

9/17/70

Dear Gary,

If you'd sent me your letter of 9/5 to Paul before including it with yours of the 13 and carbon of 9/12 to Mary, I'd probably not have written you this morning, so maybe it is a good idea you didn't.

I spent the day with Bud and Jim revising the new brief, which has to be filed by the end of the week, and didn't remember that this was only part of it until I was driving home. Jim did a very good job on it, I think the improvement strengthened it considerably, and I hope the rest is also good. I know the part I did has the content, but I'd also have liked to have seen what may have been omitted, for this entire thing was necessary only because these points, all those I originally included, had been omitted, for what seemed like very good reasons, but apparently not as good as mine for including them, even if I know nothing about Tennessee judges. There is no substitute for fact and understanding of its meaning.

Your letter to Paul, which has an entirely different approach, is very good and the point is effective and well made.

No response from Inyard. Thought you did join Bud's committee, Not being a member, there is no point in what I'd asked. I had been rather pointed with ~~in~~ his partner and Jim, separately, and today I said only briefly and pleasantly that we had things to discuss as soon as the current business was cared for. He is sneaking out a letter, and it is not an easy matter, for we do not know who saw what and they in most cases had no way of knowing whose info they took. He has separated everything of mine, physically, which was the original condition. So many barn doors!

The therapy soon good.

We are agreed on enemies and friends. Our enemies are more our friends, rather often! Our friends?

When you speak of file space, you raise my problem. In order to get into what I now have I'm going to have to cut up the hanging book shelf, eliminate the lower cupboard, and add four four-drawer files while keeping all the regular-sized two-drawers. The narrow ones I'll build into Lil's office closet for her to use vice the four-drawer one in her office. But the two four-drawer ones I'll have to buy will cost almost twice what I paid for them and are not nearly as good or, what is more likely, I'll have to content myself with two only 24" deep and relatively flimsy.

I'd wondered about the service and Jimmy Lee. I told Mary that, once he is in, she should pull ~~any~~ what strings she can to keep him out of both the far east and the near east. I was concerned about the heavy use of assorted drugs, for I've known about ~~the~~ the Viet Nam situation and pot for three years at least, from British correspondents.

Nothing really new. However, my feeling that we're going to do this with Ray unless my work is all fucked up by others increases in strength. My original reading on the position of any Tennessee judge sitting on the case was right. I fear errors on our part, not the situation....I'm probably going to ask to be recognized as amicus curiae and offer the entire book, in proof. If the judge reads that....

Best,

Dear Harold:

Sept. 13, 1970

Thanks for the last 4 letters. It was good to talk with you on the phone the other night. I have felt a bit out of touch with things since my personal problems have piled up. The clipping you sent on Craig, the black independent who is opposing Humphrey, was a good one. He is a first rate guy and with more money could win. Everyone likes and trusts him, from the left to much of the right, once they meet and hear him.

Glad to see that you wrote Minyard. He's a good man and would profit from the info. We have already discussed, on the phone, my attitude towards Sprague, publication, etc. for which you take me to task in your letter of 9/2 so I won't belabor it. Again, since the mag. was going to publish anyway, I would have hoped to have you publishing stuff of your own which you selected rather than have Dick selecting stolen info, and then becoming center of publicity. As usual, we end up publicly being known by those doing the least work. I have also supplied all the detail I know on the Sprague-Flammonde thing. You know how I have felt about Bud for some time and what I think of his files and who uses them. And I worry also about the possible hurt to innocents. Sorry that I can't take over some of this burden. I will pursue more inquiries and write Bud and ask some general questions. But, bear in mind that I am not, nor have I ever been, a member of Bud's committee. I told Bud that I was sending the money to you and supporting your work rather than his committee some time ago--I refused to send any dues. In public I specify that I know the committee and am friends with many of its members and am an associate of it, but not a member. So I can't demand much of Bud. Bud is the most un-lawyer-like lawyer that I have ever met.

The therapy is helping me sort things out. Thanks for the concern. Working as a therapist puts one under strains which are difficult to even explain to those outside the field and requires that one be more in touch with ones own feelings and hangups than is just required by everyday life. That plus some other personal pressures and a screwed up relationship with Marion have made me decide to make both the financial and personal investment. Thus far it is helping a lot. All good therapists I know have done the same, and many bad ones, coincidentally, have not. It is hard to discuss such things in letters or even in brief phone conversations, but I appreciate your concern. Part of my inconsistency in talking about it may reflect some of my own confusions, but also the difficulty in explaining it in a few words.

I hope in the next few days to be able to get to work on my critique of Paul's paper. We are breaking in a new psychologist at the clinic and once he is working OK the work load will be reasonable, but last week I worked about 60 hours.

