

2/4/70

Dear Gary,

Your letter of the 1st, with enclosures, arrived this a.m., with a rather heavy mail, some of which I'll be forwarding to you and Paul. Prior to its arrival, Jerry P. phoned me, so I knew you were okay as of several weeks ago, which eased my mind a bit, and of your car trouble. My own wouldn't start this a.m.

Okay on Betzner letter. Penabaz books: be alert to possibilities of making better copies. The chance may come. No more. CR1140 relates to one of the P files. I checked it last week and ordered the missing pages of it, rather those where we had poor copies. I think there was also a page from perhaps 59 that I need on him. If you sent the memo to Paul or if I sent him a copy, he'll know which. I think there is much to be said for the inclusion of such docs, as part of the whole story and as part of a related commentary on who elected Nixon. I have no present time for the Brenner book. Paul and I disagree. I think it is possible it was really inspired by federal desires from what would seem to be a reasonable and responsible attack on Garrison, much needed for propaganda by USIA, for example, and the sudden Potter interest in this unpromising subject does not relieve my suspicions. I am interested still, but can spend no time on it for other things to be done are more important.

Nothing new on John. He phoned again Saturday, after seeing Bud, and nothing he said related to the realities. As you are aware, for I've sent you all copies, he has not addressed himself to the points I raised. He has not copyrighted Dick's and my joint work on the shells and mine on 399. (Mine was previously copyrighted and today I got the copyright on COUP II back, endorsed and approved.) I think you should understand that aside from deep personal resentment at this abuse of my trust, the thing that most disturbs me is that he may very well blow something I have been working on since the summer of 1966, just when it is successful. Next I am, shall I say bitter? that he would steal and sell what he knows is mine and promised, in writing, not to use until after I got it printed. Here his dishonesty is more grievous, for when Dick and I first got wind of what might be up (and partly because of mistrust of his judgement and interpretations) we offered a collaboration in the projected LOOK article, which inevitably involved our work as his, he declined it. With our circumstances what they are, this is an abuse I cannot accept, especially since I offered this to LOOK before he began "his" work--and they rejected it. I have my letters and theirs. My efforts with LOOK on this go back to 1966 and were repeated after I completed PM and were duplicated with another part of that structure, Cowles Publications, which read and rejected exactly this work. You can assume I will not permit this if I can prevent it and will not accept it in silence if I cannot prevent it. I would find this intolerable, unmanly and an emotional burden that might, today, be too much.

Someday I suppose I should read the LA Warren Report, but I cannot now afford it. Even the Wash Post review says it adds nothing. I cannot add anything to COUP. It is already too large for commercial publication and at the edge of mechanical feasibility for a private printing, for which I still hope.

If you opened the letter that reached you slit open in such a way as to preserve the envelope, please send it back to me. Large tapes: I have a machine that takes to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " reels, three speeds....I might like to hear Walker and Holmes sometimes, but I could not now take time to dub.

2/4/70 preceedong only pp PH.

I stopped to eat and think the rest need not interest him or might be unwelcome.

Bishop: Penn not possible as spurce. Too early. I've known about it since ~~xxxxxxx~~ before I started with Lamarre that forced him to do what he did in Calif that resulted in Fred's getting a copy.

Perhaps you are correct about what you regard as the harshness of my letters to John. I know him better than you. I do not expect harshness to have any influence and I am certain less could not. I was not more indirect because I do not think he is really a crook, only off an ego kick, thus, I maintain a lingering hope that, if he becomes aware of what I sure as hell will do to him, reason will recapture him from vaunting ego. I will continue to send you and Dick copies of all correspondence. I accept your judgement on Paul. That is why I sought it, not trusting my own. But you disclosed more than I did to him. He will not ask questions. You were not in possession of my last letter on this when you wrote. But do not kid yourself. When he has already copyrighted Dick's and my work as his own, what possibility of "misjudging" remains? He might, honestly, have forgotten some of what is in FM and the docs I showed him, but could he by accident copyright our work? On the cesings and on 399. I am satisfied he got off on this when Dick told him of Roffmen's accidental discovery of a fragment coming loose when a picture was taken for Tink. And can it be accidental that he has asked them to duplicate my picture so closely that they think they can get away with pretending it is the one they took for me? You will ultimately see the real significance of this. When you get opened letters I'd best withhold it.

