

2/27/70

Dear Gary,

Continuing and costly trouble with the car is, apparently, a consequence of "preventive maintenance", having a pre-winter checkup. It has gotten to the point where it will not run without extreme persuasion, like racing the motor all the time. I had an 8 a.m. appointment for this newest repair, drove there with some difficulty, to find they are clogged up for a while. So, home awaiting a call to bring it back, I begin, at least, to respond to your 2/22, postmarked 25, which I got at the p.o. this a.m.

N.O. test.: my memo listed all they sent me. I have sent this to Paul, who can either read and redistribute or, if there are those desiring it, can have copies made. It is a duplicate set I was able to get for this purpose. I have one I'll keep here. Thus, there is, for the most part, no need to spend money copying. Each guy can go over and select what he may want. I think there will be little. After everyone has seen, I think it should go back to Paul, if he is willing, because he has the superior copying services and can, thereafter, supply any needs both cheaper and faster. My purpose in getting it was so everyone could have access.

Once a lemming...with all Lifton has done to Gurt Garrison, he gets testimony. Not only at all, but before anyone else. The next question is, did he get it directly from the office or through an in-between, say Mary. You speak of "all the testimony". From the best I've been able to learn, they did not get copies of all of it. I asked for some they said they hadn't bought. One is Shaneyfelt. However, with the prevalent anarchy-confusion, it is possible they have it and someone has it away from where they keep these things, if there is such a place.

I do not quarrel with the office. Where I can help them, where I feel they are on the right path, I do-and always have.

Your paragraph on the anxiety is lucid and helpful. However, if those are factors, they are on the subconscious level. I think there is no single cause. I now think the condition had existed for a while, that it became dramatic and was ultimately recognized I attribute to the hyperventilation. My anxieties increased immediately because of a combination of factors. I suppose that even though I knew I was aging rather rapidly, and had felt it for a while, this brought it into sharp focus and I think here your analysis is correct, it worried me because it meant I'd have to slow down. A contributing factor is the inadequacy termed medicine which began with and then confirmed a grossly wrong diagnosis and then, with an apparently correct one, told me nothing, did not put me in a position first to understand the condition, then to cope with it. I feel that since the backing out this is much worse, and I presume it is not unusual in this regard. One has to be a vegetable not to be concerned about something like this that remains without explanation and without a probable cause actively and diligently sought. The more time passes and the more, in bits and pieces of time I consider it, I am coming to an understanding of what I think is probably the root thing. It is not possible for me to go into it in correspondence, for several reasons.

On the homosexual part of COUP, 113, there is nothing I can now do about it. It is just beyond my capacity. I have drafted that note but have put off getting it to type the relatively few notes because she is busy and because they have to be changed, perhaps added to. I agree on Ferrie. From every account from those who knew him, and I have spoken to several, this is clear. However, lacking the technical knowledge and with the requirement that the substitute fit the exact space, I just cannot address this. What replaces it must fit exactly. If you can find the time...

This business serves to illustrate the problems of a writer trying to be complete and willing to consult and accept "authority".

You sent me a carbon. I return it herewith.

One of the problems of poverty is the extra problem of communication, esp. rapid communication. However, on the SS matter, please, as soon as you can, send me a list of what we have sought and cannot get, for there is the possibility that there will be a second meeting. I intend to treat these people as though they are, seriously and honestly, in learning what happened and to this end telling them what they were cut off from. It may be a mistake, but I feel I owe it to them. If they are genuine, or if they want to spy, this alone should lead to further meetings and the chance to ask more questions, seek more of what has been withheld. These people are uniquely in a different role than anyone else: it is they who had the obligation to prevent what happened, hence they may have personal concerns I'd not expect to find in FBI hacks. I am convinced and have been, from the first, that Kellerman was genuinely distraught. I intend to ask for an interview with him and Greer (they may both be retired) in Kelley's presence, suggesting that Kelley be present so that, if there is such an interview, the restraints that may be proper, the protection of the men, will be present. My interest here is chiefly medical and what explanations they may offer of the gross error of the FBI reports. Because he represents me in this matter, I told Bud about this. I am telling you and Paul only and, for the moment at least, I think there should be no idle talk about it.

