I cannot place him. The others are strange. If you use this, you may be interested in an interview I taped but never transcribed with Hemming and Howard the Thursday night before last November's election, at Hemming's El Monte apartment. They paid out their planned invasion, for which they claimed to have 87 planes stashed around the country. Hemming had long and open phone calls about it while I was there. I asked Howard the purpose, and he shrugged and said "replace one with another". He had no illusions. Whoever was backing them expected to be in the Haitian tradition, another dictator, another throb and bleed.

Good luck with your committee. I urge you to use no significant, unpublished materials for several reasons. First, they are not necessary. Any that have been used will do as well-and I alone have used hundreds. Second of all, you will tip our hands, indicate the direction of our interest, indicate the significance we attribute to what he have obtained. To give meaningful unpublished material is a vanity, so do not do it. However, the use of documents is impressive. I have done it for a while. Passing them around in small groups is also effective. The people who will see them will be impressed with any FBI report, so stick to those like the ones in use in N.O. It will be easier to get most of these from Paul, who copied the entire appendix in 11/68, in most cases, for mine are pasted up for the appendix, but I'll take the time to unpack that for you if there are any you need. I have already made a package of the pictures and the reports. I'll wait to closer to your time to return for mailing. Some of the pictures are duplicates and are so marked. You may keep these if you'd like, unless you regard the slides as enough.

Paul, who likes you very much, had already sent me a copy of your 4/3 letter to him. Hal's indescription is incredible. I have written him in pain. Enclosed. I just cannot understand him doing something as obviously unwise, not can I understand stand making a copy of such letters. I send them to Paul to inform them, to save the time required by paraphrasing. I'll have to stop that.

I do not get Newsweek. Can you send me a copy of that Sirhan-psychiatry story, and anything else like it - might want to quote. Please send the LIFE-King stuff as soon as you can, for I must compare the tape and the pictures for the writing I will do. I'll return it. Do not know what happened to mine. I guess it is because I was away, but I'll check with Hil, who may have it somewhere.

Lifton is a mystery to me, too, but not as to you. The doubt I have relates only to his sanity, to his mental health, which, if it is as I suspect, would explain almost everything. To date he has come up with practically nothing significant. At the beginning, when everything was new, he spotted a few things. He gave me some of the story he gave you, but he had changed Rusk for Dulles and had "proof", again unassailable, that he and Johnson had been holding secret meetings all around Texas the week before the murder. He told me about the same thing about a similar book in October, told Hal about a forthcoming Atlantic article about the same time. He always claims all his stuff is solid. May I suggest that with the date he gave you of his discovery, 1965, he failed to allude to it in his Ramparts work, where he had publication? There all he could do is retail the work of

others. He disclosed much about himself in those he selected to quote. Where others, later, repeated what I had published, he invariably cited the later source. When there is time for indulgence, I have some tapes for you to hear, also about "solid" proof of assassins in trees, trees disappearing at night (papier mache trees, understand), tunnels secretly dug in Dealey Plaza by Brown and Root, etc. I hope that in his Archives research he has done some original work. His "book" duplicates. He misdates, again vanity, as with the Marina interrogation. It was good for researchers to get the executive sessions more inexpensively, but need I point out that no one has done any significant work with them? I have done much of my writing on them, had it done before he even got the texts. So, what he is doing is creating a personality for himself, nothing else so far. I do hope he does more. When it comes to pass I'll be happy. But I suspect that his leads come from others. He is smart and shrewd. He can go further with what another has discovered, once he learns of it. He can also do this one his own, but it is this of which I have yet to see evidence. Does he not reveal himself in telling Fred that he is deliberately throwing you off? Is that a way to do constructive work, to "protect" his gem? He need only be silent not to lead you to it. I suspect that Hal again has told him of the content of my unprinted work and he has spent some time on it. His relations with Liebler are unknown to me, save that they did associate and there were many things he had to know about which he was silent, such as Liebler's possession of about 40 file drawers of Commission documents on microfilm. I found this out from another. Until there is real evidence, I elect to evaluate him on what he did in the Reseda debate I had lined up and his entire misrepresentation of it is the scandalous shit he then distributed. Again, you can see the file. It is entirely other than he represents. I was at Fred's in February 1967, allegedly no one knowing it (so I know of his intelligence operations) when he phoned me practically to gloat over breaking it up. When you see the format of the debate you will see that Liebler could not debate a well-informed reader with that format-two minute responses! Sylvia will check any manuscript. I have no reason to believe she has any special liking for him....I wish you could send me copies of all you get on this. It may be significant. Fred may evaluate properly, but my knowledge of him does not encourage the belief. If you do this, mark what is specially confidential. As you know, I will regard it all as not to be used. Lifton can be very dangerous. He has already accomplished much mischief. As you know, I am not worrying about "why" but am always concerned about "what". If he is sick, it makes no more difference than with Boxley (and he was a junior-grade Boxley with Garrison before he went off on his Thornley kick).