Joyner- different than Joiner, on whom I also have extensive files. Paul got report. the one with the y is a Nazi from Arlington, Va.

Your medical discussion can be helpful. I realize you may be without time for response. Speaking of time, I wish that for the duration of bad weather you'd discontinue the appearances which, at this point, can contribute little at best and may not be worth even the cost of gas.

I am in a weak position if I disagree, but ~~xxxxxxx~~ I think you oversimplify when you say "The things that are happening cannot make you anxious more than words can hurt any of us". In the medical sense this is inapplicable because I begin with anxiety. In the figurative sense, when John alone jeopardizes what I regard as the major breakthrough and amounts to stealing what we so urgently need, closing that possible opening for other work with ours purloined, I think it also unreal. In the sticks-and-stones sense, okay. But is that now relevant? We begin with an anxiety state and many contributing factors, I think more different ones than you can know. So, is not the real question not whether this can cause anxiety but whether it can complicate it? Likewise, when you talk about others dropping out (as, for example, at least temporarily, Mark), that also is not relevant, for it is the opposite of John's dropping out that concerns me. If he would, if he had, I'd have had enough time from it to have written another book (which is another way of looking at it). And it is Pollyans talk to tell me that when John is a crook I should be mad at the press and the government. They are co-existing. They cannot and do not account for what he is up to.... This may be on my subconscious, but you are aware of just about all the conscious time I give it. I spent less than a minute on it yesterday with Bud, for one example. As you say, it would be good if we could be together and go through this. But we can't.

I think that regardless of whether or not this John thing figures strongly in my current situation, we are agreed in concern over the blacking out. That, in turn, is complicated by what I regard as medical inadequacies, current and past. In short, with the anxiety, I lack confidence in the medical (physical) examinations, current and recent past, and I think this preys on my mind. Although I have no basis but rumor, I was aware of the petit mal possibilities through a friend where the same thing existed in her family....Many of the mistakes I make are because I am other than the general impression of me. I am rather disciplined, inclined to accept authority, etc. So, when 10 days ago I had a medical examination, if that is the word, I didn't stop to analyze it until I was driving home. It is then that I realized, without medical knowledge, that it had to be inadequate. After I returned from the N.O. trip on which I passed-out, I had a consultation with a doctor who has since left our health association. He then ordered an EKG (maybe EEG, I don't recall. Electrodes on head, elsewhere.) I have had several over the years, somewhat regularly. The last was at the time referred to above. Do I have to be told that if it was indicated when I fainted, it was no less indicated when there was an abrupt and total loss of consciousness, with no warning?

Let me take the possibilities you list (for which thanks): I do not believe it was fatigue on arising, as I had 10-15 minutes earlier and feeling okay. I also do not believe it was hyperventillation, for the effects of that are felt, and since you told me about exhaling, I do that so consciously I think it is becoming almost automatic. Side effects: I have been taking lower than maximum and prescribed dosages and the blood level then had to be low. If I had taken any, it was not more than 15 minutes earlier, and I am not certain I did. I think I hadn't. I did not slip, for a) I'd have been aware of it, as I was aware of getting into the position where I could have, and even the tarow rug was not in disarray. Is amnesia selective? Does it split seconds?...Neurological problem: last time there was also this test (negative), and I realized this also was indicated.

The duration had to be very brief. At most a couple of minutes, during which time I could have been on the floor only at most a few seconds, although I have only a slight consciousness of two things before coming to on the toilet. I remember walking in that direction and, while doing it, looking at my right hand, where the injury (as elsewhere) was very slight.