As I wrote Paul earlier, this is one of my stronger objections to what John is up to, that is, he jeopardizes such possibilities. What I have already obtained in this fashion alone greatly exceeds in value all that he has done and, I am sorry to say, in my opinion, all that he might do. I have had no response from him and it is now about two weeks. If there is nothing in tomorrow's mail, over the weekend I'll write LOOK and send him a carbon. Aside from what controls my thinking, self-preservation and self- and work-interest, I really owe this to them also. They can, quite innocently, walk into a syit that can be costly to them. I'll sure as hell file it, if I have to be my own lawyer. I think possibly you more than others can understand how unmanly my self-discipline in this area has made me feel, accepting all of this kind of abuse for the "greater good". There has to be an end to it, for me and for us.

Returning, briefly, to Lifton and the transcripts, I think it is important for entirely non-personal reasons that we learn how he got those transcripts when we couldn't simply because we have continuing concern over N.O. and what can happen there. If he got it directly, there remains the possibility of a dubious influence within the office, or a trusted contact of the office. He is little in my mind and he does not worry me. Only the harm he can do does. And can feel driven to. I have seen more of it, as it relates to me alone, than even you. His hatred for Jim is a sickness in itself. He has an established record of manufacturing. So, there is a continuing hazard. We cannot survive with an entirely scholarly approach, and there are few who will entertain any other. This leaves me to try and cope with it. However, I will not raise the question there...Matt: no word, not one. I think it possible this can be Jim's doing. I have done some rethinking and have reached a few different beliefs and conclusions, attribute some things to other than I had originally.

Try and arrange your affairs so that you can be here for a while when school is over, for a number of reasons. I hope by then to have done more writing it would be better if you could read before retyping.

Sincerely,

February 22, 1970

Dear Harold, (cc Paul)

Paul, I forgot to answer a few items in my last letter to you, which you mentioned in your letter to me of Feb. 15. While I have had Marks books on my bibliography for some time I haven't read them. He sounds like trouble. The real trouble, of course, is that the Free Press will print any old garbage. If the name file on Puterbaugh is not with the things I sent, then I will send it, because I have it. The O'Leary-New Zealand thing may have been something that Mary was discussing with Jim Schmidt, and I may have directed the thing to you by mistake. The Z film was shown on a TV station in SF--Fred Newcomb sent the clippings. They said it was supplied by an ex-FBI man who lives in Sausalito. They had a police expert on with it who, according to Fred, challenged the head movement (front hit) hypothesis. Thanks for the pages on Crawford. On Marks, perhaps the best thing would be for Paul to contact the Free Press and give them the word. Yes, it would be best to use my home address.

Harold, what testimony do we have and what is coming. From the carbons you sent of the letters to Moo, it sounds as though much of the testimony is finally available. I want to know this so I know where we stand. Then I can see what Vince or Matt can do to get us the rest.

Lifton definitely has a copy of Zapruder's testimony--Fred mentioned it in a letter. His interest in it probably has little to do with what is in it. He was intensely interested in Shaneyfelt, Frazier, and Zapruder. Don't forget, they are working on frames missing from the Z film, and also, I suspect, on the theory Dave tried to seal me on that the shot from the front came from ## higher up than the knoll and caused movement which suggested a double head hit.

Can't wait to see all the testimony from New Orleans. One really wonders, after all the media misreporting, and with selective reporting in the New Orleans papers, what really happened during that trial. Up here in particular we were out of it until the N.O. papers ##### arrived a few days late. Before jumping into a bit copying job, however, I would be most interested in how much money would be involved.

Lifton got his Zapruder testimony from Garrison's office according to Fred's letter, not from John, Paul, etc. I do not doubt Fred on this in the least since his manner of communicating it, in a casual comment, was not out of the ordinary, and that is usually how I have learned of various things Dave has done since he doesn't write me. He probably is selling it at a profit, as he has done with everything he has sold me or others I know, either by over-pricing or by having the xeroxing done for free in an office and then selling it at about the right price. They are making quite a profit on those Z film copies--I won't bother you with the exact figures. Nonetheless, I am always glad to get the things he sells, although I think it is unfortunate that he is not generous in the manner of yourself or Paul. One wonders whether his book, or any book for that matter, could be adjudged to have been worth (if it ever appears) all the money he has spent on it, all the time, and all of the trouble. I just wish he would get it out since he has no intention of showing us what he has.

