

4/20/70

Dear Gary,

Read your letter of the 15th this a.m., that to Mary and the one to Paul. I'll read the printed enclosures when I can. It is close to supper time. There is one thing I want to call to your attention, for whatever it may be worth, and I think it may be worth not less than deep thought. How like Lifton you make John sound. And I am not suggesting you are wrong. Of all the things there are for him to do, he has to be going around looking for errors in my work and getting Betzner to talk about them? I do not recall, and I'll not check and I really do not care what I said of B. I am reasonably certain there is no serious error, that none is possible, given the subject matter of which he can be part. It seems to me that all I said, in essence, is that his pictures should have been in evidence, in the files for posterity, should have been studied, and might have disclosed something. And that the entire matter was poorly handled.

What can John be up to? And can we now, with this perhaps inadvertent disclosure, forget what we or at least I once suspected, that he was the source of Lifton's crack quoting him? You may recall, I asked him and he denied it.

However, I do suggest that when you have occasion to mention this or to respond, that you say you know me and my work, that none of us is without the possibility of error, and that you also know if I have made any I seek the opportunity for correcting it, so if he or Betzner think I have made any, you are confident I'd like to know about it so that at some point I can record rectification. Then we'll see what, if anything, he says - and does.

If there is anything material to the case (and the Addison stuff is not) that John has developed, I have yet to learn about it. Much crap, much retreading and too much error, but what the hell has he really done that is new? So, he spends his time going to the Library of Congress to read the works he could have obtained from me and in one case was the first to ever see, and now he is trying to build some kind of miserable business with Betzner. Well, play it cool and maybe we'll get the picture. Meanwhile, he has yet to make any kind of meaningful response to any of the gut letters I have sent him, has ignored most of them, and so far as I am concerned, this is a sufficient record. If he does something bad, I'll cope with that if I can, when it has to be coped with.

What does "brain scan" mean? This is not the EEG, is it? On the first consultation, he made reference to a possible test that posed some kind of unexplained hazard. I asked no questions, for they'd have been premature. I look again and I see this cannot be the EEG.

I've been trying to get along without the valium. I think it helps, but I do not want to use only a crutch. I take it when I feel I should, but I no longer begin the day with a pill. Some days I take none.

Chris: complete waste time. But we should be polite, if he permits. Do not recall about Burkley memo. Sometimes I forget carbons, sometimes I reverse them, and I probably wanted a duplicate to file where I'd want it in writing, not to have to trust my memory...Don't look forward to the Newman book; it can't be good...I think you misunderstood Mary on "poor"...Nothing really new on Skolnick...Bad. Saw Time and write them...Read first paragraph of Russell (returned herwith) and regret the fine old man, as his sight failed and he aged, fell into the hands of the left left, who dominated him. 2,000,000 people, a state smaller than Delaware, an "imperial" power? Why does he not start with the beginning, at least the recent one, the Arab refusal to abide by the UN decisions, the endless forays against innocent civilians? Who says the bombs are against civilians or to get them not to support

their government? They are, as announced in advance, the announced retaliation against the declared Nasser policy of a war of attrition. They are to prevent and bombing does prevent, except in cases of people's wars, which this certainly isn't on the Arab side) the massing of enough force for a real attack. My own view, which is independent of a strong dislike of the Israeli government, is that Israel is the indispensable issue with which all the Arab lands, without exception, divert the people from their own total lack of any progress. They all fear a viable Israel not for religious but for economic reasons, for they fear what this will lead to in popular demands... This is the wrong time to argue whose land it is. It is right now, today, the commemoration of Egypt driving the Jews into where they now are. So, claims to homeland can be made as logically and as reasonably by either side.... It was the Nazi (literally) Grand Mufti who intimidated the Palestinian Arabs to leave their lands, which had never been stolen from them. They killed those who wouldn't, but the Israelis didn't. The Arab refugee issue is contrived to prevent solution short of extermination of Israel. They could all have been absorbed in Arab lands, having left their own either voluntarily or under Mufti threat. However, this also cannot be permitted. Today they control Jordan. Need I tell you there never was such a thing as Jordan until Churchill created it? Is it legal and proper for Jordan and not for Israel?

It is no simple thing, but the underlying reasons are not religious. Truman made it worse by making it a condition of US help (and by leaning on the rich US Jews) that Israel be a US satellite. Terrible mistake, all around.