The prescription of relaxation is reasonable, doctor. What is lacking is any suggestion as to how one can go about it. This I also know, and I try to accomplish it. Aside from the long time recently in correspondence, I have been working, which is what I want to do. Nor do I regard the things to which you allude as catastrophic, and I regularly seek those who I have tried without success to turn on (yesterday succeeding, by the way, without emotional benefit today, which has been a difficult one since I got up)...I think my main concern now is the blacking out and the concomitants, including medical inadequacies and my financial inability to seek other medical advice. This costs us \$500 annually. I think, at least in part, my failure to get any kind of explanation of the not-imagined things contributes. Like a significant change in my bowels, and the increasing tendency for small feces to harden, accumulate and be extremely difficult to pass (This year on the checkup they skipped the Proctoscopic examination, and I have no reason to believe this was negligent). Roughly coinciding with this blacking out is an increased discomfort on the back of the tongue and throat-mouth, which I'd attributed to my heavy smoking, esp. cigars. I went into the clinic yesterday, having very definitely left a small lump on the back of the tongue Saturday night). It was not there then. But I still have a slightly-uncomfortable feeling on the back of the tongue on swallowing. I realize other things than smoking, like perhaps the excessive dryness of the house, may be involved. Incidentally, I had, then, decided to quit cigars when I finished that box and to taper off of smoking with cigarettes. In three days I smoked less than a single pack, which I regard as pretty good, but today I am smoking more, on the belief that not to do so could contribute to the anxiety. I think part of this

current unease is really because of the medical non-responsiveness. I had written the doctor who is the equivalent of my "family" doctor on return last Monday. He placed a call Saturday, when I was not here. Howard, who is intelligent, said I'd be home soon. When he didn't return the call, I presumed he quit for the day. I phoned him yesterday when I was in the clinic and the nurse told me he had nothing to say and was leaving then (I presume necessary hospital calls). I then went to the office of the medical director, who was out, but except for the couple of minutes I was out getting the mail, I've been in the house all day. It is now going on three and he hasn't phoned. This does disturb me, for I take it as a lack of decent concern and of irresponsibility. As you say, certain minima were ignored. I just cannot afford calling him. Had Mary not sent me \$10.00, I'd not have had enough money for gas and parking lots. I never buy food in DC.

What all of this reminds me of is the one sensible psychiatric consultation I've had, years ago, when the helicopters were driling lil down the wall. The shrink said he was not worried about her reactions. They were normal. Of course, we should get into a position where they could be avoided, like moving away, but how can you live like that and not react and still be of healthy mind? The healthy mind, he said, has to react. Makes sense. Now this is not the same thing. But it is in the same class. How can I ignore both blacking out and the failure of my doctors to tell me anything at all about it, even after I write and ask? Would there not be something wrong if this did not concern me? Can I get into the car oblivious of it? Or not have it in the remote recesses of my mind when I am home alone all day?

Meanwhile, until I learn what it is or can be from, I feel I'd best avoid unnecessary exertion, and I know I need more exercise than I can get. So, this also disturbs me a little, for I am pushing 60 and am stiffening and am weakening, which is but normal.

Too long. No rush on the Crawford file. But I am anxious to get your COUP comments as soon as possible.

Thanks for the time and help.

Best,

January 31, 1970

Dear Harold,

Lest you interpret my silence as my having lost interest in the case, let me assure you that such is not the case. My situation insofar as answering letters is concerned has been complicated by the fact that in order to use an electric typewriter (my old one at home is not good for carbons and is much slower) I must get down to my office. After being sick for 1 1/2 weeks and consequently having much to make up, my car broke down. I have spent many hours waiting for tow trucks (due to some bad repair jobs), much money, etc., and have not been able to get much of anywhere, and consequently have had neither the time or the way to get to the office in order to keep up with correspondence. The last two weeks I have not had one single weekday night free, and have been busy on the weekends. Several of the projects in which I am involved are going through crises and they have taken much time. I have spent my only free evenings speaking on the case or meeting with my committee. Car trouble in Minneapolis can be very serious if it happens during the winter months.

On the xeroxes on the Penabaz books, I don't think that I can do much better with xeroxing. (i.e. none of the available machines are any good) Would you like me to mail you the books?