On Dave's getting this testimony from Garrison's office, I am telling you only to clarify the situation. I debated telling you at first, to be very frank, because it would be just one more thing for you to get angry at, and as you know, I feel strongly that such things cost us a great deal in the long run by wasting your time. I hope that you will not pursue this matter with the office or otherwise--for whatever reason they did it. Your time is far too valuable to all of us, and perhaps, I daresay, to the hopes we have of effecting a public display of the truth and whatever changes in the society such a revelation brings. When 2 1/2 years ago I nearly got killed in that Park many people said that I was too valuable a person to have risked my hide. I disagreed based on that issue. But in this case I think that the same suggestion applies to you and in this case, is relevant and valid: You are too valuable and your time is too valuable to waste in any quarrels with the office, Lifton, or assorted time-wasters.

Your analysis of your ability to handle tangible problems without sweat or worry is likely pretty accurate. When I first wrote you about anxiety I mentioned what is called "free floating anxiety" which is tension and nervousness whose source is unknown. This I believe you suffer from. I do feel, however Harold, that the example of the tax problem does not answer completely my suggestion that you over-react to a number of real problems. Let me make a distinction here. The tax problem presents no threat to your self-esteem. Furthermore, and perhaps more important, there was a solution to it; Many of the things which have concerned you in the past year have been things which have not had clear solutions. In addition, the solution (hopefully) is well within your grasp. In the case of your work on the assassinations (you are one of the few people where the s on the end would be appropriate) it is easy to see the solution far beyond your powers if you are not willing to simply work towards that goal at whatever pace you can. In other words, any physical problems you have slow you down a bit at times. Age factors, despite your amazing ability to outrun the likes of Hal and myself, slow you down. The fact that you are able to accomplish so much ~~and~~ makes it even worse, because when you slow down to the work level of a common mortal you are barely moving compared to what you do when you are on top of things. Any slight slowing is more noticeable. Much of your self-concept (and, at times you may wrongly perceive, others' esteem for you) derives from your ability to do such hard and thorough work. The solution, in part, is what I have suggested before. Accept a few limitations and accept whatever work level you can manage. If you begin to have any dizzy spells or get too anxious it is probably largely due to allowing yourself to worry too much about the many problems connected with work on the case. The net affect of pushing yourself too hard emotionally, and of letting the work of troublemakers unduly upset you, is to help create the anxiety which in turn leads to anxiety and its attendant symptoms--and their cost. More than slowing down, I am urging you not to let yourself speed up.

Your idea for that additon to page 113 of Coup on homosexuality is OK, but rereading page 113 makes me feel more strongly that the homosexuality thing should be kept out. I think that it confuses the issue. As I wrote you before, I think, the aggressively dangerous homosexual is probably aggressively dangerous for reasons other than his homosexuality. For example, some homosexuals are schizophrenics (probably a very sizeable proportion), especially paranoid schizophrenics, the subtype most prone to violence, especially incredibly violent and way out types of violence. Others are psychopaths and feel no anxiety or guilt and are violent when it suits their needs. From a distance, and don't quote me on this, I would be very surprised if David Ferrie were not a paranoid schizophrenic, and in fact, would be willing to be on it. Violence and small little plotting groups would most likely attract people like paranoid schizophrenics and various other types of schizophrenics. Then there would be various character disorders including psychopaths. Some of the latter would be involved primarily for the money or power involved. One would expect to find a higher incidence of homosexuality (for statistical reasons) among such groups. Obviously, so called "latent homosexuality" or fears of homosexuality can both elicit a great deal of violence; for example, the case of the football team that goes out beating up homosexuals, or the homosexual athlete who is beaten very badly in a locker room. Basically, although it is interesting in this case, it will confuse the average person, many will misread it no matter how well you write it, homosexuals will feel persecuted, and professionals will challenge it. I think more and more as I re-read it (something I did a number of times, as you must have realized, before I wrote you the first two times on this subject) that it could only detract from your book. There is, however, one possible way of using it and avoiding the pitfalls (at least I feel they are pitfalls) that I list above: By phrasing the entire thrust of that page in the opposite direction. Content might be something like the following (I am not suggesting this precise phrasing): Cut ~~the words "homosexuals" out of~~ the sentence which reads "These are boys and homosexuals," and start the paragraph: "It is a great misfortune that those of younger age groups are often attracted to armaments and guerilla warfare training of the non-nursery school variety."

