

2/11/70

Dear Gary,

Thanks for taking time on the anxiety. I phoned the medical director of GHA today, spoke to his secretary because he was busy. She said she had gotten our files for him to go over but that he had been too busy. I told her this was precisely the problem, that they were always too busy to give proper and necessary medical services. She said he will call me. We'll see.

I had not thought of anything like amnesia, but I suppose that would ~~mean~~ account for instant unawareness. But would it cause the fall or falls?

Okay on John and Dave. Agreed (except that we can do little about John). I had presumed such things increase anxiety, as I believe we discussed re Dave. I suppose I cannot really evaluate whether the thoughts I had are irrational, but I am not aware of anything close to it. I said what I think to you and Dick-and to him. I think I said all of it.

My chief criticism of Vince is not that he quit but that he has interfered and has hurt work very much, by being and exerting a bad influence on Jim, esp. re panel.

I cannot dispute your analysis, but I have no reason not to think that with respect to John these are my chief reactions: anger and bitterness that he is a crook and because his crookedness will hurt the effectiveness of my writing; and because what he is about to do can jeopardize the success of this continuing effort to get things pried loose. But why talk of an article two or three years from now? He has had this lined up for a long time and apparently plans something now. This is what he wrote me.

Whether or not the SBY falls apart is immaterial. I think I did that in February 1965. The rest of this sounds like pollyanna talk, not real. Reread it. I do not think there has been any reduction in my efficiency of work save from fatigue, which seems to increase slowly. Until I get to writing again I'll not really know. I am not brooding over this, believe me.

If there were any but normal findings, I've not been told or them (EEG). No mention of anything borderline. I think I was told normal. I've had about four over the years. I was never asked to hyperventilate prior to tests and was never tested during either of the attacks. I doubt if I had hyperventilated the morning I blacked out. I hadn't been up long and felt okay. The two concerns you mention I had concluded had to have an adverse effect and had raised these points at GHA, in just this way. It is simple common sense, not science. I have obtained a local doctor, and if what I am supposed to get as part of the service is unavailable, I'll take this up with him. I mentioned it briefly to him when I asked him if he'd be our local doctor, and the one thing he said is that he prefers valium or librium for his patients who use their minds at work, like lawyers. So, I suppose he is also familiar.

These things you say are helpful, help me try and reason it out for myself. I believe that were some good things to happen, there be some relief. I ordinarily do spend part of each day outside, but the weather, since Xmas, has precluded. Now the ground is too wet, and we are having another spell of wet weather. But, generally, I do as much of it as I can. I was anyone, because I think the exercise necessary for other reasons.

I sent Pena CD1203 and 1203a summary, but forgot to make you a carbon. I merely pointed things out to him, asked him not to blow, etc., and a couple of related questions. Thanks for the trouble,

2/11/70

Dear Gary (ccPaul),

Ulet 8th, with copies of one to Paul and Dawnay's peice arrived today. Thanks for it. I wish the bum would use some of his income to repay me for books he got in early 1967 and has yet to pay for-several hundred of them, plus frsh freight!

Spent the day in DC, getting an early start (good reception at Conyer's office, but nothing else I can now say about it, and got to xerox COUP ch-18 and appendix, which I'll be sending to Paul as soon as I collate) so I'll reply only in part now, responding to the rest later.

I disagree with your advice that Paul write Jim, as I have written him. It can accomplish nothing and it can have undesirable effects. From your own knowledge of the probably illness, I would think you could anticipate this. There is only so much we can do, and while when we have strong feelings, we sometimes indulge them, generally, is it not better to spend the time on what can yield positive results? There is no indication they are doing or plan to do anything new. Everything is opposite this. And if blame is to be placed, as you correctly do, let us not forget the fairly great share of responsibility for the present that is Vince's, and deeply as I feel what he has done, I have not mentioned this to him. I tell you both, had you been there, as I was, you'd not have believed what you would have seen and heard. He, today, is the only exponent of that theory in touch with or in the confidence of Jim. Tragic it is, so why not drop it? Of course, Mort has felt that way and may still be saying such things, but it is Vince in whom Jim has great confidence and whose judgement he trusts.

I am in substantial agreement with your appraisal of Boxley and am willing to believe part of what he did was feedback. But he did it, did not oppose it, faked the "proofs", so it is kind enough to leave him alone as another sick one. As you know, I tried to get the resease withdrawn because of the charge it made against him, of which there is no proof and which was contrary to my own belief.

