

2/4/70

Dear Gary,

This is to you only and is to go no further.

As the night wore on and I cleaned up the large mail and after taking the third nap, I began to feel like myself but not like starting anything new, so I picked up the Mout chapter and the autopsy and began to read it but could not concentrate. My mind kept wandering. I do not know how it fixed on John and the Burkley autopsy file, but it did, and I began thinking. I duplicate it for you, for whatever it might be worth. Knowing how strange John is, logical thinking may be invalid.

First, is it not strange that with the books to use as evidence, or with clear, certifiable xeroxes readily obtained from the government, he suddenly needs a picture of the Times certification that he burned the papers? It is in his testimony. And how late a point in his suit this is for such matters to be on his mind or a need of any kind.

I sent you his letter. He asked if I had a clear copy, or something like that. Why me? Why a picture? What need, at this late date? None of these things seems to make sense.

Now, with what does this interest in a picture that serves no purpose, fills no need, coincide? This is what is so disturbing.

There are only a few people I told where this file was misfiled. And, remember, I also wrote John and told him I was getting him a copy. Rather, I ordered it from the Archives for him and sent him a copy of the letter. What does he do, knowing I have ordered him a xerox? He orders a picture, later.

As best I recall, You, Dick, maybe Howard, and then Paul, after he assured me it would go no further. I believe I told Paul the whole story, including the clever misfiling in the one place it should never be sought and the one where it was most inappropriate. This rather closely coincides with my writing Paul. You have the letters and can see for yourself. Now, the only thing new to me here is where these were filed and that they were the originals. I've had copies for a long, long time. In all that time, John had no interest. When I took Bud and showed him, he had no interest. When Dick saw them here a year ago, he had no interest. When Howard saw them here, also no interest.

Although it does look like Paul has done this, not for the first time, I do not think it need be the case, but that the source is connected with that seems to be likely. There are other possibilities, one of which is interception. And here I note John recently wrote me he had an "exchange" arrangement, apparently with Hosty, who is stationed where he is.... There is so much a reasonable man can lay to no more than coincidence. I think this business stretches that much too far. I cannot write Paul about this, but I'd like very much to know who has access to his files, with or without his being home.... Then only new person in the whole thing is awful to think of. Hal has a new girl friend. And she works at the right place! He wants nothing said about it so she will not be in jeopardy. There is no reason to have this suspicion. But there is so much here that doesn't make sense, one wonders.