

7/15/70

Dear Gary,

Unexpectedly, I was away most of yesterday, leaving home early to take 'til to some temporary work and remaining to help the man myself. I was reading your letter of the 11th when Gary Shrot called. We had a pleasant chat. I'll be writing him today.

I do not have Ted Charach's suit. I do have one Freep story on it.

I have a transcript of a single Kevin-Skolnick interview, apparently supplied another by Fred, and not aired, according to Art. I'd like the tape but do not have it. And any other such interviews.

I do not have and would like the Abernathy-Issacs and Mary Gray interviews (he is radical right, used to be Pyne's producer, and liked me).

I lost count so stopped numbering envelopes.

Crosby-sprague. Hope you are right and I'm wrong. You do not know how Sprague follows these things up, seeking money, for one example. He's turned some people who sought me out off real tight. My point on importance is not that anything is unimportant but that some is dated and there is nothing as definitive as some of my new materials, which, to the intelligent mind, renders much of the older stuff unessential to any thorough understanding. I could show Crosby three files and he'd have no questions.

I'm dropping the train business, for you are not looking.

By all means write for Cousins, but make it cool. He'd never touch me or nay of my stuff, not even to provide means of response. To his literary publication, none of my books ever came out. He is a "liberal" in the worst sense and has a clear record of early-fradioning and red-baiting in the peace movement.

Blunders: they can't be avoided. We all make them, and often not as innocently as yours.

I recall your apprehensions about being asked to address the legal investigators. Wouldn't it be wild if they make you a member? Do not-and never did-get Thunderbolt. Subscribed to Councillor, got a single copy, no more, no response to letters, etc...The deal of CGUP (needing retitling) is exactly what you suggest. They are doing the editing. I could have had this done six months ago if I'd have done the editing myself. It is supposed to have been completed by today, and I'm supposed to have had a contract by now, but no word. I'll just wait a while. The rest will be available in only a xerox edition, unless I can hold out enough from the ~~xxxx~~ advance to afford a few of the cheaper offset copies if Paul can do this. I've asked him, but he must be real busy after the long absence and the big haul.

Letter to Mary: Hadn't known of the phitt between N and L, but it began that way. They'll get together again. Fred began by throwing him out... I wonder how much to tell Mary when she is here? I do look forward to her visit. And I wonder is she could help Gary arrange appearances there?...I see no point in making copies of the newly-received pictures for you at this point because I do not want you to make any use of them and I've already told you what they show. You do have letters on them. Want to write Gary now. Best regards,

Dear Harold:

July 11, 1970

Do you have copies of the following, and if not, would you like them?:

1. Suit filed by Theodore Charach through Godfrey Isaacs's law firm on the RFK case--this looks real good
2. Kevin-Skolnick interview, Tues. April 14, 1970
3. Godfrey Isaacs and Bob Abernathy (NBC-channel 4, Los Angeles, June 5)
4. KABC--Los Angeles radio--June 5--Marv Gray Show--interview with Godfrey Isaacs

Received your letters numbered 5, 6, and 7. Got a note from Roffman with a letter copy sent to him by mistake.

Letter #5: Look forward to the possibility of those photos. Chris Longbottom is no end of nuisance. He brings in many details but in the long run and on the big points is off. Even Dick Sprague has been pushed beyond tolerance in corresponding with him.

Letter #6: Disagree that I made a mistake with Ned Crosby. The trip to see Sprague's photos did no harm. Ned has chosen what to look at--not I. He is extremely bright and has an excellent analytical mind and is one of the best devil's advocates I've had. I disagree that the angles and movement aren't important. They are the crux of the thing. Showing FBI coverup, etc., doesn't phase most bright people or lawyers since they knew about that long ago--what does phase them is fairly exacting physical evidence.

Gary Short's agency sounds real good. I will tell him that you are interested and he will be in touch. They will be nationwide. Their contract is a decent one and from their setup they really plan to reach a lot of people and groups with their portfolio of speakers.

I still disagree on the trail. Both Nix film and Bond photos clearly show a train, not a car, and even Itek's analysis not only mentions the train but shows it clearly in the integrated images. I don't draw any conclusions of importance from the photos, but am very concerned about possible implications.

If and when I get time I will ask Dick Sprague for the "confession" of one of the assassins he has. I am way behind now in important correspondence--i.e. Norman Cousins of the Saturday Review who wants me to write and seems like a fine fellow.

I will try to find time to find and put together correspondence with the government although I think that I have already sent you the only part of it which might be useful when it occurred.

Letter #7: Thanks for all the stuff. Sorry that Bud is playing computer games rather than lending you money. Perhaps the speaking possibilities could help get you out of some debt. Wish I had that much to lend.

On Thursday night I committed a major blunder. Just before giving a lecture on the assassination to an audience in the large ballroom you spoke in when you were here, I met Jack Puterbaugh's cousin who was in the audience. I was very limited timewise and by the fact that she was in an audience, but planned to speak with her afterwards. As you know, I am interested in the motorcade, pilot car, etc. She said that he was in the pilot car and that in that car they knew JFK was dead by the time they reached the hospital (according to a letter Jack P. wrote her). He is apparently an old Mpls. boy who was in the govt. here under governor Orville Freeman. Now for the blunder: she managed to leave (it went quite late) just before I finished up and at a time when I couldn't see her to stop the questions and catch up to her. Furthermore, I can't remember her name! I hope to locate her somehow.

A week ago I spoke at the National Convention of the National Association of Legal Investigators. I made some contacts which may be of some help. Also some interesting ones. For instance, a good friend of LBJ's brother

who is also his neighbor. In any event, it was interesting.

