

4/1/70

Dear Gary (cc Paul),

This is a day on which I'll be able to work outside for a while. With about 20 minutes before I can make a call I must I'll try and answer you 3/29 to Paul and me. Thanks for the enclosures.

There is no point in my trying to change my "Style" if dealing with the Archives. I began that way. I used the only appearance I ever had on coast-to-coast network TV to defend them against Lane's disgraceful charges, things like that, but they still screwed me when I started zeroing in on gut stuff, went out of their way to withhold from me what I could make sense of until they could give it to sycophants who would play it their way, etc. At this point I expect to get little of value from them and, whether you realize it or not, have asked for little that is new. I have been repeating requests for the past, building a record to take to court. As the enclosure shows, they are even slowing down what I have pried loose elsewhere. When they started withdrawing what was released once I found embarrassment in it I need be told no more. I will, eventually, get this into court. There is a requirement of the law that they respond expeditiously. When they ignore some requests and take six months for others, they are helping, not hurting, for I do not lack for material; I lack the time for using what I already have. Going along with my shunning unpaid appearances have been other changes in my approaches. I'd hoped these would be obvious to you. Russell was one. Marshall and Kelley are others. I gave Bell a chance and if I ever get out there again he find what the choice between what the stick and the carrot is. My own experiences tell me that we are far from recovering from the disaster brought upon us chiefly by Garrison-Lane-Sehl in combo, so we have to work in the actual environment, not what we imagine it to be or what we'd like it to be. Hence my separation of the King/Ray stuff, which enabled immediate filing of that suit. I'm close to ready on the panel report and I have legal citations eliminating any proper withholding of anything connected with it. Bud approved the letter I'll enclose, to Kleindienst, on this. Until they screwed me on several ~~king~~ things, like the GSA-family contract, certain autopsy materials, some Specter memos, etc., I couldn't have been nicer to them. When being nice doesn't work, the time for it has passed and I'm not about to kiss their asses. In no case am I wrong in any of the charges and this has forced them into incredible and untenable positions that should be helpful in court and just may have some impact on some Kennedy people, if they have good survival instincts. I appreciate the suggestions, but they are no longer relevant, no longer practical. And I repeat, I ask for little new. I have a list of things to go over when I can. I had no time to go there yesterday.

Ed/ Bolden: Not Ed by stinker Skolnick found out where Bolden is from a friend working on this for me, on the promise to investigate and interrogate for me. I found out from a paranoid who has been in touch with Bolden. Hence I knew he was out, as I told you. Instead of doing this he sought and got cheap personal publicity that may shut some dorrs, some permanently and his publicity did no good at all, but much harm. There has been no response from him or the station. Ed and the guy who interviewed Bolden for him both complained to me that they begged him not to do this, not to make this broadcast. The story in the paper is entirely without value except in publicizing Skolnick. Now, on the bolden questions, I had already sent ~~apix~~ to Albright, the man in touch with Coldeb, a series of preliminary questions designed to test his honesty or willing ness, for he has continuing problems. As I indicated a while back, there were indications of a deal. True. He got out ahead of time but remains in probation for four times the length of the unserved term. Now I have developed serious questions about him. Example: the only name he comes up with is one Garrison used, publicly. The presence of Oswald in Chicago at that time is an impossibility. There is not the slightest evidence of the presence of Cubans and there is proof of the presence of Dominicans. In addition, I remain convinced the real reason for the cancellation was Vallee and Kelley confirms pretty much. What does

this, if true, do to Bolden's entire story? The Spagnoli thing went to court. I've read those papers. There was a bad judge, but the ruling was that Spagnoli made this up to try and make a deal to ease things for himself. Bolden also got help from a judge near the jail, but the lawyer he wound up with seems to have had certain deficiencies. So, what you say here, while true, is also irrelevant, having already been adjudicated. There is no Bolden letter to the WC and I have the file the SS sent to a Senator who made inquiry. You can read it when you are here again. If it is not really satisfactory, I also recall no serious vulnerability in it. What relevance is there in Wyannisport security now? I think that complaint can be made under the best of circumstances. The lifting of cards is a other and interesting matter. Here I'd like the background. Why not, when you can, make me up a set of questions you'd like asked, in duplicate, so I can send it out, assuming the result of the prelim. is indicative or worth in going further. I can keep one, send one and this easily eliminate what has been covered, etc. I lack confidence in anything Turner says, completely and totally. I'm not about to crap us up with his manufactures or plagiarisms, too many coming from N.O.

Vince and getting Dave the transcripts: I'm not troubled by it, do not worry about it, it is not in my mind and wasn't until you mentioned. I thought you ought to know for various reasons. I asked him many times before asking you to ask him. He knows that right or wrong Dave is out to get Garrison. Yet he gets transcripts for Dave and absolutely refuses for us. I find this difficult to dismiss as due to the cause of the illness I believe he suffers. Vince has an unerring instinct for the wrong thing. However, I know of the existence of no transcripts the office has that we haven't. If either of you hears of one they might have that we now do not, let me know and I'll get it, without asking Vince.