Newcomb promised to send copies of Lillian's stuff, and she earlier promise through him, and I wrote her besides. If you have gotten nothing. I just noticed an unanswered letter from you of 12/21 (I must have missed it in my last letter)--or at least I assume that it is unanswered. To whom does CR 1140 relate? I will have to know to find it. It sounds very familiar but I can't locate it.

Ask Mary about the Bremer book. She knows Bethell well and is in touch occasionally with him.

The situation with John Nichols is very unfortunate. When I saw him and felt that he was an unusual guy, this relates to what I meant. I had the funny feeling that he was not trustworthy in terms of whose property was whose, and in fact, noted that he was positively jumpy when showing his stuff--even the stuff which is common knowledge. People who worry excessively about things being stolen by friends (as opposed to competitors) are often projecting their own motives and desires. I am afraid that something will have to be done to stem what appears to be theft on his part, and as you know, I generally don't use such words lightly, and in fact usually am a bit critical of any of us being too sensitive to someone else showing up with something we think is ours. In this case it is pretty blatant, and his unwillingness to share any of the opportunity to bring things before the public gives further indication of his character.

Jerry Policoff, who I like very much, has tried to reach me several times but with little luck given my schedule. I am literally never home, except when sleeping. He got through (he calls from work for free) when I was sick and we spoke for a long while. He got through one other time but even when he called back our connection was so bad (including actual background noises and everything but voices) that we couldn't hear except by screaming. It was the worst my phone has ever been. Minutes later I got a long distance call from my parents and the phone was perfect. One bad connection is one thing (although when a connection is that bad it is really hard to believe), but after he called back and it was terrible, I got a bit angry.

The current NY Times book review section advertises a book on RFK by an LA detective. From the description it is a "must" before Coup is finalized. Speaking of Coup, what is its exact present situation with regard to publishing possibilities, probabilities, or certainties?

Your mailing of Jan. 14 (w/ letters dated 14th, etc.) came already slit open on the end! I don't have Red Runs the Carribean and it is long overdue from the Christian Crusade. I will reorder it. Chicago police clan cell interesting. I will get a letter off to Chris this week with yours in it and another apology for slowness. I have no one but myself who could do an adequate job with the body chart. With a bit more luck in catching people by phone I may be able to get you a good diagram. This is not easy to find without buying a big one (too expensive) or xeroxing a small and inadequate one. I couldn't find anything on the shooting of that white man in Spencerville, Ga, in the Councilor. I get it, but it is not coming regularly since they are just about out of money. I may still be getting it

either because they have found you out but not me, or because I am on right wing mailing lists and probably considered a good one. (i.e. I have ordered books, etc. from Hargis and others) By the way, I think that I have a tape of Penabaz. Do you have a machine which can play the large reels? I also have Walker and Lulu Belle Holmes (our old friend Rita Rollens). If you still need Penabaz pages (my files have been forwarded by Paul H. so I assume that he has them all) please ask again. Is that 1140. They were accidentally left at home when I came down here with an entire briefcase of unanswered correspondence, bills, etc. Thanks for the Hunt doc's. I didn't have them all. By now I trust that you have a copy of my file on Crafard from Paul. I will have memos ready as soon as Mary does those followups since they are essential and were completely set up before I left Dallas.

John Nichol's letter to you of the 13th answers some questions, but not all of them, and only time will tell how sincere he is. Your letter to him may have caused him to reconsider. His emphasis on his getting credit for all of the writings, etc., or at least the feeling about those things (i.e. LOOK article) certainly leaves me uneasy. Your letter to him was a good one, although I'm sure that you share my concern at the wording of his notice to you about what he had "gotten from the archives" and his assumed pretense that it was new to him. Well, I think that you handled it well, although as usual I do not always agree with the harshness of some of your letters (i.e. some of the earlier ones) despite the fact that the harshness is more often than not justified. It sometimes leads to people's fur getting up. In this case it was apparently appropriate and may have done more than the type of letter I would have written. Let us hope that the future shows us to have misjudged John.