Enclosed is a copy of my last letter to Mary.

Do you still get the Thunderbolt? If not there are recent things in it which pertain directly to Coup. For instance, a rehash of the Tarrants case for a starter. Let me know if you need it.

I definitely think you should consider taking all the king stuff plus the Milteer stuff out of Coup and make a separate book and get it out soon.

Well, that's all for now. Best wishes to you and Lil. Expect to hear from Gary Short very shortly (pun not intended).

Gary

PS: The advantage of having an agency like the one Gary Short is with is not only that they will be advertising you around the country with a brochure and negotiating for speaking engagements they dig up on your behalf, but if anyone contacts you directly they can do the negotiating and you won't waste your time. From my experience their commission is well worth it given our positions.

July 8, 1970

Dear Mary,

I put your letter in the mail. Is it to a family friend or are those your old neighbors from Ohio who I met when I was in Dallas. I can appreciate your desire to avoid a visit from either one.

I heartily agree with your comments about Harold. I have found him to be amazingly perceptive about emotional problems and have made use of advice from him myself. I am sorry that I have not written more and given more advice although I must confess that I am very predisposed to face to face talking rather than letter writing. I am glad that Harold was there when you needed someone. Both of us have been very concerned since the problem developed. I would like to visit you and might be able to manage it for a few days plus a weekend. My vacation is almost swallowed up completely now or accounted for by a visit from an old girlfriend during the last two weeks of August. Given the # of people who I have helped untangle their social and/or emotional lives my own unsatisfactory romantic life has presented quite a contrast. I share your disinterest in mid-westerners.

I spoke at the national convention of legal investigators last week and attended all the social events. My speech was very well received and it looks like they may invite me to be the first non-professional member in the history of their organization. I also made a number of very good contacts. I met a friend of Nickolas Tadin, the last Shaw trial witness, and also met a friend of LBJ's brother. The latter lives only two houses away from the brother and is part of an upper class social clique. I have an invitation to visit which I will use next year if I get the chance.

Lifton and the Newcombs seem to be on the outs for real this time. Even my getting them two extra copies of that film didn't patch it up. In fact, Fred is worried about my having sent them to Dave for both of them. Dave has successfully milked one more critic for his work and then done things to alienate him. The latter is probably unconscious most of the time, but in Dave's case appears to be quite predictable. People who are that paranoid have a way of stirring up anger and resentment and distrust in others. Most people misunderstand this aspect of paranoid conditions--that paranoid people typically do have people out to get them and typically most of their fears are rational, although they themselves have created the situation.

Hope that the time you will spend with Sylvia will be productive. I have mixed feelings about her but do not really know her personally except through letters and phone conversations. Twice when I was driving up to New York to visit her I had car breakdowns or minor accidents so bad luck has kept me from meeting her. I think that her book is excellent as are her early articles, but have found her rigid and cynical at times and unwilling to look beyond a well defined group of facts and incidents. She is quite bright and has a good mind and has done a lot of hard work. I have mixed impressions as to how much work she is doing now or how interested she is in being a critic. She assaulted me verbally on the phone (saying I needed to grow up, etc.) during a discussion of Barrison and maintained that anyone who did anything but attack him publicly had no credibility. When I challenged her prejudging the Shaw trial she got especially angry. Her solution was a new congressional investigation although she expressed no ideas as to how to bring it about

nor did she indicate any interest in doing any future pressuring of congressmen (as I am still doing personally as is Harold). So, I hope that you can get her working on the case again or doing public work--presuming that she is not. Harold knows her and can tell you much more about her. She is kind of an old guard liberal and was extremely close personally with M.S. Aronoff of The Minority of One so if Sue or Arch are around it might be good to avoid certain topics.

I spoke with Dick Sprague on the phone and he and Bud (you may know this) are working on programing everyone's files into a retrieval system. They still need money and programmers. Dick still claims to have a confession from one of the assassins and I had to talk him out of showing it to a wealthy political scientist who I sent to see Dick's photo albums.

Our summer weather is getting better and better and my therapy cases are improving so things have been looking up lately. If my love life picks up everything will be fine. I went to the opening of a fine exhibit of Richard Avedon's photography which isn't to be missed if it comes to Texas. I like openings because they are the only time you can go through an exhibit with a glass of wine in your hand.

Our local planned parenthood people, who are supposed to give birth control advice without moralizing and offer our Counseling center if people are conflicted, turn out to be doing some fairly harsh moralizing with young girls. One of my patients went to pieces there because they made her feel so degraded. Ironically, such moralizing tends to get younger girls to go out and get pregnant. So, I am on the warpath. The pill is better than an abortion any day.

I hope that things are going well with the doctor you are seeing. It is never selfish to worry about oneself and does usually turn out to be the best help to ones family. Your letter to Harold of June 10 has made me realize that I sometimes attribute superhuman powers to you in terms of ability to handle problems and rebound from bad situations. You have had to be the strongest person around for so long that you really project that image. My errors of judgment are usually in the opposite direction since it is safer to err in that direction. Well, in any event, it is an illustration of the respect I have for you as a person.

Has Sue mentioned anything about Paul Rothermel? I wonder how he's doing. Hunt lost a very good man.

I hope that this letter finds you and your family in better shape than in the past months. Please give my regards to Nimmy Lee, and the rest of your family. The Newcombs tell me that Val will be going to college in Texas so I assume that relationship is developing. Well, I'd better go now. Take care.

Love,
Ray