

Dear Dave,

4/22/91

As I've told you and others, I can't take excitement very well these recent years and I'm too excited to return to other work so I'll send you the good news and maybe ease off a bit in the doing.

As you know, George Lardner spent last Tuesday here. He left with the just-delivered copy of Garrison's On the Trail of the Assassins I'd annotated for you, my copy of the Oliver Stone script, which I'd highlighted, my copy of my memo that did the job on Boxley not represented in the book or the script and an assortment of memos in support of my memo, plus about an hour and a half, maybe two and a half hours of what we discussed & that I'd suggested in advance he tape. When he had spoken to Ben Bradlee to get the time to come up here, Bradley immediately saw the story possibilities and told George to do a story. Originally I had misgivings about this but it was inevitable so I've no misgivings about it now. At least two other stories are in the works.

I told George, as my records also reflected, that I'd not copied Garvison's records except in rare cases with permission and that most of the relatively few I have were given to me. I suggested that Bud had copied many and that he speak to Jim.

George called me from Dallas a short while ago. He will be there for several days and then will write his story. From what he said Bradlee likes what he got here and he was quite specific in saying that Bradlee likes the idea of a book. And the idea for it.

A few minutes after we finished talking Jim phoned to tell me that he'd heard from Steve Jaffe, who said he is working on a movie on the King assassination with Mark Lane. Jim told him to phone me. He hasn't and I suspect won't.

When I started to tell him about Lardner he interrupted to tell me that he had those Garrison records and that George had spent about five hours going over them yesterday. We did not finish because he got another call but he did know that George is in Dallas.

I'm skipping around because it just happened, I've not had time to think and organize and so I won't forget. I'll send Chip a copy with the request that he say nothing at all about the book and until after the story appears, nothing about it. Jim Whalen and Hugh Aynesworth are also working on stories, Lardner told me.

Also, I found and had not gone over the FBI's file of its correspondence with HSCA, 22 volumes, an overfilled full file drawer, and in and of itself, historian, it is one helluva reflection of the incompetence, interests, and lack of interest, stupidities and you name it of that committee.

Lardner asked my permission to ask Stone about my letter. He said he'd not show it to him. I agreed, of course!

Lardner decided to read the script first and he is half-way through the book. He also bought one of the last two copies of it Sheridan Square had.

We did have an agreement on the book that I suspect he'll now want to change. Nothing

I can do if he does. I proposed and he accepted that off the top come all his expenses in doing the book and the rest we split 50-50. He is to say in it that it is based on my work. What makes me think he wants to make some changes is his saying when he called that we'll talk about terms.

In any event, historian, we are started on doing something about the Stone/Garrison rewriting of history.

On the off chance that Jaffe goes call me, how sorry I am not to be equipped to tape calls! I was for a while, after getting what two police departments said was a threat to kill me that I'd been able to tape. But I got rid of that phone, having no further planned use for it. (That was so that I could tape directly from the line, and get better quality on the tape. But the poor one I got with a suction-cup mike was ~~mine~~ voice-printed by the Second ¹ police department with which I'd worked on racists.

I thought immediately of what I'd say to Jaffe: Do you really want to talk to a man Mark Lane wrote complained about helicopters breaking the sound barrier over his chicken farm? Do you think you can trust such a man? This is what Lane thought was so cute in his phony book with Dick Gregory in which the assassination is not more than a brief incident and that little bit is all bollyxed up.

For weeks I'd been asking Jim to get me Moo Sciambra's address from the legal directory and he never did. In advance I'd written Moo so when George was here I gave him the unaddressed envelope with the letter in it, he got the address and mailed it, and that is what led to Moo's call to me yesterday about which you'll have what I wrote. Enclosed.

I guess this is just about it. I add that Lardner did say today that he thinks it will be fun. I'd told him it would be great fun and that an important book, politically, historically and as pure entertainment would evolve. He sees it now, and I am pretty sure he did before he left here.

To the degree possible I'll keep you posted.

Meanwhile, we can all look for white hats!

Best to all,

