

1/2/70

Dear Russ,

Very glad to get your letter of the 27th (postmarked 29th) and enclosures. Today was Lil's first at work for the tax season, and getting her in and moved to her new office and a few other chores makes me rather late on everything today. Gotta pick her up again, too. Both trips take about an hour and a half out of the stoo-short day. So, I answer your letter first to get this in the mail when I go for her.

My disagreement on making any present, meaning partial and ~~xxx~~ without context, use of the Groth angle is even stronger than it was because my appraisal of the reaction to the murders has been amply borne out. On the 7 a.m. CBS TV news this morning I hear a long sequence on the Panthers and the campaign against them. Knowing WTOP often reruns these segments, I was prepared to tape it at expected sitting on their half-hour (really 25 minutes, minus commercials, for the last 5 minutes is an editorial) news beginning at one. I missed the intro, but I taped almost all of it and I enclose that tape (please return).

Digression you will note I use old 8mm film spools for reels. If you can get them free out there, or know any way of getting any (esp. 3-3 1/2") reels free, I always need them (and boxed for storing and labelling). DO NOT BUY ME ANY. This is my last empty. I buy cheap tape in 7" reels on sale and rewind for this purpose, do use on my portable machines. I want, ultimately, to be able to set up a recorder attached to the radio for instantaneous use. not just to move one in and have it ready, as today.

Listen carefully. This is the best kind of Panther-anti-FBI/pig pr, and it reached an enormous audience. The pres is and for a while will be our way on this, save, perhaps, for the utterly irrational, like Chirrib. WTOP is Wash Post, real establishment. Time this and see how much of the actual midday newscast it really was, when you take out all the commercials, the opening and close, and the total is but 25 min. And they will repeat it between 6 and 7 p.m. And this is but one area and remember, it made the entire net this a.m. I have yet to hear anywhere anything favorable to the police, even their own special production was against them. So, the thing to do, par, is to let it cool, let it run its own course, give them no relief, no diversions, nothing to answer, and above all, let the newsmen and media get themselves involved and participating, as this clearly shows they are. The time for us to do something is when this runs down.

On Groth: what do we really have? Nothing, except in the context of a book like mine. Even the Velle/Panther comparison is nothing, by itself. When we get the answers to the questions I asked you (thanks for forwarding-I also asked Allen Bickley to seek them for me, but there is not too good a chance there), then we may have something significant.

However, there is a proper format for this, and I have it all arranged. It is the Hilliard case, where there is a Velle parallel. His lawyer is real keen for it and the rest of what I have along this line. The man I asked to see him was east for the first time in a year and a half and I saw him two days ago. Now that trial will get coverage, and if he uses the stuff I have, of which you have seen only part- wow! Clobbersville Express. It will not be only Groth (with Black Panther trimmings), Milteer (with King and B'ham Church), many extremists,

all representing threats to the President who was assassinated- it will also be the FBI and the SS, who are those after the Panthers and framing Hilliard for a reactionary President whereas they were really unconcerned about viable rightist threats against a "liberää" Pres. And with a brilliant lawyer like Garry to use it (he has been getting a marvellous press), it should be worth waiting for.

The lawyers have a problem we also have. It is to avoid asking the extre, unnecessary question that may ruin everything. We are in that position right now. Let us not blow it in the futility of trying to persuade the already persuaded and, simultaneously, tipping off those able to cook up "explanations". Besides, aside from the questions I asked you to get answers for, I am continuing this investigation and I now have four more pages of once-suppressed FBI reports and will be going after the DJ on other still suppressed. This also provides the opportunity to sue them for these papers in court in Washington, which is a very good place (I wish you'd had time to see what I'm already prepared for). These are pale copies of very poor copies. Before trying to copy them for you I'm going to try and get better originals. They add nothing material to what I knew but they did really embroil St. Edgar in knowledge and silence at the coverup. "Remember, he is the bookkeeper, too. And now the suppressor.

I've never been a patient man and learning how to be has given me an ulcer. But we must learn this, must, with all the risk of error, try and learn timing, not think merely in terms of immediate pr and that in a small vacuum. We can and I think will get more and it can and I think will have more meaning if we work and are patient. But now it is coals to Newcastle, a hell of a way to waste good bottoms.