I have counselled Jerry to avoid any airing of the film without an expert t a) interpret and b) counter the kind of misinterpretation that was aired in LA. He agrees.

I agree with your intent to stay out of the Nichols mess. There is no reason for you not to, not reason for you to be involved. I sent you what I did for your information, as I do the enclosed, which goes only to Dick besides the two of you and agains is for your information.

Aside from books, there have been some cogent stories on the Forrestal death (I presume COUP triggered this interest). His diary is unavailable and has been for years. He spilled the bean. I do not have a copy and have not been able to get one, much as I'd like one. I think it unlikely there is any comparison or relationship with McCarthy's. We had mutual friends, and he could well have drunk himself to death. It was that bad.

I am in no hurry on the Crawford material and there are others things to do at the Archives, when I can be there, that appear to be of higher priority. If you feel otherwise, please let me know. Of course, until I see the rest of the material, I cannot be certain of this feeling. But if it is only a single file, that will take no great time, after I have seen what there is and have a list of it.

I had never believed Griffin was threatening Dean. But he is a friend of Liebeler's and has less to worry about than others. What would you expect contact with him (at this time) to yield? I have written Russell (not in oraise), have a response that says what I knew: for now he'll leave it there. It is best to leave him alone for now. I have made him offers others cannot, and I have established that

I deliver what I promise. It is unlikely that he will spend any time on this now or say anything further. He has made the new record he wants and he'll leave it that way for at least a while. If he is, as he would see it, bothered now, the chances of eliciting his interest when there is better reason to will be less.

On your letter: Newcomb and Lifton may have many things I do not. I am getting these free, and they are the only probable means I have of getting slides. I plan certain uses for them, so I need them. Better ones should be available, but they are not to me. As you know, when I phoned Ray a year ago this summer, I had made arrangements for this if he let us have the film. He first said he'd think it over and he then fell silent. However, if anyone wants to use the negatives that will be made from mine, they will be welcome.

Do not bother about CD1140. I've gotten it and replaced in appendix, and I'm getting the bad page of 159. On the books, try, instead, to make a copy of the fronts only, please. The backs are clear enough and this will let the fronts get flat and perhaps be clearer.

I do not know what you mean by tapes too large for 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ . This was reference to speed (my large machine has three speeds). What kind of machine do you have if it uses a reel larger than 7" in diameter, which this takes?

On COUP: If you can notes, as I intended to ask, where I use "Negro" where today "black" is apparently preferred, I'd appreciate it. Both words are the same length and the change is the simplest.

Nothing new from Paul R. I sent him docs and have yet to get acknowledgment. He is planning to move to LA, from his last letter, and says lets keep in touch. Mary has sent you copies of the stories on the bugging. I suspect what she does not, as you probably realize from my letter.

The order of the appendix in what I xeroxed today may not be fixed. The notes are not included. They will not be extensive. They are done but I may add, so I didn't include. I presume Paul will send you copies. I'll probably number app arbitrarily for now.

Garry is due in DC again the 19th. I saw an add for a speech he is to make 2/19, during the Lawyers Guild meeting.

More later,

Dear Paul: Hoch

Feb. 8, 1970

On the slides of the Z film, Fred Newcomb and Dave Lifton have already had this done from the superior copy of the film they have. If you are in touch with either one in the near future (I will be writing to Fred anyway) please bring this up and ask about availability of copies. They were promised me but I haven't heard a thing since.

Your letter of Jan. 27, 1970 to Harold: agreed on Garrison but the problem is still the same-- he came along, we didn't ask for him, and Saul and Lane continue to give him encouragement, and in Sahl's case, chime in. Being generally out of it out here, and getting most of what I knew on Jim from Vince Salandria, it took a long while before I was aware of most of the bad public stuff. Now, nothing surprises me. I encourage you to write such a letter, particularly to try to curb Sahl. I would bet my bottom dollar that whoever did this or helped in it or who has a stake in it is sending anonymous contributions to Jim to keep him going. Boxley is still a mystery as far as I am concerned, especially since Mary has convinced me (along with some extended talks with Bill, with and without Mary present), that much of what he did he did to stay in well with Garrison, and the really wild stuff came from Jim. This would kind of place Boxley in a similar role to Mark and Mort who have done more damage than 10 agents. In Boxley's case, though, there are some psychiatric difficulties, or at least emotional ones, which seemed to have influenced his ability to go along with the rot Jim sent him out to do. Mary says that she wishes he were an agent, because if that were the case he would not be so screwed up emotionally. It's amazing how little of Garrison's ravings reached this area of the country as compared with either coast, and the West Coast in particular. The problem is that I have never really had the time to research Garrison and I generally have felt that any such investigation should be helped, with caution of course, just in case it can lead some where. Mary feels the same way and helped fight down to the end of things even though her extensive contacts with the office, and friendships with Boxley and Bethell, who lived in her home for a while, had long before convinced her that Garrison was very bad business.