We have no disagreement on Bud or Flammonde et. al. as per your letter of 9/9.

Mentioning me in your letter to Sylvia probably did little good given our last phone conversation. Anyone even writing to Garrison or dealing with him in anyway is evil, and to suggest that the Shaw trial should not be prejudged really enraged her. I doubt if she trusts my judgment on anything. But I'm afraid that the letter went over my head--in other words, I didn't understand the main purpose in writing it. I can guess but am not sure I'm right. Can you clear this up briefly. Your letter to me of 9/7 made it clear, now that I read it, although if you can give one or two specifics I would appreciate it.

The Bud thing is a travesty. I feel he has used you and that there can now be no doubt about it. I have felt this would happen from the beginning and have not been quiet about it. I can't begin to understand or explain his behavior and it's pointless to lament the fact that it is a great likelihood that the 5 or 10 people who have done the most to sabotage our efforts are not government agents or enemies in disguise, but people attracted to our cause for reasons other than our own. And, like you and Mary, I am profoundly worried about those innocents who may be hurt in the process. Let's face it, as I tell every audience to whom I speak, the govt. agencies left behind unfinished files which, as they stand, are incredibly incriminating-- or at least suggestive of wrongdoing. There is a Castorr in every archives file.

Enclosed is a copy of my last letter to Paul. I am working on a copy of that sketch of the King assassination site. In the near future I will be sending you my full file on Billy Hargis and the Christian Crusade, save for the private letters to me of which you have copies if they are important. Keep these files and examine them if you care to. I am running out of space and just am not putting them to use as you might. They may contain something of use to you I have missed. In any event, their highest potential will be in your house. I collect too much stuff I have no time to study, as do we all.

Best wishes to you and Lil.

Gary

Sept. 12, 1970

Dear Mary,

Sorry to hear that you still have to face fiasco after fiasco. For what was Jimmy Lee on trial? I am completely lost on that one. You mentioned it in your letter of Aug. 26.

Jimmy Lee, under no circumstances, should have to go into the service. It would hurt him, as well as them if they know what they are chancing. Given the circumstances of which I know, there should be no trouble in getting him out. I would have phoned you but was not sure when you would be on the road, when you would have company, etc. I am probably more familiar with draft problems than you people are.

Penn is hopeless. Sylvia is quite bright, despite her blind spots and vendettas, and could be of help if she became truly reinvolved in the case. Glad to hear that Shirley is well also. But, I imagine that you could really have done without all those guests.

From some of Harold's allusions to it, I understand that Sylvia is planning to do something to Dave or to ruin him in some way. I agree with Harold that she should be dissuaded. People like Dave need help, not attacks. When we lose sight of the fact that we are all, first and foremost, people, and that this is far more basic than being political or critics etc. then we are in danger of losing the most important things of all. If we lose our concern for each other as human beings then we have lost everything. And, by the way, people like Dave have a habit of perpetually drawing people in, getting them to violate confidences, etc., and then making them angry and regretful. Then, the vengeance that is inevitable gives seemingly rational justification to distrust and use others in the future. Most professionals will tell you that paranoids really do have people after them who are trying to do them harm, but that it is usually brought on by themselves.

I hope that you are finding time to relax. I have been in a lot of turmoil myself of late and trying to unwind. For the past 8 months I have been under many types of pressure, personal and professional. I am now in therapy myself to try to unravel them and give myself a chance to cure some neuroticisms. It has been a big help, and ironically, my own ability to do therapy has increased markedly with some major breakthroughs with a few patients. In fact, some of them are living better than I am now. My vacation last month was both good and bad. I saw some beautiful country and got a rest in the physical sense, but a reunion with an old girlfriend about whom I have very deep feelings was very destructive emotionally. So, between the personal problems and the need to know oneself very well to do therapy, my own going into therapy was a breakthrough for myself. You undoubtedly noted my tenseness when I visited you last Oct. and my somewhat withdrawn state. Well, those things at least are gone and I can be open and loose.

In the next year I hope to be able to visit you people again. It seems like more than a year since I was last there given all that has happened in the interim.

If you have any questions you would like put to Dick Sprague, please write them. He will be out here periodically since his company just merged with a Mpls. firm, Bionics. His visits leave me with incredible feelings of ambiguity. On the one hand he is no end of trouble and is a constant source of trouble and embarrassment, and on the other he is just a simple guy who seems to really care but who just bungles in an incredible fashion. In some ways, and at some times, he is like a lost adolescent. So I guess I will manage, as last visit, to have dinner with him and to have a chat, although I am at a loss as to how to do any good in terms of convincing him to cook the wild stuff.

Well, I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and spirits. What ever happened to that leg operation which was pending? Take care.

Ray