

9/2/70

Dear Gary,

The personal things in your letter of the 29th makes me feel good, the others are not good news. How you can have this placid attitude toward Sprague and the awful shit he is printing, or recommend that anyone responsible associate in any way with Computers baffles me. Especially when, aside from the error that is so terrible about which you make no comment, you have to know the source of some of what was published and how much effort was made to not get it published so that aspect could be carried forward. And for what? To indulge a couple of sick, frustrated egos.

When stuff like Spragues get published and then gets attention, the credibility-gaps is so much more widened. Like "about six confessions". That stuff was awful in every conceivable way and do no conceivable good. If you disagree, give me any example. And of what wasn't shit, what was Spragues? Ditto for the second piece. Charack, I don't know. The last word I had from solid west-coast sources is that his own lawyer had shied off. I know some of the names he uses, and they are very bad ((Garrison)medicine. I am seriously disturbed that you have lost your critical faculties here. I would not even permit Berkeley to publish a letter from me, nor would Paul.

What you tell me of Bud and Flemmonde makes sense if much to me. You apparently quote Sprague as saying that Flemmonde is the chief investigator on the case, his source apparently being Bud. I ask for the smallest detail, and explain.

When long ago, I asked Bud if he'd be Ray's counsel if I could arrange it and he agreed, the deal was that I'd be ~~chief~~ investigator on the case and would be taken to every meeting with Ray and consulted, etc. Now my work was done, and this was not for selfish reasons. When you seek FRAMEUP you'll see that the material I got by suit was already in the book. Now Bud even stuck me for the phone calls from Jerry. He has not only not taken me with him, but has usually not even told me of his goings. What little I've gotten has been only so I could evaluate and suggest. Before Bud did the first brief, he phoned me on a Friday to have a draft for him on Saturday, and this I did. To the best of my knowledge, this is the heart of that brief and the rest is either from my work or the court records.

If you read Flemmonde's book, you have to know he is but a melding of crook and sycophant. He'll now have access to all my stuff and be using it as his own. He was in Bud's last week, when I was there, but Bud kept his door closed and didn't even introduce us, which is as guilty a sign as I need. Flemmonde bumped into me on the stairs to the john (I'd never seen him) and he introduced himself. Now, before going to Tenn for the hearing today, Bud got me to background him on the essence of the evidence again and asked me to stay home so I could answer questions he might phone me, from the court. He has protested there is no money for anything, etc., but I get indications of the waste of enormous sums. You know about that nasty business when he loaned me a small sum for a short period of time. He never responded to the letter I sent him, however.

Now I again face a problem, in addition to the mixed good-intentions, paranoid attitude to the assassination and rotten judgement, I now have to worry about thefts, for everybody and his brother is going through Bud's files (he assured me he didn't give my stuff to Sprague) and he has not kept his word to keep my stuff separate. Now Flemmonde will help himself to it. And worse, misuse, as he did in N.O. How am I to cope with this with just saying I want everyone to screw me? If I do anything, I risk another rupture, and I'll be blamed. But who can take this kind of thing endlessly? And what single thing has any of those wierdos done that has in any way brought anything of significance to light?

Whatever the cost, I'm going to have to stop this, firmly. It is a personal burden I will not add to the too-many I carry, and the work cannot survive it, either. With all this fiscal preoccupation of Bud's, there has been no time for his reading the drafts of two suits that I rushed like hell to complete two months ago. And, rather than being a financial drain on him (as, I paid for the last suit), I have actually brought him a paying client. I'm telling you that when I was working on Jerry to get him to be Ray's counsel, he actually stuck me with the phone bills. Yet he took Flammonde to Europe! And wrote the letter you saw.

These scavengers have ruined a couple of good chances I had to get help, terrifying them with this far-out stuff.

I have an airtight plagiarism suit against Flammonde, and I may just be vindictive enough to press it if this doesn't stop. I'm damned if I'm going to risk any more of what he's done. Who are close to Bud on his committee, who his board? Only those who have stolen from me, and extensively. And, he either knows this or hasn't taken the trouble to find out, neither being an acceptable condition or attitude. I also fear that if I do not stop this, he'll blow the whole thing. Now I will do this I don't know. But I can't let all this work I've done at such great cost-and you have an idea of how solid it is-get blown by anybody for any reasons.

On the doctors: you know I have written them repeatedly, without a single answer. I wrote Times and Boswell in 1966, for the first time, when Finck was in Vietnam. I thereafter wrote Boswell when a crack he made came back to me. You have copies of the letters I wrote all these guys when I was seeking the panel materials. They did not answer. I think it might be good, but not worth time or serious effort, to get that answer and challenge aired, because it will backstop you and keep you clean and clear in the local minds.

Thanks for the suggestions. I've heard nothing from Gary about engagements, so I presume the situation is as I forecast to him (and such stuff as Sprague's does not sit well with the kind of people who engage speakers, not responsible ones. By the way, how do you use your slides before large audiences? And I think you make a mistake to speak gratis. There is too little to be gained by appearances before small audiences to make it worth the time and the work does cost money.

