

10/5/71

Dear Gary,

Your letter of the 28th and several others mailed about that time were put in the wrong box, hence didn't reach me until today. I'm glad you didn't send the check earlier, because it comes at a time when our financial situation is at about its worst hence means more. About a week ago Bill told me we have about enough for two weeks, then not a penny. Thus I came to understand why she has been having so much trouble with her hiatal hernia recently. It is the worry. The publishers beat us out of more than \$4,000, and having a contract, we had depended upon it.

Don't let the good thing you seem to have interfere with the dissertation. I think that should be the center of your interest and activity. Do it now and get it over with. The longer you put it off, the more distasteful and burdensome it will be. And it can lead to what is better than the present, more to your liking.

We like Ned more each time we see him. I have always been for some popularization, as for pre-publication, separate editing. You should remember this from 3-4 years ago. One problem has been there has never been anyone to do it and another is that an appeal for commercial success can't decently be at the cost of the definitive work. On this subject, it can achieve no credibility or acceptability without backstopping, which is an added need for full and definitive writing. With full documentation, not just footnotes. POST NORTH will have the hottest.

It is a futility to do what can hope for critical (media) acceptability on this subject, for it will not be. Not without a major change in the media, and that is but one of the reasons I decided to complete PM first and laid aside other work I'd begun.

I have been depressed. I thought I'd make it explicit. Part was the publisher problem, the crookedness and the killing of the book, part other distasteful thing involving the egos and ambitions of others of us, including some I thought had scruple, in their ambition to be the one to be credited with breaking the case. Part, of course, what living this way does and has done to us. When you live as we do, see no possibility or improvement, have the burden of great debt and no ~~own~~ income, and all the work I've researched and long to write stacked up, do I need the deplorable ethics of so many self-seekers? Would anything but some depression not be unnatural?

Every city has something like you Action Line. The problem is not that simple with Art Kunkin, who has sold the Freep to his creditors. It isn't even that simple with Penn, either. Ask yourself what would happen were I to do it with him? Besides, he's wildly paranoid now. What would happen? His wife can't get him to pay it. Mary heard her try to get him to ~~to~~ and it is her money he is wasting and living on.

I've heard nothing from Mary in a long time. She and Duck were to have come here in August. She didn't even write to say they couldn't. She has joined Bud's board and they are in touch. The last I heard from Bud, it was his opinion Bud has been in a bad way for some time. He has been hospitalized in Memphis since at least early summer. All I know is that high blood-pressure prevented planned surgery. I wrote here recently. The present problem is not Jimmy Lee, unless there has been something new I don't know.

One of my symptoms turns out not to have been a consequence of anxiety. I do have an enlarged prostate. The doctors say it is not prostatitis. I hope he's right. The rest of my checkup would seem to have been okay. It was on Thursday, and I suppose if any of the tests had shown anything I'd have heard yesterday. I have a proctoscopic examination in two weeks. I have one every other year. I think several years ago they removed a small polyp and didn't tell me. So, I guess our health is holding out okay. Gotta get to other things. Thanks for the check, the perfect timing with it, and the good news about yourself. We look forward to your coming. Best,

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

Sept. 28, 1971

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
ELLIOTT HALL - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

Dear Harold,

I haven't written for some time because, as has often been the case, I have been overwhelmed by work. Enclosed is a check for \$70.00 for the books, the extra hopefully compensating in a small way for Lil's book-keeping work. I have kept a few books in case there are any more requests--fewer than I would have if it were not for the fact that more current Weisberg books are on the way which will outdate these.

I am finally cutting down my work load at Mpls. Clinic, something I wasn't able to do until recently. I now can work as much or little as I want (will probably be about half time) and will get paid for what I do at the rate of a PhD level consultant. I really need more pressure to do a dissertation. Currently I am being paid as though I had a PhD, have a choice of what I do as though I had a PhD, am on one professional committee (the Metropolitan Drug Dependency Council) and have been nominated for a post on another (Ment. Health, Ment. Retard., and Inebriety Board). So, I am in the very unusual position of being treated as though I had a PhD without one, and with no one even making anything conditional on my getting one. I even testified in court the other day.