To make it easier, show me a decent Arab government, a progressive one. Tell me why, with all the starvation, etc. Libya needs 100 modern fighters for which she has no pilots. They talk of "socialism". It is nonexistent in these lands, closest in Algeria. Remember, these are the lands in which slavery is still practised.

I'll see the LOOK thing in LOOK. This is an important issue, but it is also being used as a copout issue, to divert the younger people from the underlying political causes are the serious political issues, of which this is not the greatest. Fascism, for example. More power to them. I was working on two books on this when I switched. One might have made a movie.... Nader has been a significant and a good influence. I hope those he has so easily and so well motivated do not stop with this issue.... McConkey: how can it be bad if it is said to be anti-Communist? ... Yes sounds great. Worthwhile. Important. But where are the pregnancies hidden? Oh did the pill make them a minor problem?

Best regards,

April 15, 1970

Dear Harold:

Enclosed are ^{my} most recent letters to Paul and Mary. As I wrote them, I have been busy with both my taxes and also with some PhD things I had to get ready. You were right to delete those passages in my letter to Dick. That was a slip on my part. The lack of funds with regard to your suit could be a big problem. I can't think of a ready solution, but always have my ears open to possible sources of money out here in terms of someone rich who might want to help. I will not write Mondale about your suit, or Gene McCarthy either per your instructions (letter of 3/23). I will be writing both of them in regard to our serious financial problem out here. The clinical psych training program isn't being given enough to survive, and all other depts. are in trouble also. Paul mentioned concerns about this happening in his last letter, and I can't agree with his concern more now that she cut has just begun to hit us.

Jerry called me early in the morning of the Skolnick thing and I told him to call you since you would be the best person to be informed of it. From your 4/1, it appears that the Skolnick thing could have put to waste all of our work on Bolden. I still haven't gotten the details on the Skolnick charges, save for radio reporting# on them.

I just heard from Nichols and will send you a xerox when I am near a machine. I am typing# this from home. I asked him for the errors in the Betzner affidavit that he mentioned in his letter, but his reply was amazing. He began with the paragraph: "I went over, with Mr. Betzner (sr), some of the errors in Harold's book regarding his son's participation. Of course, Harold did not make all of the errors." As you know, there has never been talk of errors you made, but rather errors the FBI made, and the latter was what I asked him for. I will be writing John and re-asking for the alleged FBI errors. When I get a reply, I will do my long overdue Betzner memo. As I'm sure I told you, Hugh lied to me in a letter, and I have always been convinced of it, and now know for sure after interviewing his father. But I want the memo to be complete so I will wait for anything else John has to say. By the way, I am pretty angry that John's friend Morey has not refunded my money. I told John to contact him. Now I will have to contact him directly. With helpers like Morey we don't need enemies. I am quite fed up with that whole situation.

Your letter to Phil and me of 3/31: Glad to hear that you are finally getting a full exam. The other test which sounded like "hand" was probably a "brain scan." It involves ingesting dye and# they having X-rays taken of the brain. It shows up vascular abnormalities and thus anything from clots to tumors, since a tumor affects circulation by simple displacement of tissue. Valium is a good minor tranquillizer which is more anxiety specific than meprobamate. My mother takes it I think. Wine is known to be a pretty decent tranquillizer.

Yours of 3/29: I still haven't had time to read Chris' more recent letters. He has just swamped me. God only knows that I have been impulsive myself in the# past and made many wrong judgments, but he is really going hog wild on practically no knowledge. Mike Masterman is taking it easier, responding to criticism and asking for it hoping to learn from his mistakes, and sensibly not overburdening us.

To change the subject, from my letter to Mary you can judge my concern for the situation down there. The vitamins bit particularly scares me. We have one psychiatrist up here using them and he has already had some suicide attempts. The problem is that they seem to have mostly a# placebo effect, and so they give false hopes, which lead to trouble when the symptoms come back. We are going to try to have our local problem fried in hot oil but if Mary's son is being treated by such a man there could be real trouble in store.

I generally agree with the content of your letter to Chris and will send it with mine when I have time to go through his letters. You have done more than you have time for, as is your habit, because you are responding warily to his interest. This was very helpful to me when we were first in touch,

and to people like Fred also. But I think that Chris cannot offer us anything due to his lack of knowledge and that it would be best if you used your valuable time for more important endeavors and let me try to handle Chris.

The description of the Chicago radio station in yours of 4/9 is quite unsettling. That was the first question I asked of Jerry when he called: what kind of station is it? The Daley connection may be well worth pondering, since, beyond Daley, it may indicate other more important political contacts.