On Z and Ray: agreed. I also spoke to Ray about this. There was a time when Paul had agreed to pay for or to make duplicates and slides, and I told Ray this. He phoned me back twice the same day, then fell totally silent. When you read the transcript of their "grilling" of Jaffe, you'll see how much all of them together understood-or how little-and that was after I had exposed Farewell. What Ray then did, immediately, was visit in and agree that the Washington court action (from which he also was removed) was a government booby-trap. I find it impossible to be with Ray. But he is, really, brilliant. Just impossible. And the world's most blindly stubborn, unyielding man. And can he be insane!

On 133: you mention only what I know and have, what I got Fred to do for me. This is not a question of "credit" but of his integrity or, what is more likely, the things his mind later does. When you are here I'll show you his letter of thanks for giving him the pictures (that he has not yet returned-and, I think, I may have replaced). He claimed to me to have a satisfactory explanation of the unusual body angle and sent me a picture, using my rifle (that it took more than a year to get back, then without clips or ammo), to show it. I agree on the chin and have been collecting pictures to illustrate it. I have one angle that is very dramatic, but I do not regard my own work as definitive on this. Study one of the Martin stills on this, the one over his right shoulder, from the back.

But he has missed some of the most significant things (to me) in these pictures. I'll use them in AGENT OSWALD. I did write him after his work first appeared in a small paper, the first of two parts (who ever sent that never sent the second). He never answered. That was before he decided to get mad at me. (You know, you should have heard how excited he was at the prospect of seeing me again last October. He was coming to Charlie Brown's. I wasted a night sitting there waiting for him. He phoned about the time they were due with a very lame excuse.)

I do not recall the line across the chin. I'd like to see that. The neck seems strange. I had hoped he and Watson could come up with an explanation of the blotches on the pictures, like trying to see if they could duplicate it with touch-up fluid on a duplicate negative. It is one of the things I think I asked.

I went to a lot of trouble to try and get that stuff published when he first did it.

We have several friends at that ABC station. I have several who became my friends when they were in Boston. Jim Lawrence is a very close friend and a wonderful guy. He met me at the airport when I got to LA and Burton didn't, drove me around. He and Art and I were pretty close. I hope he did the show. Also, you may be interested in knowing, Hathcock (Wetley report) is on their news staff. I'd like to hear the tape. That was a very valuable thing to do. More important than most of the frivolities they wasted time and attention on.

I cannot conceive of assassins using open railroad coaches.

You misunderstood. It was not Bernabei but Bud who leaked. And I know he did it to Turner. If he didn't to Sylvia, he was the means of doing it. I'd have told her, for she will keep a confidence. I think that while you understand much about her, and on that we agree, you place her in the wrong place, on the wrong side. She is with us. She does try to keep confidences. I have never found her consciously violating one, anybody's. I am very fond of Bernabe. He spent several days here. I am particularly happy about what he is now doing because it stems from my suspicions in WHITENASH, where I say as he now does of that cartridge case that it could not be put into the breech. We have coinciding interests. I regard another aspect that Sylvia later tumbled to as the more dramatic, and I'll try and film it. I have located and engaged about 100 of the Western ammo, so he'll have enough to work with. I had gotten another clip, so, when he told me he had borrowed a rifle but had no clip, I sent him mine. I have something more effective than a press release in mind when the work is done, and in time I'll suggest it to him. He has an even better one, if it can be done. Apparently there is some LOOK interest in some of what Nichols has. Dick has suggested the three of us get together. I've agreed. John has been silent.