The Free Clinic work, which is really my baby, is going well, but taking up the time of a full time position, even though I am only being paid half time. I am trying to delegate some of the responsibility to other people. In that instance the problem is that I have been with the thing since the beginning, almost 2½ years ago, and newcomers lack the know-how. But I enjoy doing that sort of work. We are evaluating community agencies to see what they do, how they do it, and if they do what they claim they do. We are arranging for an independent evaluation of our service. We are consulting with everything from street agencies such as drug centers and drop-in centers to the police dept. When I get a chance to visit I'd like to spend some time discussing what we are doing with the police, because it's pretty exciting. So, I am happy with the way things are going, but finding that partly because I enjoy what I am doing and am heavily invested in it, I am over-working and neglecting other things.

I have had long talks with Ned before his visit with you and after. He enjoyed the visit and we are both excited about the possibility of seeing Post Mortem in print, and also the shorter summary of the previous books for popular presentation of the state of our knowledge to date. I was overjoyed when Ned came to me with the idea, since it is one I had several years ago and never had the time to pursue. There is today no one book which I can recommend as a summary of what is know, and since I still make occasional appearances, this problem is still current for me. Each book has good facets and bad, and none are complete. More important, perhaps, is that people are not going to pick up a summary of old stuff, but by the same token, have a great deal of potential to be confused by new stuff unless they have done extensive reading on the subject in the past. Even then, the lag between books can make new ones difficult to fully appreciate unless one is a WR critic or scholar of some sort. So, I think the idea of summarizing your previous work and adding to it anything else which seems relevant as a prelude to your new info, and as a way of bringing the reader up to date, is a fine idea. This is probably especially important in the area of the medical evidence since the

average guy on the street, or even congressman, does not ordinarily have any desire to read books about autopsies. average guy on the street or even congressman, does not ordinarily immerse himself in books about death and autopsies. The critics have always been accused of nitpicking or being morbid, and the book would be a setup for that sort of vague attack were the proper foundations not laid in the beginning. And, as Ned has told you, I will make some time available to go over it and help edit it. Ned's in a unique position to be able to do it, having the free time necessary, and being new enough to the field that he can still remember the things which he questioned or was confused by. Most of us have been with this too long to easily judge the best way of presenting this stuff for the vast majority of people who know little or nothing about it. I had to grapple with that problem when I put together my slide presentation.

Ned, I know, asked about how you were feeling. The tone of your letter of a month ago was such that it radiated depression. I know that you have been experiencing a great deal of frustration and stress, between problems with assassination work, Lil's health problems, etc. I hope that things are lifting now.

In speaking to a group the other night, I met the son of one of the FBI men who had that confrontation with Mark Lane in NY. I also met a friend or acquaintance of a Canadian MD who worked in Bethesda and knows a good deal about the autopsy, and allegedly was there for part of it. He was warned right afterwards to keep his mouth shut or he would be deported. I am following this up and now waiting for the girl to contact me. As soon as I have some definite info I will let you know so that you can followup with an interview. This could be a windfall.

As for unpaid bills, let me make a suggestion. In our area we have something called "Action News." people write in with complaints about bad business dealings with both instate and out of state companies, and they write letters, etc. This might work with the Free Press, if you have such a thing in your area. It is run through a TV station, and is aired on the 10PM news. Unfortunately, people like Penn and the Free Press are just the non-establishment types who ignore such things.

I have not heard from Mary but plan to write her directly, discuss what I have heard, and propose a solution. I know of a first rate program which could help. She may be open to another suggestion, since the help I dug up the last time the family had a problem worked. I am in a position to find good professionals just about anywhere if given some time, and also to get an inside evaluation of a particular treatment program. In our business the consumer usually has little or no idea as to whether treatment is appropriate.

Under separate cover I will be sending Christian Crusade info from the last several months. I am dropping my Thunderbolt subscription--at first it was entertaining, although a bit of a busman's holiday for me, but it is pretty redundant stuff.

Well, I will write some more in the near future. I want to get this check off to you before I go to work. Best wishes.

Randy