Then, after that paragraph: "Another subgroup ~~#####~~ which seems to be over-represented among those who play a role in the assassination story as it unfolds are homosexuals. This is a great misfortune given the stigma already attached to homosexuality in our society, and for that reason I will digress a moment to examine it. Naturally, many might readily assume that the drawing such training operations have for young boys might attract homosexuals interested in increasing their contact with young males. But, many might also question whether the docile homosexual of our cultural myth would want any part of aggressive action. In terms of the well adjusted male who has, for one reason or another, accepted a homosexual role and identity (termed the "true homosexual invert" in psychiatric jargon), this may well be the case. But there are instances in which homosexuality is just a symptom of maladjustment or psychiatric disorder. For instance, homosexuality is not infrequently found among schizophrenics, particularly of the paranoid type. Noteworthy would be the tendency of the latter to easily identify with the thinking and plotting of certain of our fascist groups, and further noteworthy is the anger & resentment often seen in such individuals and the fact that their rage not infrequently leads to violent acts. Furthermore, there are subgroups among homosexuals who feel the need to continually assert their manhood through violent acts. Some feel that the latter is not unlike the heterosexual male who is sufficiently concerned about fears of homosexuality that he beats up a homosexual in a bar or locker room.

Basically, Harold, I am very much against canning those first two of the last 4 small paragraphs at the bottom of the page. The homo-erotic business is a lot of nonsense and something, while those with whom you spoke with probably believe it, ~~####~~ adds which

nothing to the book and can detract quite a bit. There has been too much theorizing in this area, whether by psychiatrists or homosexuals doesn't matter, and as soon as I get time, I plan a major rebuttal to what has been done. Furthermore, it is important not to ever ask a question like "Whether or not one regards homosexuals as sick..." for the very reason that you point out in trying to explain some of the facets of "homosexuality." Homosexuality itself is not one syndrome. It implies only sexual orgasm with a member of the same sex. It can be a schizophrenic symptom, a neurotic symptom, a life style (true inversion) and symptomatic of nothing but an identity pattern, a behavior during adolescent ego diffusion or identity confusion resulting from acting on a momentary impulse or fear of heterosexuality (I am treating two right now like this), etc. It is never a sickness--never. It can be a symptom of a sickness, but is not sickness itself. Furthermore, the point which I think you should make here is not that the sicker members of the society are attracted to Brown et. al., but that (as you are really emphasizing with the Tarrants example) even so called normal people can find outlets for their ~~##~~ sicker sides if influenced by guys like Brown. Then, that: Naturally, besides people whose views of the world or whose behavioral patterns have been corrupted by guys like Brown, undoubtedly many who join and are zealous members (and perhaps leaders of these groups) are people with genuine psychiatric disorders. If the latter were to act out their impulses against strangers on the street or their neighbors they would end up in jail or a mental institution, but within the subculture of the right wing underground they can act out their anti-social feelings and impulses with rarely any confinement or sanction resulting.

I am sorry that I have taken until now to reread again ~~##~~ this page and to make my comments at this late date in a more pointed fashion. At the time I first read this my orientation was more towards helping you learn about the subject, and I suppose that I paid less attention to the text in the context of the subject matter of your book--namely, the assassinations. For what they are worth, these are more final ideas on this hairy subject. (By the way, I have become more and more concerned with this problem, not only because I am treating a few homosexuals as patients now, but because I was a consultant for a TV series on the subject which begins next week locally.)

Well, I've got to go now. Best of luck with the tax business.

cc: Dick, Paul

*Gary*