I cannot now ask Sam to do covers for me. He is too busy. I have asked him to think of them and have suggested several possible designs.

I presume it is a typo. The name is Holean. I know I saw it while I was copying the documents you got, and I did not see it in my own notes.

You did right to tell me about Hal and the R letter. It is a very serious mistake, and a very foolish one. He knows how I feel about Fred, and he knows that Fred is not to be trusted. His sincerity I do not doubt, and he does work hard. I encourage you to reconsider your belief that there are times when Fred can be trusted to keep confidences. There is no need to impart any, anyway. Profit from my ~~pain~~ painful experience. In your comment on the Jaffe material, do you not have an

adequate evaluation of his judgement? It is I who alerted them to this entire affair. They were all in disagreement with me. Fred, especially, refused to help me unmask any of it. They were all wrong. You should read their puerile grilling of Jaffe. So, the one person he knows who can make sense of it is the one he doesn't want to see it. One of the things that I find difficult to explain in terms of his character is this sudden mad on me. You'll see when you see his letters when you are here that it developed very late and very suddenly- on no basis at all. It just happened, in a vacuum -and at just this time, Farewell America time. It would be interesting to see "his" RFK stuff, but I have no interest in using it. I have it all from Jaffe, on tape, and I do not trust it. I have no confidence in Lubic at all.

He has never been my kicking boy. Long after he decided he would be Lifton's friend, long after he went so far out of his way to hurt me with Thornley, I fought to get him credit for his work, including on TV, vs Lane, and I have this taped, too, I have always given him credit for the few things he did.

What did Paul send you? I have been expecting his NSRP stuff, but it has not come. *Sub. today.*

I'll check with the office on AT, but I think it would be better if you wrote Matt, who owes me a number of letters and is probably embarrassed. He did forget to mail something Vince had sent me, and I had to keep after him to get it. You know Matt, who also is great. I have no recollection of having gotten this at all, and I have looked hard for it.

On Olson, no, because I hope to return to Dallas and get more. Using it would end that, no matter how inconspicuously. However, he can use Forman's work to accomplish the same purpose. He can see this, for his knowledge only. He also can duplicate it in his own name, as he can duplicate Forman's, as I had independently tumbled to it through a local radiologist, before seeing Forman's work. I have never made any public use of anything I learned in Dallas. I can do things there, and I have much yet to do. Let's keep that door open.

Let me close with a general comment that may explain the inordinate length of this letter when I have so much to do: nothing, nothing at all, replaces experience. Intelligence doesn't. It can only substitute for the lack of experience, or it can interpret that experience. I urge great caution on you, with Fred and most of the others. Look at what Hal just did, and they cannot be mentioned in the same breath. Just do not tell Fred anything you would not say on TV. I can think of no need to in any event. We must be more careful. Fred is as yellow as they come, despite his earlier career as a boxer. He is without discrimination. He was blindly addicted to Garrison, incapable of independent judgement, a real sycophant. And when you read his own letters to me over the Thornley thing (about which he also phoned me), you'll see enough. Let him work hard, may God bless his efforts, help him in every way possible without telling him anything you would not safely use in a speech well recorded by government agents. You do not have to help him with his work. One the reason I want to see his L33 work is to learn what really important thing he has added to what I had already known. The overlaying negatives is one, and I think a very important one. It was his idea, not mine. It was his spontaneous reaction when I first broached the ~~xxxx~~ problem of proof to him. I also want to devil's-advocate it and his new Willis work. He has missed the most obvious flaws in L33, from what I have seen and what you have told me. I'll show it to you when you are here again. and it may be the most material, for it directly addresses what the government did, what could not have been done before the pictures came into federal hands and usage. Gotta stop here. Hope you are enjoying yourself.