Doubtful Shaw will have witnesses from inside Garrison's office other than those already defected, all of whom are under charges and hardly probative and impartial, all having committed thefts with which they are charged. Except Boxely, and he'd be ruined on the stand and give Jim a standing fir solidity and probity that would shake you both. You do not know N.O.L if you think the new morals charge, if it is real and will be filed and pressed (I have no reason to believe any of the three), will hurt. Not in N.O. Even if it is true, that doesn't hurt down there. Did it hurt Shaw? Hell, Garrison never used it, not even by inference.

Shand is Shand and you have thermofaxes of this, both of you. A Minuteman/Texas/Mexico threat involving a crop duster, a pilot named Olson, etc. I got the government stuff and I also got a radio man's interviews on tape with Shand, who has since disappeared.

Russ did some of my Chicago work. I gave him copies of what I had. He got me only the complaint. He seems to have given it to Skolnick for his "class" to work on, not for publicity and Skolnick went off on an ego trip, using it on a small FM station, a real futility. I had told Russ I wanted no publicity because I still had hopes of getting more. I didn't tell him of Kelley, but you should see what can happen there. I also had asked for what they have on this, including the license, Herman, etc. You'll find this in the appendix you now have, which goes further than the text you have had. Again I repeat, there are reasons I ask you not to let certain things go further. You may not then agree with these reasons, may not know what they really are, but they are real and to me important or I'd not ask it. This is a good case in point, for it has closed everything and there has not been a single uncollected offer of info.

I disagree on the Nichols negative bit. I will henceforth have nothing to do with him. He asked for this picture as soon as he promised me he wouldn't and would let me carry that forward in my own way. The only purpose it served (aside from his copyrighting my material, as he had Dick's) was to give the Archives the ideal cover

for "losing" mine, which was dated, and putting the date of his request on mine. This can serve a purpose. I've written you enough on this and do not want to spell it out further at this time. Perhaps you had not gotten my most recent letter on this, but there remains no confusion, there never was any confusion except what they pretended, and I gave them an electrostatic copy of mine long, long ago. Let them impale themselves as much as they want, the more being the better. Among the many benefits we can expect from this trickery is the utter destruction, in court, of their argument they cannot do certain ordinary things for the "protection" of the evidence. If they cannot keep track of the pictures they make, how can they do anything to protect anything? And I'll prove there could be no accident here, so we have the added benefit of their deliberately misrepresenting. I'm going to keep asking for the picture in writing only. There may be other side benefits if and when I show this to certain people with whom I do have relationship. John is too weak too dishonest, too far out in Knoxville for any contact, any trust. I did ask him for a reprint and he has not sent it. I'll not ask the bastard again. I do not need it but it would be better to have it.

Maybe we'll see Z, but I doubt we can afford it. Right now, with the money due from Dell not having reached me, I have less than a week in which to raise the interest for the bank. When that is over we'll not have the little money, it is now bringing in.

All the things you postulate in your conjectures about Fisher are within possibility, most, esp. his presence at the autopsy, are improbable. I think a simpler and less sinister one is perhaps closer, and that is the normal working of bureaucracy, with its new and flexible standards. He never expected what I have done and thought he had himself covered. He may well believe that LHO was the loner and, like Specter, helped make it look that way, believing there is no reason to think otherwise. Or, he may have had other, liberal-like reasons. I think it quite possible there were certain kinds of quid pro quos, not from Clark.

Jerry is willing but has little time. He is in college and holds down a full-time job. He should be asked only the essential.

Best,

March 29, 1970

Dear Harold: Received your letters postmarked the 18th and 21st. Much of the publicity work for our free psychiatric clinic is done so I have more time to get some work done on the case. I don't know whether I told you but I wrote Mary and offered her our professional help up here, and also suggested that she take a serious look at the services they are getting for Jimmy Lee down there. First of all the cost is exorbitant, and secondly, no good therapist (so this goes for all three of them) would, under any circumstances, agree to such an arrangement, and I think I can say that without qualification--it violates the most basic rules. I am getting some info on good therapists down there from the top people in the field and going to send a list along with info on each and a referral from someone big so that there will be no problems in getting to see one of them. I am not sure of what you mean by

I agree with Paul that it would be good to change your style of dealing with the archives and focus your interests better.