Glad that the Penabaz tape was of interest. If Paul would like it, or the Lulu Belle Holmes or Walker tapes I will be glad to send them.

The Golden Valley return address is on those envelopes because I get them free from the clinic, and often they are stamped.

No reference to John Hampton (letter of 4/13) in my records.

Enclosed are the following: My letters to Paul and Mary

One of our YES pamphlets for your info

Your letter to Ed which is marked for return

An advertisement by LOOK in our campus paper

Bertrand Russell's last reflections on the

middle east crisis

Polution editorial from our paper

news article on a right winger--they smuggled

a good old Walker into town to defend her

Some postage stamps

I can't find your reference to your long piece on the Burkley file. If you need it back please say so and I will enclose it in my next letter.

Hope everything is well with you people. Best wishes.

cc: Paul

Gary

April 15, 1970

Dear Paul:

Thanks for your letter of April 2 and its enclosures. Check on Liebster and Forrestal.

I haven't had time to figure the cost of Coup yet but will. I have been busy with income tax (I've got a weird way of not paying any, but it requires letters, forms, etc.) and my PhD 3-year plan (prior to my oral).

I would like the 2 on 1 size on those transcripts. I want them for historical purposes, and also because I am interested in the interaction of people in this case, above and beyond that which is relevant from a pure research point of view. The second set is for one of my researchers who teaches the Garrison part of my course and who wants it entirely for the historical thing. We both intend to do a careful comparison of the transcripts with the media reporting, both inside and outside N.O. Both of us want eventually to focus almost entirely on the media in this case. For instance, while right now we present Garrison as a debacle, we also point out the many unchecked leads and all the unfinished business, and more important, that the media was dishonest, even though in some sense it was correct that Garrison was not what he claimed to be. I still feel that most of the attacks were no different than the attacks on the critics in general. But, this will be the best way to begin assessing them.

From Mary's last letter I do not know what is going on down there and suspect that she is resentful of my advice, or mental health professionals in general. I hope that she will be more direct with her feelings in the future and also hope that she takes some of the advice in the last letter I wrote her (see enclosed carbon). When someone like Jimmy Lee seems better is just when the real trouble often begins. In fact, the highest probability of suicide is at that time, and he is, or was, a very high risk suicide.

I look forward to the Newman book if it is psychological. As soon as I find the time (I guess that sounds a bit funny), I hope to do a large study of all that has been written of a psychological or psychiatric nature. It is mostly terrible garbage and raises the serious question of professional ethics and the misuse of so called "experts" to prove politically important theories. Mental Health professionals are potentially some of the most dangerous people in the society. Aldous Huxley wrote a good essay on this called "Miracle in Lebanon" which was published, among other places, in a volume entitled "Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow." I do think that one of the keys to the case is in an analysis of the behavior and words of those who investigated it, in that if we can understand what each federal agency was up to, we can get rid of the red herrings they left, often inadvertently, as they covered their trails on countless things they have been doing wrong for years. I suspect that much of the dishonesty in this case has to do with the general working of the government rather than who killed Kennedy.

I have no ideas about the archives right now that are important enough for you to spend time on. I hope that your jaunt to the professional meeting is not all work. Best wishes.

Gary

cc: Harold

attribution, and all cases from it. I think that's the only way to get a fair picture of the situation. I think that's the only way to get a fair picture of the situation. I think that's the only way to get a fair picture of the situation.

Dear Mary,

I just finished my income tax and got your letter of the 13th and was in a writing mood so I decided to answer it right away.

In your letter of the 13th you wrote "Please forgive this poor attitude, Gary." From my brief contact with you this is a pretty atypical comment so I guess I take it to indicate that you have some feelings about either me or mental health professionals. It makes me feel that you either view me as a fairly distanced person in terms of Jimmy Lee's crisis, or that you are disgusted with mental health professionals in general. If so, or if you have feelings of resentment, etc., I would very much like to hear them directly. From the sound of it from here, and granted from almost no information, I suspect that the professionals have not really done anything for Jimmy Lee as far as your concern. From what little you have told me I would agree. I wrote you a fairly impersonal letter about the situation with professional jargon in it because that is my response to such a crisis. For Jimmy Lee to work through what has happened will be a very long and involved procedure, although in the end result he could be much happier and living better than he was before the whole tragedy occurred. This is possible and I have seen it happen. But, back to my original point. What are you reacting to when you assume that I would think that your attitude was a poor one? Your assumption is not correct, and you can help me out by explaining how I came across to lead you to that assumption. I do not feel that way and therefore do not want to come across that way, and feedback from someone whose judgment I trust is the best way I can learn about my ~~own~~ self in this respect. The trip to California sounds like it did Jimmy Lee a lot of good. Val and the senior prom also sound fine. I have no doubt that all of that is probably making him feel better and look better than the unusual conglomerate of professionals he was (is?) seeing. The main thing a good therapist does is to try to free someone from things which interfere with happiness and fulfilling relationships since that is the only valid measure of how things are. If I deal with a schizophrenic, I don't care about his delusions and hallucinations, but only about how they interfere with his life.

