

3/23/70

Dear Gary,

There are things in your 3/19 that should not be passed on, as you asked me to do, to Dick. Example: Mary's boy. So, I've copied off the relevant and will include in my next.

I've been more uneasy than usual for a little over a week. I've spent a little while working outside already, so I'll try and keep this short and will get out again. I suppose there is new tension in the things of which you know, possibly the almost total suppression of the suit being a big factor.

Nichols: still silence. Wonder if this has penetrated his ego? Doubt it.

Your question, what makes Fisher tick, is nitty gritty, and I cannot say that I know or even have a very good hunch. But I'll stick to the fact and let the rest come out when I can bring it out. I doubt he was at autopsy, presume he and Finck are friendly, if not he and others. I think I've got this past the point where there is purpose in speaking to Jaffe. I'll file my own suit on this. I now await only hearing from Roloff what will make it unnecessary. Here, however, I'll be seriously inhibited by my lack of funds. How will I pay even witness costs? Fisher will be one witness. Finck another (if he doesn't powder to Cambodia or Viet Nam again). Their costs will be less than those for James, who I'd like, too.

I think you misread me on Ray. I had in mind psychologists and wondered only if he would like this, if your people would be interested.

For the \$10 they charged me, considering I blew the guy for them, the least I should have been able to expect was fresh film. And if these guys are as unselfish as they pretend, the least they could do is see that the film is fresh.

From what little I've heard of it, I share your apprehensions about Mary's son.

There are no news stories on my suit of which I have copies save from the local paper, which would mean nothing to anybody. The Memphis Press-Scimitar had a short UPI piece but I haven't seen it. Renfro Hayes called me after reading it. Mondale: I phoned and spoke to Jasper in advance. No interest. Ditto McCarthy's office. I do not recommend a letter from you to Mondale or Jasper for I believe the decision is one of policy. Perhaps when we get to court it may be easier for them. But I did ask Bud to send them copies, and a few others.

Paul assumed Shaw is not suing me because I'm not named in what he filed. I assume he's not because he has no grounds and because I don't think he or Wegmann want either to tangle with me or to open the door on what I have.

Phil is a fine guy. The diagnostician is arranged. I can't get there and I hope it will be unnecessary after my consultation 3/21 in DC.

Sent Phelan N.O. test to Paul today. Not worth copying. Re yourlet 19 to Paul: I'm sorry for Liebler, terrible as what he did is. He has been completely silent on the case since we met on the Les Crane show, poorly as I did compared with what I should have done...Doubt if JG will spend money for Shaneyfelt test, but I'll get it if he does...Jerry is fine. His knowledge is not deep, but he is a very decent, concerned young man. I like him.

Best,

Dear Harold:

March 19, 1970

Received your mailings of the 9th and 16th--thanks. I responded to Mary's letter with a long, two-pager, with advice, but only made one carbon for myself since it doesn't relate to the case. Basically I think they are paying much money and getting poor professional service from people who don't know what they're doing.

I am currently wrestling with a number of things--among them getting set for a dissertation. If I get one set I can continue working at the clinic next year (otherwise, the clinical people at the University won't trust me to do the damn thing and will insist I go on a fellowship which is much less money and won't give me more experience).

The Nichol's thing is still confusing. I didn't quite follow you on LOOK, but basically I assume that he has not submitted the piece and doesn't have as firm an agreement with them as he lets on. I have not heard from the photographer, and if I don't soon I will write him. I mentioned my accidental overpayment to Morey in my last letter to Joan as you know, and thus expected to hear.

The Fisher stuff becomes more and more interesting. Based on what I got through Jaffe, it does not surprise me. But, again the question arises--what makes Fisher tick and what interest does he have in this? Is there a chance he was present during the original autopsy or knows someone involved in it. If anyone was there it would have been him. The absence of mention of him is meaningless. If we could figure out how to do it, and if I can get back into touch with Jaffe who is now studying law, I think in the Washington area, it would be interesting to see what his father had to say about all this.

On the archives stuff, from what you have told me I have always felt that they were being more than just plain careless. Furthermore, I know of instances of similar deception, like when they told Ark and Mary there were no name files. This can't all be random error. The real irony is how efficient they seem much of the time, except when something is important.

Glad to hear about the money you are getting from Dell.

I agree with your concern about Bud and Jerry and that whole situation. I have been uneasy about it for some time. I'll check on the subject of psychiatrists, but Southern ones don't come with a good recommendation, and don't work without fee. It's too bad I'm not certified and they might not let me in--otherwise I'd borrow the \$ and do it myself.

First three pages, which I assume Paul is sending, were missing from the Archives summary.

From your letter of 3/9: I can get you more copies of the film, but I can't get any that are fresher or earlier generation. They are only sending out that one generation and all have been stored for a while (I'd be getting only old stock, which I myself have anyway).

