

5/7/70

Dear Gary,

This is emotionally a rough day. I spent the entire morning addressing an appeal to the judge to permit me to act as my own lawyer in our long-delayed suit over the helicopters and sonic booms and the damage they did. If and when we get to a certain point, you may be able to direct us to the proper experts, to try and assess the human damage living this way does and, if the science permits it, has done. Time for that later. But it was rough, reliving those painful experiences, recalling all the terrible things that happened to Lil, all the malfeasances, misfeasances and nonfeasances by the lawyers, etc. Now, as soon as I get a call, I have to leave to mail that, to get it into the judge's hands as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, I can begin to answer your letter of 5/3. At long last I have seen something good Fred has done. Not that it has meaning or could accomplish anything. But it is both credible and responsible, and I surely welcome it. In another context, it can also have meaning. However, I fear the wrong concepts it could inspire, the improbable conspiracy theories it could feed.

Nichols: I explained in advance to you and Dick the reason for my emphasis on the garbling in the telegram. Over the phone, I had no way of knowing how much was garbled. There is no telegram delivery here. It is read and then, if requested, mailed. I had no doubt of the thrust of it, but knowing John, I dared not imagine what was not clear and further, as you should recall, there was my unanswered letter the relevance of which you understand. Until you and Dick offer any opinions of what he is up to over what you have thus far (with that I agree), I'll not suggest what else I think may be involved.

Glad you do not mind my butting in on Mary, on your misreading and on the (I hope) catalytic letter I took the liberty of writing. Without it she'd not do anything. Now we can at least hope she'll be aware and can consider.

Check on Sylvia and KY. Please tell Rich if he has had any confidences vested in him (I do not recall if I did), he should keep them.

Delighted I misread you on involvement.

Sorry I can't make helpful suggestions for Gary Short. The field has contracted. Professional sources, I think, offer the best hope. He should try and sell himself locally first. For he has an established following. There is no telling which improbable station would consider what might even involve what for it is a good format, especially if they have a time where they suffer competitively.

Lippman: thanks. Remember the statement I asked you to get from him.

Re: Pneumo and angio: what makes them worth the risk? Under what conditions should they be considered, by the doctors and by me? Under what should I decline them, if any?

Nothing else new.

Thanks,

Enclosed: 1. \$10 from Henry Lippman  
2. Letter from Fred Newcomb - Under LBJ (OS)  
+ It's enclosures

**yes**

youth emergency service  
1423 washington avenue  
minneapolis, minnesota, 55415

May 3, 1970

Dear Harold:

Received your mailings postmarked the 24th, 25th, and 29th. Nichols letter to you# of the 20th leaves little doubt that he is not standing by any agreements. He has done a really strange thing when one comes right down to it, and while it would not have been my style to write the letter you did to him, I agree with the thrust of it except for the emphasis on the garbled telegram. Basically, from what I know of the situation and his letters, etc., he is clearly trying to back out of his original agreement with you by trying to forget (or pretend) that it was ever made and then go on to make a new one with this horseshit at the copywrite office. His behavior, besides being nefarious, is quite bizarre.

I got a card from Mary in Hawaii and you were right about my misreading of what she wrote me. I overreact in that direction mostly because parents of kids in that situation tend to try to see them as well fast and resent professional help and advice.

My references to Sylvia seeing KT# as a critic refer to things a year or two or more old, but there is little question about her attitude towards him in what I have from her. She is brilliant but, in my opinion, has some bad hang-ups and has made some pretty hasty decisions as with KT.

I appreciate your straight and open letter to Mary which so completely and correctly summarized my feelings about the situation with her son. I see the inside the medical profession hides too often to accept just the fact of medical treatment as an indication that things are in hand. Furthermore, there are two concrete examples of improper practice just in what little she has told me. I haven't told you, but I asked the advice of others on this, posing it as a theoretical case. Bear in mind also, I did not get to the position I hold within the emergency service network in the Twin Cities except through demonstration to the older professionals (i.e. I represent 70 just through the Walk-In Center) that I know drug problems, crisis problems (i.e. suicide).