Could you send # CD86: 494-98. You mentioned those as pertaining to Craford. Also, what do you have on the following: Cliff Carter, Detectives PM Turner and B. L. Senkel, Jack Puterbaugh, Gen. McHugh. Coming under separate cover to you are the name files on PM Turner, General McHugh, Detective Senkel, and Cliff Carter. Please copy them, make them available to Harold, and return them to me when you are done with them.

I would greatly appreciate material on that O'Leary thing, New Zealand, etc. One of my roommates is an Australian and I am in a position to get some things in that part of the world checked out. Also, I can get things in Yugoslavia checked out by one of their top editors and journalists who is also a friend. One more request: Do you know any of the details as to which TV station showed the Z film in the Bay area, etc. Jerry Pollicof is trying to get a New York station to do the same and they are definitely interested, but everyone wants more feedback on the West Coast showing. I am writing to Fred Newcomb on this also.

On the draft, thanks for your concern. I was 25 in Dec. In order to get a medical deferral I will have to take a physical, and I have been informed that I could pass it, even though I have no sight in one eye, because the other one can be corrected to 20-20, so I have been laying low. I was 1-A once before with no explanation ever having been given and passed it off as a mistake. This time I think it is a misunderstanding, but I get a bit worried everytime I have anything to do with them.

Sorry about not having enclosed the check. One is enclosed here which should cover things. That was a slip up on my part.

You should not know about the Nichols thing. I dislike such problems also, although I allowed myself to become embroiled in that business with Fred and Dave by stupidly taking Dave serious and dropping down to that level, something I probably shouldn't have done even given the fact that he was bringing so many other critics into it and spreading so many biased or dishonest stories about Harold, and finally me. I intend to stay out of the Nichols thing entirely although I am a bit apprehensive about what Nichols will write for LOOK, etc. now, since his present behavior suggests that he may well be on an ego trip.

Do you know of anyone who has researched the deaths of Forrestall or Joe McCarthy? Both interest me (I want to put one of my researchers on it who wouldn't be useful for much else since he knows little of the assassination factually) because they happened in Bethesda and because my experience with doctors, medicine, and hospitals gives great cause to distrust them. If you were to have worked inside hospitals as I have, you would be loath to enter one, even if quite sick. Sometimes, in fact not too infrequently, some sort of atrocity occurs nearby, and the psychologists and social workers, who are usually the only non-medical witnesses, spend many a lunch hour discussing it just to relieve the anxiety. The Forrestall thing is the most interesting and relevant because of direct military connections, although McCarthy died just about the time he was really doing a job on the Army.

Do you have a copy of the letter from Wes Barthelme to TMO. I can't find it in the TMO issues I have. I am missing a number of the important ones and have yet to find a way of getting them.

Two items from your letter of Feb. 3 to Harold: It will be some time before we do any more memos on Crafard, so if Harold wants to divert himself to look at that file, there is no use in waiting--things like Ahler and other memos related to my Dallas trip are more important. It might be worthwhile to put Mary on the social status of Mrs. Davisson, but I don't know how much you people have told Mary about this. Mary is very socially conscious and has many and wide-ranging contacts, so she might be able to help.

The Crafard file, by the way, might be interesting to Harold and the rest of us far beyond ~~the~~ the things relating to Crafard, Ahler, etc. It paints a much different picture of Griffin than I have ever had for one thing. It suggests the possibility that his "threat" to Sgt. Patrick Dean may have been overzealousness ~~than~~ rather than whitewashing. It may also imply that he would be someone worth writing to or approaching. By the way, on the same general subject, has anyone written to Russell to reward him for his public statement. He is old, has lung cancer, and will be dead within a year or so. He would seem ripe for setting the record straight, and perhaps for supplying a copy of the Hoaxes file which they all have.

Enclosed is a copy of the Penthouse article in case you don't have it. I have sent copies to Harold and Mary also.