4/18/69-night

After writing the foregoing, I discovered the large envelope you sent. It came through okay, even though not insured. I will insure it on returning. I glanced at it hastily while eating supper. I take it that attached to Paul R's letter came from him. Why not ask him his source, telling him I would want to know, that I would assume it was Boxley but wonder, etc.

Paul asked me to call him about something important. He said in the same sentence he may be changing employment. I phoned three times during the day and once supertime. ~~Henry~~ was not in. I'll try again tomorrow. He'll probably tell you, too, for he likes you much.

After glancing at the Jaffe file, much of which is not new to me, I checked the Fred file. I first alerted the Calif. people in November, from N.O. Then I wrote Maggie and Burton, so Fred knew about Farewell. I wrote him January, I think 10 or 11. He replied 15, the first disagreeable letter he sent. I sent you my response, as I did the letter to him before it. So, it was not until two months after I asked them that they started doing anything about putting us in a position to defend against what they were responsible for. Now, when it is too late, he sends you a file that includes some of Jaffe's memos on the FA thing. That Jaffe gave them to him and not me while pretending he was levelling with me is fascinating. That he would give them to Fred, to me, is only self-serving.

If I did not send you a copy of Fred's 1/15 I can. Re FA he said, he had sent you everything "because Gary asked for them. I respect Gary and you can get copies from him." So, he has no objection, even suggested it, You breach no confidence.

I will copy those parts of the files I want and return as soon as I can. I have much of it, I think all of the smaller one, but I will have to check it. Until learning the source, it seems to me I may want to recopy and keep together as a unit.

Jaffe's memo on Colls is cute. I took him to the studio, as I had always taken Hal in Frisco and Burton in LA, to take the calls that came in for me. That gal wanted to tell me the story. He took her number, I phoned her back and told her if I could not get there, would she please see him, that he would send me everything and I'd see to it Garrison got it. He hold me off and held me off and never did get her files. Then he pretended it was all his. He wants credit and accomplishment and is little concerned how he accomplishes that or its equivalent. From the memo you can see why he was not anxious for me to have it.

Anything new on de Vosjoly? Pictures yet? Do not send only copies out there. Perhaps it would be best to send to Maggie, or send them to me to send to her, for she met Philippe, spent some time with him, rather than Burton or Jaffe. I asked Burton to do this in December. He has been silent. If you know a journalism major, it would be nice if he could use that as a cover, as I asked Burton, and wrote the publisher for the schmeer, including pictures, for a "paper" or thesis.

Hurriedly,

April 15, 1969

Dear Harold,

I filed my income tax just yesterday. After much worrying and putting together financial records, I discovered that things that people give me as gifts are tax-free. What keeps my research going is continual gifts of money and things, but I had never kept records, forgetting about taxes.

With Sirhan, as I suggested before, Newsweek raised just the questions you raised about the effect of the trial on public evaluation of psychiatric testimony. One of the most way out things, in case I didn't mention it, was the use of what Sirhan said under hypnosis. First of all, it is interesting that everyone was concerned about Russo in the Shaw case, but not the same thing in the Sirhan case. Secondly, the media played tapes of these sessions on the air which was a disgusting violation of every ethical principal in the book.

The judge's letter was really something. I can send you the Life stuff on King, but won't have time to mail it until I return. Matt should have some good photos since that was his job.

Lifton is a mystery to me. I understand his views on Thornley given Thornley's capabilities (inferred from what I know of him) to be very convincing and the fact that Dave was apparently quite close to he and his wife. On the case he still works hard although I don't know much about what he has. In the strictest confidence you should know that he claims to have a manuscript ready for a publisher within a few months. He feels that it was done probably by the CIA or someone like that, but directed by Johnson, and Rusk and Fred Korth and others. He claims to have 100% solid stuff on this, and that he has had it since 1965 and been guarding it zealously. He has done a great deal of Archives research and knows a lot about the military men in the autopsy room, has interviewed Burkley, etc. But I know no specifics, only general things. The men in the trees according to what he has told me play no part. Fred says that he admitted the other night to having told me things to throw me off because he knows that I know the case well and also understand the Archives, and therefore he is afraid that I will feret out his gem of info which he is guarding. He says that after many dealings with Liebler he realized that Liebler was an SOB, but also mentioned that Liebler knew a little of his book and said that when the thing is published he may change sides of the fence. Please keep this stuff to yourself because Dave and Sylvia have their own intelligence agency and if this gets back I will learn nothing else from him. He is scared to death of you finding out about any of his stuff and using it. Right now I am anxious for him to get the damn book to a publisher. I hope to hell that he has discovered something of value and uses it right. Sylvia will check the manuscript before publication, so for once it is good to have Sylvia on the other side. She should help tone down any nutty things. Fred, who knows more of this stuff than I do (although I don't know how much more) indicates that Lifton has a great mass of stuff from the Archives.