Rich had not written me of the internecine troubles, but rather of Sylvia's opinion on things. I wanted to caution him not to accept any of us as having the last word on anything, and that Sylvia had her failings.

On the subject of Garrison, I have always agreed with the path you had taken, and in fact regretted that I had not become involved in his investigation (given how impressionable he is, my lack of status among the critics would not have been a hindrance) so I could have been one more person who would have tried to spot the red herrings and keep them in line. When I had my big argument with Sylvia on this (when she lost control and said I was immature, etc.) I made that simple point: Garrison was here whether we liked him or not, and attacking him the way Sylvia did made no difference to Jim or anyone else. Just on the Boxley-Turner affair (as short hand for much of which we now know was Jim's own craziness) we prevented false charges from being made and helped avert more disaster.

But I think you misread me about my regret at having been involved in things. I agree that involvement is a necessary cond. of working in this area and that disputes, even like the Lifton thing, are things which are hard to avoid if one is going to keep active. Furthermore, Rich knows my views on this very well and I doubt if he will misread me on it. He feels the same way about Garrison--

crisis phone 338-7588 noon to 4am/business phone 338-0959

business hours noon to 6pm

that to a certain degree the battle lines were drawn and those who cared had to be involved and do all they could to make it a good investigation. None of us made public comments on Shaw and both you and I questioned things Jim did or said many times. So I have no disagreements as to the question of being involved, especially since I don't view it as a decision one can have much of a choice about.

I'm glad the thing with Howard is working out.

On Nichols and the cost of the photos, it might be worth pointing out something I haven't mentioned before. Nichols first implied quite clearly that he had a friend who could do them, later became unclear, and finally indicated that it would cost, so I was mildly surprised even at as late a date as my first letter from Morey that it would cost, and cost a lot. I didn't balk because, while it surprised me given all that you had done for John and his financial situation vs. yours, there is no reason he has to be generous, and I never mind paying my own way.

I go on WLOL to reply to LBJ tomorrow, and also to discuss your suit. I was to be on with Gary Short, but on Friday he was either fired or quit--the word was "resigned." So, Alex Bennett is gone, Ken Minyard is gone, and now Gary is gone. All were big losses. I was on with Paul Helm, who is as much a fascist as anyone I have ever met, for the Walk-In center, and really had a problem on my hands. He may try to sue us and the Teen-Age Medical Center, our free clinic. He believes that the best way to raise kids is to give them a "knuckle sandwich" occasionally.

-I met with Henry Lippman today and he is up to some good things. He has continued to work on congressmen and has drafted a letter, using congressman MacGregor's name (with permission), to Earl Warren. He is trying to push the line that things will be breaking, due especially to your work, in the next few years, and that it would be about time for govt. people to begin choosing sides. Gary Hart, another one of my people, has a line on someone who was a bodyguard for HHH--SS or perhaps private--interesting in either case.

The news reports on the Honeywell thing were completely distorted. There was practically no violence--1 broken window, several bottles thrown, etc. A friend who is a photographer was beaten up by the cops, and a TIME mag. photographer was roughed up and had his camera confiscated when he photographed that beating. The cops showed up with tape over their badge numbers which is pretty amazing.

The Cambodia thing is scary. One wonders whether Nixon worries about becoming another dead leader or whether the military is running things. It is hard to believe that he is doing and saying those things, unless of course, he is now completely out of touch with reality and essentially psychotic. We may be hoping to lure China in and finish her off after her launching the satellite.

I played tennis twice this weekend and am really getting into shape. Unfortunately I'm afraid that my tennis has limits due to my vision which it looks like practice can't overcome completely.

Enclosed is \$10 which was owed you by Henry Lippman. He gave it to me to send to you.

Best wishes to you and Lil.

cc: Pav!

*Gay*

PS: In terms of neurological tests, there is both a pneumoencephalogram and angiogram, both of which have a danger attached. A Pneumo hurts the most, and an angio is most dangerous, although principally dangerous in cases where there is a history of cardio-vascular disorder. (i.e. I just tested a guy who they stroked out--he had a stroke--after the angio)