As for drugs, what they apparently gave him in the hospital was Thorazine. It is a major tranquilizer which means that it not only works on the anxiety but also on crazy thinking. Up here it is being replaced by Miltol which seems more effective, but it is still the most common drug treatment for people in serious distress or turmoil.

[Handwritten signature]

Isn't he taking any drugs on an outpatient basis? In most cases like his, outpatients are kept on small doses of Stellazine or some other tranquillizer, especially if they sometimes go back to delusional thinking like thinking that they have been programmed to kill themselves. If they are really depressed at times, then there are anti-depressants. What is usually the case, however, after real bad trips, is that what is actually described as "depression" is more despair and discouragement which is very deep seated. In terms of treatment, it must be handled very differently from actual depression. Why is he taking vitamins? There are those who give Niacine and a few other vitamins for treatment of drug after-reactions and even schizophrenia, but I don't think much of people who do because the literature on it contains no solid evidence that it works. Furthermore, there are indications that it can help precipitate breakdowns because it gives a false sense of security. One of the few really dangerous things a mental health person can do is to hold out false hopes. The reason for this is quite obvious and I won't belabor it.

On the question of Jimmy's depression, when he feels it, encourage him to describe it and talk about it. You know him well enough to be alert to changes in his behavior and when he is feeling bad. If he still gets that way occasionally then he is definitely still a suicide risk. The best thing to do is to not worry about the latter but just be sensitive to him as a person and especially to how he feels. This is very important because of the new relationship with Val Newcomb. It is a common pattern for people who have had disastrous experiences through drugs of his age to try to become immediately involved with someone deeply afterwards. The only problem with this is that if anything goes wrong, and it usually does with any one Jimmy's age regardless of drugs or anything else, it may seem much more catastrophic than it really is. This is one of the main reasons it would be good for him to have one competent and consistent therapist who can help him work through his emotional relationships, problems, etc. rather than treat his symptoms. A friend or mother can only help so much in such a situation, even if she is concerned and alert as you are. If one of my friends was in Jimmy's situation, I would send him to someone I knew was good rather than handle it myself, because it is difficult to be both a friend and a therapist, even though a good therapist becomes perhaps the closest friend you have ever had in the long run.

On the question of a therapist, you did not respond to my taking the liberty of trying to get you names. Whether you aren't sure how you feel, resent it, or are still uncertain, I will be sending you a letter on this subject as soon as I hear from one more person in Texas. I am not using your name and doing no more than indicating that it is a drug problem and Jimmy's approximate age. If you decide that it might be worth giving it a try, and if Jimmy is interested in giving it a try, I can give you the name of one of the top men in the country to use as the referring professional so that the likelihood is that whoever you went to would give Jimmy Lee high priority in terms of fitting him into a schedule. I am not, by the way, contacting people and asking them whether they would handle such a case, but rather contacting a few top professionals and asking them of people in your area who they know, for a fact, to be both warm people and first rate therapists. Any name I send you will be someone I would send my own sister or some member of my family to. If you don't want to use them I don't care, since I won't hurt for you to have such a list around the house in case one of your friends would like to see someone. I am worried about Jimmy Lee improving some, and feeling a little better, but not having enough help to get out of the woods entirely and not be always in jeopardy of an emotional crisis.

Harold can answer the Skolnick questions better than I so I won't even try. I look forward to seeing the Bonner book and thank you for another kindness. Enclosed is a brochure about Y.E.S., which is one of the many things we are doing to help with the drug problem and general problem of kids in trouble. Also enclosed is a little calling card which contains a quote which encapsulates many of my views. Best wishes to all of you. If I can do anything for you please let me know. Stay well.

Gary