On Fred and the Z film stuff: I agree with all of your comments and have made them myself, but the whole thing will have to wait for experts to check the "splices." In this instance Ray is the party adding to the frustration, since while he promised to give copies of that film out, he still hasn't. Bear in mind that he has an 8mm version of the Z film of good quality, much better than the 16mm version in Farewell which has been cropped. Sylvia, Lifton, and others have checked his reasoning on the self-authentication of the



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splices, if they are proved to exist, due to how the numbering was done.

On 133 A and B, I will bring the slides when I am next home. He points out that when the faces match in size, the body sizes are different. Secondly, the shadows on the face are the same, although the head tilts more in one photo. The faces match perfectly in detail. The body is at an abnormal angle. There is a line across the chin and the chin is not Oswald's. Etc. I added to his set blowups of the photo which shows the rifle in LHO's right hand which evidences very obvious tampering around the neck region. Experts have checked the work and rate it from compelling to conclusive. An ABC affiliate in LA used it after having some people check it, and their comments sounded like a paid advertisement for the critics. Fred sent me a tape of it.

On Willis slides, he compares with other photos. He is talking about two passenger cars just behind the pergola, not Sprague's "cars" way to the rear. They were obviously there too. On this he has checked the angles and heights so he is OK as to which cars you see. The Itek report confirms the presence of these things as do Bond and Cancellare's photos.

Agreed on Bernabei. I would suggest continuing to make an issue of the fact that someone has breached confidence, but not accosting him with it. He is a passionate and hard worker, but judging from my rapid but brief interchange of correspondence, he is quite high strung (something which generally goes with the first two). He thinks the world of you and would become very anxious if confronted, especially given his estrangement from other critics. AS long as you make a big issue of the danger of the breach of confidence and of your concern about it, I doubt if it will happen again, assuming that he was the one. Since the confidence was breached already, nothing would be gained, and there could be a detrimental resulting drop in his work efficiency and relationship with you. His work on the cartridges, by the way, looks like it will hold up. Nichol's tests substantiated it. I told him to send you, me copies and let us check it and then you could make suggestions on any press release (something he wants). I do not trust Sylvia to keep things private.

Unfortunately I won't have an O. in NO slide in time for Cornell. When you get a cover for Post Mortem or Coup, send me a photo or lend it to me so I can make a slide. It is a very effective way of discussing someone's work.

I have nothing on Mark Lolean. I give nothing of yours to Fred and Dave, or Sylvia, etc. (Actually, I haven't heard from Sylvia in months) On Fred, I do not trust him to keep things in confidence as much as I believe in him as a hard worker who really cares. Unfortunately, Hal Verb, when he and his girlfriend visited Fred, showed him the Rothermel correspondence. I feel funny telling you this, but Fred mentioned it on the phone and/or in a letter, so I had to confirm it by way of telling him that it was top secret. I think that Fred will be careful with it. The only time when Fred is not good for keeping confidence is when things have not been spelled out for him. In other words, he tends not to use his head, although he will be careful if told.

Coming in the mail from me (parcel post, special handling, mailed today) are two sets of items. #2 Rothermel letters and a set of things he sent with the second letter. It is noteworthy that those things came from Garrison's files--I already have most of them, I think, in the stuff Vince got me from the file on Nagell. He may have gotten them from Boxley, etc. The other items are things from Jaffe's files which Fred asked him for to prove his good faith. Forget that--but keep the origin of these things quiet, since Fred ~~generally doesn't want things to go to you.~~ You are the only person for whom I would overlook such an expressed desire. For the record, he never said to keep things from you, but only that he didn't want them showing up in your books. I will try to contact him about the RFK stuff and ask him to send you a set. Fred is sensitive, especially since he knows he has faults, but is tired of being everyone's kicking boy and is tired of being pushed around by Ray and others when he has generally just been following someone's instructions everytime trouble arises.

