

11/25/70

Gary,

Relet 11/22: congrats of Leventhal letter. You, too, may got to the Supreme Court! ?

"jim" will be here today with his taped interview with B.

Crosby: check, fine. Right approach.

Wecht's address: Frick Bldg.

Mary has several times promised to send what she volunteered she had for the Ferrie complaint and hasn't. With her silence, one of the possibilities is more trouble.

Jerry does have it bad. I'd like him to go slower.

I hope he was not unwise enough to go into the newest work on the film. I wouldn't let him when he was talking to me. I was not home 11.22, but he got me night 23. He is sometimes a bit careless and this is a matter on which we should be most circumspect, for hurt is quite possible, as is frustration of what is being done.

I have a spare copy of the recent Nichols answer, if anyone needs it, without the attachments. If it did not have attachment, then the extra copy is of the government's answer.

Govt ans. to my petition for show cause received this a.m. Ignores most of what I alleged. Will read carefully and write further or send response. Offhand opinion is that they avoid most of it and make legalistic and prejudicial appeals. I'll file a response next week. Maybe speak to Bud or Jim first.

Have a good holiday,

November 22, 1970

Dear Harold:

Thanks for your mailings of the 15th and 18th. Rich Edelman sent me copies of Tink's and Sylvia's first letters to Paul and I thought that they were OK and in fact quite useful in that they approached the subject from an entirely different and yet relevant perspective. Sylvia did a good job of putting some of my own feelings into words including some of the things I tried to express in my last letter--that we had never really heard Paul's views on the case--only his views on isolated incidents or facts.

From your letter to Jim it sounds as though some people are still believing the Roger Craig rot and the even worse stuff Turner came up with. I guess given Bud and his board of directors that they will live the Garrison thing out for all eternity.

Your letter of 11-15: I intend to arrange for Ned Crosby to visit you as soon as it can be set up. I have already told him that you could do the proper backgrounding before the Clark interview better than anyone. Insofar as backgrounding him on the case goes, he is asking only for a full enough understanding so as to be able to engage in a dialogue with someone like Clark. Ned is very bright and very independent and I respect his desires to be knowledgeable on the case before talking to someone like Ramsey Clark. Fred Newcomb only sent me one poster. Enclosed is a copy of a letter I got from Rowan's lawyers. My letter was the top thing in the packet they gave the commission. We also had a letter from the director of the state hospital system saying that it was a violation of the 13th amendment guarantee against slavery and a copy of a chapter from his book Dehumanization and the Institutional Career entitled "Work, Slavery, and the Road to Health" (the titles speak for themselves). If we lose it will become a civil rights issue and go to the higher courts in an attempt to overturn the law and make the state vulnerable to suit. As for Mary, I haven't heard from her either. If I can get a copy of the credit card # for United Fruit the CIA may end up paying for a call to her or you.

Well, I'd better close now. Give my regards to Lil. Best wishes.

(I am low on paper, so I'll type a letter to Dick right here.)

Lary

Dear Dick:

Enclosed is the stuff you wanted sent to Wecht. Sorry that I didn't send it but I just couldn't find an address for him and so thought I'd better send it back to you airmail. Please send me his address. I have a copy of Nichol's most recent court statement which I may be able to copy for you if you don't have it--it is very lengthy. I think that I mentioned it in my last letter to Harold of which you have a copy. Best regards.

Dear Mary:

I trust that things are OK with you. Up above and enclosed ^{is} ~~###~~ my last ~~###~~ letter to Harold. I hope that this letter finds you and your family OK with your son's predicament cleared up. I have a friend who will be interviewing Ramsey Clark and Katzenbach and with whom they have already indicated a desire to be candid (he is very wealthy and respected) so if you have any questions please send them on. Please stay well. Best wishes.

PS: Harold--I had a nice chat with Jerry Policoff last night. He is happily working hard at his new job with Metormedia and called me late from the office. He thinks that he may be getting married in the foreseeable future. I wished him well. I always enjoy talking with him.

LARRY B. LEVENTHAL

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November 19, 1970

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RE: Dale Rowen

Dear Gary:

I am enclosing herein a group of letters, documents, statements, etc. relating to Dale Rowen. This packet contains the information which I distributed to the members of the State Claims Commission at the hearing relative to Dale's claim.

Your letter and the testing report you prepared were a pivotal point in the presentation and, I am certain, in the Commission's consideration of the claim. They certainly appeared to accept your findings. In fact, one Commissioner when I was discussing the psychological analization you made of Dale, indicated that at least as far as the test data was concerned, he did not believe there was any dispute. The assistant attorney general responded that he was not challenging the results you tabulated. Mrs. Aims, an official of the Medical Services Division of the Welfare Department, testified in opposition to Dale's claim. She did say, however, that she knew of you and that you were a competent professional and that she would have no reason to doubt your findings.

The packet enclosed is assembled in the same manner as it was presented to each of the Commissioners. You will find contained within this packet your letter, the psychological testing report you prepared, a letter in support of Dale's claim by Dr. David J. Vail and Harold W. Peterson, the Director of the Welfare Dept. Medical Services Division, another letter in support of the claim by Harold W. Peterson, Administrator of Brainerd State Hospital, a report on Dale's back condition by Dr. A. Ross Lerner, various statements by individuals who knew Dale during his period of institutionalization, a series of documents selected from the hospital records maintained by Faribault and Brainerd State Hospitals, and the statement of claim which was originally presented by Dale to the Commission.

I am sure these documents will prove of interest to you. Many of them are already in your possession. However, we did accumulate additional letters and statements following your examination of Dale. I believe that you have copies of all the documents selected from the hospital records. However, you may find the selected documents assembled in chronological order to provide an outline


Gary Richard Schoener
November 16, 1970
Page 2

of his period of institutionalization.

I do want to thank you immensely for your interest, help, participation and advice in this matter. I do feel that the deprivation of Dale's liberty through 20 years of enforced, dehumanizing existence in mental institutions is a major societal crime.

I, like you, cannot see how meaningful compensation is possible. However, I do have hopes that the Commission will recommend some award. I certainly will communicate the news of their action to you when I receive it. I know that your interest and attention to Dale's plight has given him a lot of encouragement and faith in himself.

Regards,


Larry B. Leventhal

LBL: mn