I got your press release in the mail and also the complaint--thanks. I haven't yet had time to xerox and send to the media, but I will try this weekend--I have to go find a machine that does that size paper. I will be on Gary Short's show on May 4, the occasion being the first weekday after LBJ's speech. I will see about a show by phone from your home before that time.

You have probably gotten a letter from Mary by now (since your letter to me of 3/12) which more fully explains her son's illness. The symptoms, from my experience, are some of the worst I have ever heard, and the prognosis is likely quite bad with high suicide potential. The prognosis, I think, is much worse than it need be due to the fact that I suspect he is being treated by quacks, or at least those who have had little experience with this sort of thing. We see it quite often up here.

Please be sure to give dates or send xeroxes of any newspaper stories on your suit. I would like to locate some for slides. In fact, I would probably like to borrow any clippings which you collect for that purpose.

How about sending copies of this stuff to Mondale, perhaps through his legislative counsel Jaspers. This might just get them more interested, since it promises action, and Jaspers now knows that the JD doesn't have a prayer. If there will be a scandal, and given that it is a Republican administration, and the rest was LBJ who they have denounced anyway, they might be willing to help a bit. In any event, it would be well worth the cost of xeroxing.

Good letter to Hugh Sidey of LIFE.

How does Paul know that Shaw is not suing you? I have heard no more on the Shaw suit.

I agree that it would not be a good idea for Harold to waste time with Lifton. Lifton will never give him anything of value, unless it is already available, and will try to get things in return. He is a master at pumping info. Most of all, it would be a waste of time. I guess it's the fact that no possible benefit to Howard could come of it which makes me so certain in my disagreement with his writing to Dave. I went off on my own, dealt with Dave, and like the kid who touches a hot frying pan, learned a lesson I would like to spare others. Dave is careful with some people and doesn't rile them, and they are impressed with his intelligence, but he is only playing games.

Phil Bowright and wife sound like good people. Hope that they can come through with that diagnostician.

I have been busy lately with more publicity for our free walk-in clinic. That will be over in a few weeks and I will have more free time. I was the natural person to handle it given my experience, but the main reason I volunteered was that the organization was a bit stagnant when I take a job I get it done. I had a wild show with Paul Helm, the way out right winger who took the night spot on WLOL after Alex Bennett left. He is on every right wing group and was raving about social workers ruining the country, sex ed., sensitivity groups, permissive child rearing, etc. He said on the air that the proper way to raise a kid is to give him a ~~knuckle sandwich~~ "knuckle sandwich" once in a while! His audience is as crazy as he is. Ironically, although he's down on homosexuals and ex-leon's and sex people, he has a prison record in Wisconsin for a morals offense. It was a rotten show and almost impossible to get any info out, and the audience and he weren't listening anyway. One question still echoes in my mind: "Isn't it true that they teach the same psychology here as in the Soviet Union?"

Jerry Polioff called Sunday two weeks ago and we had a nice chat, although I had to cut it short because I had to go somewhere. He sounds OK but was working hard and thus laying off the case. I really like the guy and he joins the list of those I hope to meet some day like Paul, Jim Schmidt, Dick Bernabei, etc. etc.

Well, I'd better close. Enclosed is a carbon of my last letter to Paul. If you have the paper, please send a copy of this letter to Dick B. Best wishes to you and Lil. Keep up the fine work. Between the SS and Ray you're keeping me excited about new developments in each letter.

*Gary*

cc: Paul

March 19, 1970

Dear Paul:

I have received two recent mailings from you--one of March 8 & 9 with enclosures and the other the return of my name files--thanks.

I would like a copy of all the testimony you get copied. Just make extras and bill me for costs and postage, etc. I agree with cooperating with Lifton on things like the transcripts and think we would be dumb not to--anything which can lower expense and yet not be detrimental.

Agreed on your ideas on the Clinton thing. The N.O. news paper accounts of their testimony was convincing that the incident occurred, but I have worried a bit about the identifications. I guess the thing which has always bothered me the most is why a guy like Shaw would expose himself in that fashion. What possible purpose could it serve, even if his only relationship with the other two was social or sexual.

The Liebler thing is wild. Do you have any idea whether he has ever done anything\* like this before or whether he is going down hill emotionally. I know that this is a wild thing to ask, but Liebler was into so much of this out there for a while that you may have heard about other misbehavior.

On the Shaneyfelt testimony, I would strongly advise trying to get Garrison to get it. Let him absorb the expense rather than us.

I can't remember whether I have asked you before or not, but do you have anything on the death of Forrestal or do you know of anyone working on it or interested in it?

I just checked with the archives to see if the records of the Violence commission (I wanted to look at the stuff on any of the assassinations) were available, but they are not in the archives yet. I have a friend in the library of Congress now if you have any work that needs doing there.

Well, I'd better close now. Take it easy.

cc: Harold