There are other importances. "Lead the signs. Hoover has a new release on how awful the Panthers are. Typically, he overdid it. Untypically, I have yet to hear any but an adverse comment (so bad the Post omitted-if you see clips, I'd like to have, please). He tells how the Panthers are guilty of 100 attacks on police (the Chimurders being perhaps 30 of them?) and you know, he had not a word to say about what happened to any blacks, not a suggestion that any died, even from natural causes, if not bullets. Quiteley, he is being shived on this, and it is effective....Let them make all their mistakes. Let the Toms get involved. Listen to Abernathy on this tape.....Do you know, this has brought about more black unity than the King murder? And, I think, the beginning of militant changed attitude toward King (for example, Hilliard on Sunday's ABC show.

Hastily, a few other things. Groth is not on that form twice-three times. DeZutter, I also try and make these guys look in the mirror....Explanation "Task Force On View Arrests helpful but not complete enough. Does "On View" also mean anticipated, to be viewed, hence without warrant? Why were they out looking for Valleto commit a traffic violation? You know they were looking for him, tipped off. This was the day of the JFK visit, and it was cancelled. They knew earlier. Had to....What is "Area 1"? Need it be geographic or is it, lets say, "subversive"? This would tend to help understand Groth's role. Or, is it Esnrahan?

My Black Panther files are not as complete as you read. I read that FBI Chicago raid in a way that makes me proud. Therefore, I immediately added it to the book and with that began to keep a clip file of whatever I saw. Even for the period following it is not complete. However, you are welcome to what I have, but until I get the appendix done I really cannot part with it. I may need it at any time. Your Chicago friends should have much more than I do. The one thing I think may not have appeared there is too big to copy and I had a friend clip it. They've been away. I expect to pick it up this evening.., "one of my mail is "24 hours" anymore. It took yours two days to get postmarked!

U ndreground press-Garrison. I wrote wrong or you took wrong. He thinks they're great. They did too well by him. They are utterly irresponsible and are

largely responsible for the disillusionment that followed the Shaw decision. Very hurtful. Meanwhile, they also boycotted everyone who didn't lick his ass. If the disagreement is to "tactics", I disagree. What he did that is unpardonable is to be dishonest in his public statements, to improvise, imagine- say whatever seemed expedient, exactly what the Establishment does, thus undermining legit criticism of the Establishment. He did not violate Shaw's right. He was careful. He did not start it. He did have a survival problem. I am sympathetic to his feeling he had to respond, and he did have to. My complaint is with his failure to respond properly and honestly, not with responding. You may not know what he faced. It was an enormous campaign, with limitless money and powerful fronts for the government. There were, among other things, not fewer than three major penetrations of his staff. And fortunes were offered his witnesses. I have details from some on tape.

You did well to drop "Research Group"/ There is also a "Group Research", well known...I disagree with you when you say the Toms will "throw the Panthers" as soon as expedient. Not for a while. They are too cagey. This thing has grabbed all backs, believe me....Flo: no point in jy writing her further. She does her thing her way. Because she is so very bright she is a big disappointment to me. It is as though she and others want all this great and unnecessary suffering to hasten a Weatherman-type situation. They want no light shed, no easing of repressions. And they are determined to isolate themselves, to have no allies.

Butler....Local Metromedia got a lot of fleck. This particular show (I have sound tape) is a wonderful opportunity for blacks to get a nice fat hunk of prime TV free. I have all they need, and they can ask under fairness doctrine. When you see what I have on "Imperium" and NYA, you'll understand. Real Hitler-type Nazis and the book is the American Mein Kampf. However, the extent of syndication is something I do not know. I know only of NY, DC and LA. Undoubtedly, with Schick paying, it is elsewhere.

Please let me know as soon as you get answers to questions. And, if you can, eliminate uncertainty about "Area 1". Best to you both, and may the years be a good one for you.

Sincerely,

6735 Thomas Blvd.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15208
December 27, 1969

Dear Harold,

Sorry I haven't been in touch but everything's been happening too fast to keep up with it. It's now very late at night and I'll have to be going to sleep pretty soon -- I'll take things in the order that they appear to me, as they're here on the desk, and if I forget any I'll make them up with another letter on Monday or so.