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

*Gary*

PS: What do you hear from Don Olson. I will write him in a week or so, but haven't heard from him in a long time. I gather that graduate studies have taken their toll of his time. I can never believe how much you manage to do.

Feb. 8, 1970

Dear Harold,

On the making of slides from the Z film, I advise against it now that I have had a chance to think about it. As I mention in my enclosed letter to Paul, Newcomb-Lifton have already done it with a better copy of the film, and possibly better equipment. As it stands now, that film copy we have is just too poor. You can get some of the frames in better shape from LIFE mag. copies, and it wouldn't be good enough to study anyway. That type of work can only be done at the archives. So, basically, I think that it is a waste of money.

The Nichols thing is regrettable. Cowles, even agreeing to buy his stuff, surprises me. I suspect that it was the same top boys who stopped my journalistic career in early 1967 when, after cordial relations, the Mpls. Star-Tribune called to say that they never wanted to hear from me again. The same thing happened at WCCO radio and TV, both owned by Cowles as is the newspaper. They control about 95% of the news media in the Twin Cities.

From an old letter on that J. of Academy of Forensic Sciences thing I sent you: I will try to find it (I am desperately trying to get my files in order.) and send it. But, it did not have anything about LHO writing the SWP and CP the same day, but rather a commentary on the craziness of ~~the~~ a real leftist having the Worker in one hand and the Militant in the other. Suggest that you check your Thornley file, since the key point that I wanted you to see when I sent it was info which backed your ideas on KT as having framed LHO.

Separate Ferry suit is an excellent idea. In fact Harold, I feel that large cumbersome suits like Johns are a mistake. It would be virtually impossible to win except after many years because of all the points that could be argued. Ferry, and a few cases like him, represent one specific type of suppression. Attack it directly and keep the issues simple.

I will, in the future, try to keep correspondence up even when work gets heavy, if for no other reason than to allay your considerate concerns for me. Part of the trouble is a hangup I have, or I should say, had, about getting a whole job accomplished. So, my tendency is to not do any typing until I can answer the questions and do a full job of it, and make carbons, etc. In the past this has worked OK, but I now have trouble getting to the office and the stationary, etc., so I will have to do occasional letters in longhand without carbons for Paul, Dick, etc.

I am apprehensive about the Ray thing. They really have him in their clutches. Enclosed is a Penhouse article by Darnay on the subject.

It sounds like Howard is doing a much needed job. I wish I had someone to organize my files since they are becoming hopeless in some categories. I just don't have time for filing if I am to keep up with things.

Your letters to Mary are good ones. Best to keep Paul and everyone out of the Nichols thing until legal or other action ensues, and then have myself and Dick ready to back you up.

Will get 1140 and Penabaz books as soon as I can, and figure out about mailing them.

My tapes are too large for 7 1/2, but I may be able to get them dubbed on a series of cassettes or smaller reels.

The appearances I have been making have been few (as compared with previous years) and have been before small groups of influential people, including those with connections in the military, press, etc. In fact, my last hostess was working for NAT. Secur. Agency at the time. One of those every two weeks is, in my opinion, worthwhile. I am trying to build bridges. Other appearances I now refuse.

On the anxiety discussion, first let me assure you that I am in complete agreement with you about John, and the whole pattern of it is now clearer to me since I have been able to read your letters on the subject more carefully. But, in terms of anxiety, whether or not you are anxious to begin with was not why I brought John in, but rather in terms of the increase in anxiety. What I was trying to stress is that we have good reason to believe

that one of the reasons for many types of anxiety is people telling themselves, consciously or unconsciously, irrational thoughts. Whether or not John is a crook is one thing, but your reaction to it is another. You misread me on the govt., etc. What I was alluding to there deals with principally things you have expressed about Vince and others who have dropped out in terms of their dropping out and failure to do things, rather than things they have done. I am not viewing John as one of those who has dropped out, but as someone who is doing a Lifton. In both the cases of John and Dave, however, we have limited ability to affect what happens. Those situations are rotten and unfortunate. But, so are countless