Your letter of 1/15 to Mary: Agreed on Penn. From what I have heard, and Mary knows as well as anyone, he is in bad shape. I had hoped to go to see him when I was in Texas but just couldn't find the time--especially given the uselessness of it according to what Mary told me. I suppose that to him we are all agents. Your letter to Paul of 1/15: The Joyner who Hosty asked about on 12/7--could that have been one of the Joiner family? You have doc's on them from me. They are criminals and right wing besides, and were waiting with signs. I would very much like a newspaper account (I have only the short one from here) or copy of a press release on the Russell thing to put on a slide. On the Bishop copy of the Z film, I have always assumed that Penn sent it. Could someone check, or is the timing too late between when Penn would have gotten one from Fred and when Bishop's book would have been going to the printer.

I will keep that extra copy of John's letter. If you want it sent to someone just let me know. I think that it's best that just you and Dick deal with this.

Ask Mary if she knows of Bethell's archives notebook.

Self-explanatory items are enclosed. Best wishes to you and Lil.

cc:Paul

Not part of cc to Paul: I think that it is best to keep Paul out of this thing with John.

Much of the problem with Paul's disagreements in the past, as on Boxley et. al. was that we were telling him only bits and pieces, and that we hit him with our conclusions or anger before we gave him the large amount of evidence he requires. There is a similar danger in this. Unless he knows it all you will appear to be excessive.

It is hard for me to deal with your concerns about Coup, John, etc. at a distance. The appropriate thing would be what we call rationally emotive therapy which is something only a small # of people use but which is effective. The things that are happening cannot make you anxious, anymore than words can hurt any of us. They only cause anxiety and trouble when we let them. When we take people seriously or tell ourselves that it is terrible that people are thieves or do crazy things. We are getting ourselves anxious by telling ourselves that it is catastrophic that things aren't the way they could be. This is irrational, because these things are just the way they are. In other words, go about your work, harder though it may be, and forget how things might be or people might be. We must be careful not to take on such a large burden or assume ourselves capable of mighty things. Essentially, the only attitude that won't lead to trouble is that we will work hard, to the best of our ability, and hope to get all the help we can, and see what we can accomplish. If some fail or drop out along the way, such is life. We shouldn't focus our anger on them because it is not properly to be focused on them--we are only misdirecting it from the real sources of our rage: 1. The government and all those who led to the present situation, 2. the Media (perhaps first on the list more properly), 3. the silent majority who don't care (themselves the victims

of the brainwashing of #'s 1 and 2 and not really responsible). Harold, the dynamics of our strong feelings have to do with the rage over injustice and such things, and these things are to be blamed on the press and government, not those of our own number who make mistakes, prove untrustworthy, quit, etc. Why not be angry at those who know and have never done a thing to help the cause? For the same reason that we should not focus on those within our group: such is the nature of things and we cannot change it. It is irrational to let it upset us to the point of causing ourselves to become anxious. I am sorry that I cannot have the time to discuss this and other things like it with you in person. This is impossible to do in letters. I do it every other day and feel it makes sense and has a helping potential, but it requires a lengthy and intense session.

The blacking out worries me. There are three possibilities:

1. You fainted after some hyperventillating, or due to some weakness caused by fatigue, etc.
2. You slipped and fell, and the fall and bump led to amnesia for the fall
3. You had a seizure:
 - a. Due to precipitation via hyperventillation--something which sometimes happens
 - b. As a side effect of the medication you are taking--there are unusual drug side effects which depend on your physical condition, what you are doing, etc.
 - c. Due to a neurological problem

By a seizure I mean the possibility that it was anything from petit mal (loss of consciousness with amnesia for a brief instant, but enough, of course, to fall down) to a grand mal (some movements, longer in duration, etc.). I am not trying to alarm you, but many people have potential seizure foci, and sometimes anxiety and hyperventillation can set them off. You should have an EEG immediately. It is a technique for measuring the electrical activity on the surface of the brain which is done by attaching recording electrodes to different spots on your head. It is easy and painless. After that go along with it you should have a complete neurological examination. This is not an over-reaction on my part because you are such an esteemed friend, but rather what I would recommend normally. If I were there I could give you some tests which might help.