Jaffe's stuff should prove interesting to you. I just don't have the money to copy this stuff for you, so I thought that I would send it now and let you copy any that you want and mail it back. I have to ~~pay~~lay out money for a plane ticket to Ithaca, etc., and will be low on dough until I get there and they pay me. *Return this stuff at your leisure*

Unfortunately, Shaw has to go to NO for the perjury trial or in connection with it, so he will not be in Ithaca. Too bad--I was looking forward to meeting the old fag.

On the Thornley stuff, don't spend any more time until you check with Matt and the office. I am almost certain that I sent it to you at one of those places, and I seem to remember it having been the office. What is the chance that it wasn't forwarded or that someone in the office opened it. Ask Lou to check the Thornley file. It was a packet of about 20 sheets and was typewritten, with things crossed out--in rough form.

If you don't get the JAMA stuff from Latimer, I will copy it for you next week and have it in the mail.

Enclosed are copies of clippings from the Miami Herald on the raid on the Haitian camp. Note the men who were at NO-Name Key--Dempsey is in Howard's photos.

A hard working student who has done much research on the photographic evidence, Don Olson, is preparing a dissertation on it. He has already sent me some of his material and it represents hard and solid work. He is very interested in the possibility of the wound being higher due to a bunching of the coat, and sent me some photos which suggest the possibility of bunching. I remember in your Perry interview you brought that stuff up. I have kept that interview confidential, but am wondering if you would permit him to see it and use it? If so I will ~~make~~ make a copy from my copy. Otherwise, I will say nothing to him about what you learned.

I will be in touch when I get back and may call you tonight about Coup.

Dary



UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

April 3, 1969

Mr. Paul Rothermel Jr.
Hunt Oil Company
1401 Elm Street
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Paul:

While paging through the current issue of Avant Garde magazine, I came across the following quote:

"Any full-scale armed confrontation with the white power structure would bring nothing but death and destruction--in the thousands and hundreds of thousands--to blacks, while doing little damage to whity. That is why H.L. Hunt--a George Wallace and Birch-Society booster--is one of the biggest contributors to black militants,..."

This came from an article by the historian James R. Scofield entitled "The Black Power Failure" and is part of an indictment of black power. The quote was taken from page 23 of the current issue of the magazine, which is number 7. The magazine, as you probably know, is one of Ginsburg's, and probably a direct successor to EROS.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Gary Richard Schoener
Box 392 Mayo Hospital
Minneapolis, Minnesota
55455

grs

FUR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 1968

The newly formed Minnesota Assassination Inquiry Committee will direct and teach a course on the Kennedy Assassination as part of the Free University Program at the University of Minnesota. The first meeting of the course will be in Nassau Center at 7:00 on Wednesday, April 8.

The committee consists of a group of individuals who are interested in studying and investigating the details of and politics surrounding assassinations of political leaders in the United States, including the murders of John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and Robert Kennedy. In addition to its general truth-seeking function, the committee will attempt to bring about public discussion of the issues raised by these assassinations which have been largely ignored by the American press. The committee has no political affiliations and has received serious responses by representatives of both political parties, including one Minnesota congressman.

The director of the committee, who will deliver the first lecture, is Gary Schooner, graduate student in clinical psychology. Schooner's credentials include 1 1/2 years of investigating the assassination of President Kennedy, 2 newspaper series (one in the Mpls STAR), a magazine article, numerous radio and TV appearances, and many public lectures.

The committee's Free University courses will be taught almost entirely through the use of slides and films of the assassination of President Kennedy. Tapes recorded interviews with witnesses and other documentary materials will also be utilized. Those who attend will have the opportunity to study original source materials never published in American newspapers and largely neglected by the American press.

For further information, contact:

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