Enclosed is a carbon of a letter to ~~MAX~~ Henry DeZutter, ever-popular Chicago reporter. It's self-explanatory. I'm going through my recollections and writing to all the bullshit liberals and determining if I can get through to them now where I couldn't before.

An Area ~~X~~ 1 Task Force On View Arrest means that the arrest was made by the Task Force operating in Area 1 after they observed the law violation. The Task Force is like a flying-squad of police, I think it consists of 100 men, who work an extra shift, and are assigned to "high-crime" areas, supposedly. They keep separate records of Task Force On View Arrests, because it justifies the existence of the Task Force. They are used to cover the assignments and areas that the regular force is too overloaded to cover.

As to the photo, you're absolutely right, there should have been a photo on that one sheet, but that was the sheet that disappeared for so many months, and the photo was missing when it was returned.

Do I understand you correctly; do you have the clippings of all the raids & shoot-outs on Black Panther Party people in the past year or so? If you do, we have great need of them here. I have Xeroxing facilities available to me and could return your originals within 24 hours if you have these.

I am also enclosed some material originally printed in the Chicago Seed, one of those crappy underground papers with no circulation. It was the first paper to break the complete, detailed story on the shoot-out, and as a matter of fact, the NY Times reporter used the Seed's material.

Although I realize that the underground press did not handle the assassination well and did not give Garrison a fair deal, you must understand that a lot of Movement people have some very strong reservations about some of the tactics Garrison used. If he were ~~use~~ using those tactics against members of the Communist Party I would call him another McCarthy. And so this was part of the

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x reluctance of Movement people to deal with Garrison and those who worked with ~~xxx~~ him. At any rate, on this issue, what is happening now, I think the underground press, for the most part, has been ahead of the "straight media." Let's face it, on the issue of Repression the "straight media" has been nowhere, so a turnip could be ~~xxx~~ ahead of them. But anyhow, the underground press has to deal with the question of repression, because it affects their very life. One of the things that's been happening in underground publications now is that they've been swapping things ~~x~~ from one publication to another. So that something that's printed in Rat might eventually wind up in the Village Voice and make a few dollars for the author. So anyhow, at this project we're working on here we intend to place as much material as we can, wherever we can, because we want to get the facts out; if we get paid for it, fine, if not, that's okay too. But if we can get it published in one place, we can then look for others to publish the same thing, and maybe eventually get some money for a piece that we started out giving to ~~x~~ someone.

We've had a couple meetings here of people interested in working on the project I've been trying to develop. We dropped the name Research Group as sounding too much like a CIA front, and have adopted the name of Repression Information Service Committee (RISC). I'll send you some of the letterhead (on which your name appears) as soon as we have some printed up or run off. Anyhow, we've gotten a good solid working base here in Pgh., including volunteer students, sponsoring professors and interested business types. No money yet, but much potential. We're co-sponsoring a large rally and teach-in here on January 17 concerning Repression. We will have an afternoon teach-in seminar type thing, then three main speakers in the evening, one of whom will be Rennie Davis ~~ugh~~ (ugh), another a Black Panther, and a Black guy from Pittsburgh who's had some trouble with the locals gendarmes. If this one goes well there'll be others, and I can probably get you on one of them which would of course net you a couple hundred dollars. We also have an attorney in New York, a young girl named Barbara Rowan, who is trying to find us some money there, and has recently applied to a foundation for a \$3,000 grant. What we hope to set up is a clearing house for information about the repression, which we feel is already here, it just hasn't been felt by everyone yet.

This definitely should be ~~xx~~ the time when people would want to pick up on your work. I spoke recently with a friend in Chicago who said he had in his briefcase \$1,000 that he'd ~~xxxx~~ raised for the Black Panther Defense Fund; all of it in cash from anonymous donors who three months ago would have gladly coughed up 50¢ for any worthy cause. Now they're panicky, they want to stop ~~xxx~~ it, but don't know how. Of course, my next thought is that as soon as Nixon gives them

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a cheaper way out they'll take it and throw the Panthers to the wolves or whoever. But between now and then they should be very anxious for any kind of information to help them understand what's happening and why.