Basically, you have got to start relaxing, no matter what is wrong. You can only do this if you stop telling yourself that it is catastrophic when people won't help us or ~~###~~ not as honest as we are. That's the way things are, and no matter how nice it would be if they were not, we can only make feeble efforts to change them. What we are doing may be meaningless in 20 years if there is an atomic war, but as long as we work we are contributing. We are limited and of course, should never have had this job. We took it on and can only do our best which is quite limited. We will persist, as you did with Russell, and sometimes win, as you did with Russell. Our biggest hope is to wear them out or make them guilty in the long run, or get a lucky break. Neither one can be served by anxiety and its attendant decrease in efficiency, and neither is too badly affected by those among us who don't have the energy, will, or stamina, to keep going. Your record is a fine one because you have worked with these assumptions. Your present problem, which is interfering and making you feel impotent (you yourself used the word in one letter) taking along with it your desire to get everyone who is hurting us in line), is largely a result of you telling yourself that a catastrophe will occur if people like John bungle. I just don't follow it, although obviously it can create problems. The important thing is that we keep going and not be affected by setbacks, because we have one and only one strength right now: persistence. If we win, except by lucky breaks, it will be because of that. We are eternal gadflies, and will do much along the way, even if our final goal is not achieved, and you yourself are the paragon of achievement and persistence and should be able to step back and recognize these things better than any of us.

PSS: Paul has my Craford file and Penabaz file so you can get any documents cheaper and faster from him.

Still no word from the draft board- this is my last appeal at the local level

January 31, 1970

Dear Paul,

Sorry to be so slow in writing. Enclosed is a copy of a letter to Harold which explains what has happened to get me so far behind on correspondence.

I have received from you a mailing of Jan. 12 with stuff on Warren Commission doc's on hand, a letter from you, and other stuff. I have also gotten the chapt. 18 of Coup, plus the copy of Coup, plus my Crafard and other files, plus the additon to Coup. I thank you for all of it. Enclosed is a check for \$10, in excess of what you wanted, to help pay for all of the xeroxing you have been doing. I don't have PM part I, only Part III. You sent me, as I recall (it's at home) a copy of Coup, Part 1, which I already have. If it is the same as the one I have, I can send it to someone else. Let me know ~~that~~ so we can get the money straight. In my haste of the past few weeks I have become a little confused as to who has or wants what, etc. The fact that I must type in my office and had to borrow a car to get here, along with the other confusion and failure to carefully read your letter the first time, causes me to be confused about what you sent in regard to Coup part 1.

I can't get an Ahler memo done until Mary does the followup. I have asked about it 2 or 3 times but she has said nothing. I made an appointment for her to see Estelle Jackson the Monday after I left (I left on a Saturday). I had a long (taped) phone conversation with Mrs. Jackson who was very cordial, but when I caught her she was on her way out the door to go to Brownsville. This is an easy-type followup to do and a crucial one, and I don't know why I haven't heard from Mary on it, despite my inquiries. There are many other things I am waiting for from her also and may have to start bugging her about them. The Crafard file has some real gems in it, but no use talking about them in detail since your eyes are better than mine on this subject. I told Harold that he could get copies from you since you can get it done cheaply and much more easily than I could. If there is any expense let me pay for it. I am very low on money due to car expenses which are running me into the groupd, but Harold is having more serious financial difficulties. His finances will be getting worse after his ~~big~~ blackout on which I wrote him at some length. A neurological exam is definitely indicated, although it may have been just fainting brought on by hyperventillation, or a petit mal seizure brought on by the same. Harold's personality type predisposes him to express some of his anxiety in terms of what we call the hyperventillation syndrome which leads to many of the discomforts which he is experiencing. Between this thing with John, worries about Coup, too much happening in general, and his finances, anxiety is just too high. I am afraid, from what I know of a factual nature from Harold and Dick, the thing which John cannot really clear up by John, but I just hope that Harold can accept it after he has done all he can. It was precisely this that I feared after my visit with Nichols although I would never have suggested it. His motives are not sinister, I am sure, but people can develop a funny type of forgetfulness or blindness towards things when they have a strong drive in a certain direction.

Well, I'd better get this into the mail. Best wishes.