Has Ed found out where Bolden is? If so I strongly urge an interview also. Mark Lane told me that what Bolden told him in the way of Cuban names was that there were a group of Cubans but the only name he knew included the names Garcia-Gonzales, although he didn't know what the man's first name was. It would be worthwhile to get an itemization of threats to he and his wife, and any incidents which he thinks could have been harassment. It would also be important to push the question as to how come he has been rotting in jail so long--i.e. what advice has his lawyer been giving him for this time. He had an open and shut mistrial given Spagnoli's statement, under oath admitting to perjury, and further statement that the perjury was suborned by a government attorney. Ask also about contacts with Nagell (especially to see if Nagell contacted him). Also ask about presidential protection in general--i.e. at Hyanis Port. Also about the alleged calling in of SS cards after the assassination. Finally, it might be worth asking about Turner's quote about ~~#####~~ allegedly having blurted out "Ruby Hired me." I only have that from Galt.

I knew about the participation of Vinee in getting Dave transcripts but decided that I would be of little use to tell you since it would only be one more source of anxiety and that it was essentially water under the bridge. I plan to ask Vinee about it when I am with him (i.e. when I visit my parents in Phila.), not because it is bad that Lifton got such things, but because he did not get them for us. The fact that he didn't get them for you does not surprise me as much as that he did not get them for me. My feelings on this are as follows: 1. It is typical of Vinee to forget or at least not fulfill requests, even after they are repeated. 2. Lifton knows that Vinee is a soft touch and knows how to get him to promise things in a phone call. 3. I doubt if Matt's silence means anymore than it normally does--that he, like Vinee, just doesn't answer letters that often and doesn't fulfill requests made through letters. One thing I would like to do right now is to get Vinee to get us any transcripts we don't have--meaning in this case the few he didn't get himself. Which ones are they. I will write Vinee, mention the Lifton thing, and ask that he do this. It would make no sense to worry about this since it is so typical of Vinee and there is nothing which can be gained. In the future I will call him when we need something, since he has always come through when I have asked for something on the phone.

If Shaw's lawyers have witnesses from inside Garrison's office it is possible that they can prove what they allege. The type of statements which I have heard quoted could easily make a case. This new morals charge thing could also aid in sinking the Jolly Green Giant.

In your letter of 3/16 you mention the "Shand material"--do you mean Sekand?

In your letter of 3/21 to Russ you mentioned the Skolniek broadcast. If you get the chance please fill me in so that I can understand the letter. There just wasn't enough in it to fill me in.



March 29, 1970.

Dear Paul:

Thanks for your mailings of March 20 (letter with enclosures) and March 16 (Chapt. 18 and appendix to Coup). How much do I owe you for the latter?

As I note in the letter to Harold of which I enclose a copy, I agree with your comments on his archives correspondence. The Panel report still seems to have some major mysteries attached, and some of them could have serious import. Fisher's role in this leaves serious questions in my mind, questions first raised by info I got from the assistant Attorney General's son. This was, from all I know now, largely Fisher's doing, with his role possibly having been greater than that of DJ. This may be a case of someone who has a strong desire to shut off the rabble rousers (us in this case) and who will violate professional ethics to do so, just out of a general conservative attitude. I know of other examples of such behavior in other cases and tend to think that most coverups have to do with such feelings rather than actual (conscious conspiracy to suppress). The effects, of course, are the same, but the meaning is very different. Then, there is the possibility that Fisher is a personal friend of someone intimately connected to the autopsy and that he is very worried about protecting a friend. Or, that Fisher himself was present at the original autopsy and is protecting himself. Or, even further out, that his role is more nefarious and that he has links to the military, etc. At present I tend to see him more like I do the big people in the media--believing or half-believing, perhaps because he has said it so many times that it has become the truth, the nonsense that he has written, and even if he is conscious of some shading of the truth, rationalizing without a moment's hesitation that these are only minor details, and that the facts are clear, and that the public should be saved from confusion. I often wish that most political behavior or behavior by the media involved open conspiracy, since that would not be as upsetting as the alternative--people deciding on their own what the public should know--and all instinctively making the same decisions. I always point out when I speak that there was no big organized conspiracy to coverup because if there had been then the critics wouldn't have such abundant information and wouldn't have found it so easy to devastate the WR.

I have nothing on Alliance, Inc. I have heard of Alliance College, a certified right wing group, in Cambridge Springs, Pa. I wasn't aware that Sylvia was still doing any work on the case. Don't forget that we have Jerry Policoff in New York City who is a good man and willing to help, if Sylvia isn't active or doesn't come through.

On the Shaw trial transcripts, I think that I would like 2 sets of all the transcripts you list in your memo# of 3/15/70. If I am remembering correctly, you have already sent me the entire Finek and Frazier testimony, so I guess what I need is one complete set, and one set minus Finek and Frazier. Let's make that the order then: one complete set and one set minus Finek and Frazier. One set is for me and one is for one of my researchers who is specializing in the Shaw trial out of his own interest. I guess we still need Shaneyfelt, Marina Oswald, Oswald's N.O. landlady (name escapes me), and perhaps a few others. What are the hopes of getting these?

The Garrison morals charge thing never reached us out here, but thanks for the clipping. It sounds like he could be in real trouble.

Have you seen "Z" yet? If not do so at the earliest possible chance.

I'd better close now. Best wishes.