Your experience with Marion should have given you a better insight into your field and have been pleasant as well as good for her, too. It probably also helped you, if not her, in other ways, too. You should feel much better, re-invigorated, etc. As to the therapy, you are in a better position than most to know its value and its problems...I've got to get to other things. Thanks for everything. I've spoken to Bud's partner and we will have to face this thing down. I'm inclined to confront Bud with the proof that Flammonde is a crook and let him make whatever decision he wants-and to assure him that if Flammonde ever in any way makes any mention of anything I did, whether or not he gets it later from another source, I will make the kind of stink that can be disastrous. It is about time for a changing of the tide. Or, we'll none of us be swimming.

Sincerely,

Dear Harold:

8-28-70

This is a belated answer to your last four letters. I trust that my postcard reached you. I have been on vacation from work and everything for the past 2 weeks. It was a vacation I badly needed. An old girlfriend (Marion, the one who now lives in Phila.) who I hadn't seen in almost 2 years came out for a visit and we went up the north shore of lake superior and up into Canada. It was fun and enjoyable, although somewhat frustrating since she is at a difficult period in therapy and having some trouble relating to people other than her therapist. It is also difficult to get to know someone again after such a long time within the week or so she was here.

Starting this Monday I will be in therapy myself. There are things I feel the need to work out and things I want help in discovering about myself. I view it as a chance to grow personally. Since I have been doing therapy myself I have realized the importance of knowing yourself for someone in my business. This will be somewhat of a financial strain but well worth it I expect in the long run. Also facing me this fall will be the task of setting up a dissertation proposal and defending it in my oral exam. I have been so involved in clinical and community work that I have strayed far away from academia.

Dick Sprague was in town much of last week. His personal data services has merged with Bionics, a Mpls. company. I had breakfast with him on Friday and took him down to WLOL (they had called him long distance) to be on from 10 AM until noon. During the show a woman relative of Dr. John Ebersole called in (he was chief radiologist) claiming that the men who did the autopsy work were angry because none of the critics had contacted them or asked their views. Dick wisely shied away from disputing this and let her talk. I suspect that he was also limited by lack of knowledge in this area, but in any event it worked out quite well and she called the station for us to leave Dick's # and address. I left mine as well with instructions for her to contact me, but I haven't heard anything yet. She seemed cautious on the phone call to WLOL and has never given her name.

Speaking of Sprague, his original article was followed by another analyzing news media coverage of the first by the editor of the journal. Then the Aug. issue carried a complete article on RFK with the Charach suit stuff plus much else. Dick says that any well documented article on the case would be published in there--at least for a year. If there is any article you would like to write I would strongly advise it since that magazine reaches a hell of a lot of important people directly, and indirectly. Dick said, by the way, that all info Bud's committee gets on Martin Luther King goes to Paris Flammonde who is their main investigator in that area. This may further clarify the situation with Bud. By the way, I was surprised to find that WLOL was Sprague's first talk show! Bud and Sprague and Trent Gough and Paris Flammonde apparently interviewed Theo. Charach in New York and had an interesting go-around with ABC. Dick did not mention the Skolnick suit and I never thought to ask about it. It sounds like Bud is doing his own thing and that he is interested in glamor or newsmakers rather than meticulous research.

I am waiting to get the Thunderbolt on Jerry. I am certain# that the Italians did the good work on the Muchmore--I have the UPI version. KSTP just had the UPI newsfilm.

Sorry that the contract has been so much trouble. (with regard to Coup) Why not do an excerpt from it for computers and automation? It will be bad if Bud's Committee dominates all that is published there--they apparently are hot on the subject.

I had not opened and read your letters before seeing Sprague, but am certain that all of his material comes from Bud. I would expect Bud to give Sprague absolutely anything of real interest that might be published.

I have had a copy of Muchmore from UPI for some time--I mentioned it a number of times about a year ago. Bob Gibbons took it off UPI newsfilm and printed it out with other newsfootage of the motorcade. I can get you an earlier generation of Nix, on its original newsfilm, anytime you want it.

I would stay away from legal action against# that publisher. Time and money are of essence, and there would be no real return on such a suit save your completing their sabotage, if that's what it is.

I have trouble believing that Bud did not know of Sprague's second article given how closely they seem to be working and Sprague's general tendency towards non secrecy.

Glad that you gave Ferry your Kara-Pat file. I can't find mine and have owed him that stuff for quite some time. I will write him this coming week.

When the book is ready, have a slide set made of all important documents and photos, and get together a talk on the subject. Lectures through the use of slides are big crowd drawers and could help you recoup countless dollars. If I had the time I would probably go out on tour right now with my JFK slide set and rake in much money. I see slides as very important. With them I have gone to the same places Mark has and drawn larger crowds. I have also been told by people from lawyers to housewives that he did not convince them but that my slides did. Next Friday I speak again at Hamline University in a large convocation. That is the fourth time in 1 year! Some people have been to each one to see the same presentation. Slides make the difference.

I will do what I can on getting the sketch of the King area. My ability to get favors at the Star-Tribune is quite limited since they suddenly, and without explanation, divorced themselves from me three years ago before my articles had finished running. I will do my best right away.

Well, I'd better close now and finish getting the mess here cleaned up. Take it easy and I'll be in touch again this week. Hope the pollution out there has cleared up. Give my best to Lil.

cc: Paul

Gary