other things in the world which we are not able to affect. All we can do is our best. But, if we set our goals too high or tell ourselves that it is awful and catastrophic that people are screwed up the way John is then all we do is create anxiety in ourselves, which ironically, interferes with our work and further hurts our chances of accomplishing what we can. I bring this up mainly because you do tend to engage in some of these modes of thought, especially with regard to Vince and others who have quit. In a rational sense, these people owe nothing to us or the investigation, and there is no reason to attack them for not coming across--this is just a misdirection of the frustration we feel about all those who should help or care and who don't. By the same token, that John is an SOB and more likely emotionally disturbed is an unfortunate but unalterable fact. We can be angry and upset that he is in our midst, but we can't change him and can only change some of what he has done or will do. To be angry at him, try to stop him, etc. is one thing. But I suspect that at an unconscious level you are telling yourself things about the situation which are unrealistic and which are making you anxious. In case you haven't noticed, I am finding it difficult to communicate what I mean here. Basically, while John's behavior has led, among other things to a situation in which you could get anxious, it is the things which you are telling yourself about it which to some extent are making you anxious. There is a certain amount of anxiety in any stress situation, and this situation has some realistic stresses. One thing I feel strongly about, however, is that John's misuse of the evidence in LOOK articles 2 #or 3 years from now is not a great threat. First of all, you will likely be in print before him. Secondly, minor details of the autopsy, etc. have little affect on the public. The SBT falls apart on its own without any need of help proving that 399 is missing no metal. Even if it was missing metal, that metal could have fallen out many places. As for official lies, we have thousands of examples. In terms of blowing this thing open, getting a public investigation going, or solving it, the things he could do to hurt are, in my mind, infinitesimally small compared to the harm to the investigation which would come from anxiety slowing you alone down. In other words, your efficiency and its consequent affects on your work can gain us more than he can cost us. In any event, there is no use doing more than getting a strategy set on how to handle him. God only knows you have faced this type of problem before. I apologize for not being able to get my point across here, because I do feel that it is of relevance, but do not mistake my discussion of what is basically Albert Ellis's rational-emotive therapy with disagreement with you on Nichols.

On the EEG, from what you say, I gather that there are no abnormalities? Were there any of what are termed "Borderline" findings? Do you have any records which would give more particulars on the tests so that I can check on whether they had you hyperventilate? Some people have normal EEG's except under conditions of hyperventillation, and those are precisely the conditions under which they have seizures of the petit mal type.

On the subject of amnesia, it can be that selective, and actually split seconds. It can involve loss of memory from the moment of loss of consciousness, or retrograde loss back to some time before. Some people, for instance, never remember what happened just before the seizure.

Near the end of your last letter you mentioned two things which are common sources of anxiety. One is your concern about your physical condition (the actual symptoms) and the other is the concern from not knowing and not having gotten what you consider the best medical advice. I don't trust doctors at all, especially after having worked with them. The best solution to both reasons for concern would be to find out about a trustworthy and thorough doctor. Check with all your friends. Also, check into the possibility of going to a municipal hospital of some sort. There must be someplace where people who live in Frederick and don't have much money can go. For instance, in Mdps. there is Hennempen Country General Hospital. Billing is according to your income, and that's why

I was not billed after my eye injury for all of that hospitalization. Once I proved that I couldn't pay, the City paid. (Forget about the mixups and trouble that you know followed--that was a mistake.) You have no income and are eligible for such care. Sometimes such places give better medical care and evaluation than anyplace but a good private clinic. Ours here does much more thorough evaluations in some areas. Often the staff are good and very dedicated, since they have to be to render the service they must. That too is true here. Check this possibility out. Every area has other than private hospitals, since those who can't afford medical care in a private hospital must have some place to go. With the blacking out, of course, it may turn out that there is no physical cause, and that it is due to anxiety, etc., in which case you should be on the appropriate anxiety medication and start cutting down on your assassination work (by limiting the areas you are concentrating on) and start doing garden work, etc.

Paul has copied the Bradford file. See my comments on it in my letter to him. I will do my best on Coup comments, but thus far I have not spotted any mistakes which the rest of you didn't. Most of my comments will probably be suggestions or questions about content.

Well, I'd better close now. I'll write again in a few days. Take it easy and try to forget about the trouble people like John have caused, and concentrate on the most direct and appropriate solutions. Please give my regards to Lil.

PS: I will see what I can do about finding out about good doctors in your area. That won't solve the financial problem, but if we can find a soln. to the financial problem at least we will be set to get you good medical advice. I ~~#####~~ strongly suspect that your doctor has decided that your blackouts are just a result of anxiety, etc., and has decided not to get involved. Many doctors behave in this fashion, as strange as it may seem. As soon as they find emotional factors, or anxiety, or a complicated picture, they withdrawn from the scene.

*P.S. Note things I'm sending to Paul in my letter to him*

*P.S.S. Any news on Rothermel?*