Flo Kennedy: I have found that Flo is the type of person who will be entirely on your side as long as you are there to prod her; she is with and for whoever happens to be around at the time demanding her attentions, so don't expect much -- not that you did. On the other hand, if you were to call her and say "I will be in NY on ---- and you can do this for me," she probably would.

Dave Craig: turned out to be a false lead. Did I tell you that before? It turned out that he kept the file only while he was head of the police department and when he was replaced the new head of the police department destroyed the file because he didn't want to keep it up. Craig himself has a passing interest in the Radical Right and no interest at all in getting involved in anything.

We now have a phone, our number is 361-5104.

I've written to a friend in Chicago and asked him to check on Groth. Enclosed is a carbon of the questions I asked him. I put them on a separate sheet so that he could copy it and distribute it around without identifying who it was from, if he needed to.

Apparently the Butler show is syndicated, because it also ran in New York, my mother told me about seeing it.

Groth was more than just a witness to the Vallee arrest. If you look at item 46 on the arrest report, you'll see it says that he was transported by Groth & Co., which means that Groth was driving the patrol car, and Schurla merely got out and made the arrest.

Guess I'll close for now as it's getting very late. Tell Lil hello for both of us, hope she's feeling better. Hope you both had a nice holiday.

Russ

6735 Thomas Blvd.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15208
December 27, 1969

Mr. Henry DeZutter
c/o Ron Dorfman
5000 South Dorchester
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. DeZutter,

On March 16, 1969 I spoke with you on the telephone about a case I was interested in, and followed that conversation with a letter concerning that same case. In that letter -- which was delivered to you care of Columbia College -- I said:

"Many people have gotten tired or frightened, others have died or been killed, and the work is much harder. That's why I'm giving you this perhaps desperate, perhaps impassioned plea for cooperation in this matter. Many newsmen thought throughout the civil rights demonstrations and riots that they were somehow safe from attack; so they may have watched sympathetically, but still, they only watched. In August you saw how sacrosanct newsmen were. And so I submit to you, if the president, Malcolm X, and Dr. King can be gunned down, how safe are you? You have seen your stories rewritten by various government officials after they had been published; how far off is the day when you won't be allowed to write the story at all?"

You never replied to that plea; never so much as a statement of why you could not cooperate with us on the case. I wonder if enough people have died now to make the story big enough for you to be concerned about it.

I am writing you at this time about three matters. The first is related to the Xerox copies of two letters which are enclosed. My associate Mr. Weisberg has developed material relating to the assassination of Dr. King and the FBI's attitude toward the Black community that is of the most incriminating nature. If you read the two letters carefully you will get some idea of what the material is about, and you will see the lengths we have gone to to give the material to people who publically claim to be concerned. Not one has responded. We have a carefully documented record of those who were not concerned enough to become involved. I wonder if at this point in time you might be interested in working with us, and specifically Mr. Weisberg, to get this material into the hands of those who will be

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able to put it to good use. There are specific things you can do in this regard, if you are interested.

The second thing is the case that I wrote to you about in 1969. It now turns out that one of the police officers involved in that episode, which involved a right-wing coverup, was one of the officers involved in the murder of Brother Fred Hampton and Brother Mark Clark. There are still some loose ends in that case in Chicago that an experienced reporter such as yourself could tie up for us in a very short time.

The third thing is a project I'm working on now here in Pittsburgh. We have formed an organization which we call the Repression Information Service Committee. We believe that there is already a repression operating in the United States, and our function is to distribute information and gather information about it so that those people who wish to oppose it will know exactly what they're up against and will better be able to plan direct action. Among the people connected with it are: Conrad Lynn, Florynce Kennedy, Staughton Lynd, Father Rice, Dave McReynolds, to mention a very few. We have a volunteer staff of fifteen here in Pittsburgh, and are beginning our work by co-sponsoring a full-day seminar on repression at Carnegie Mellon University on January 17. We need help of various sorts, since we're starting from scratch with absolutely no money. We need: people who are well known in their field to let us use their names as sponsors of the organization; volunteers to do investigative work throughout the country; publicity; publishers of any sort to publish material that we develop, with or without payment; donations of money, office equipment, etc; access to newspaper files. If you can help with any of these things, or know anyone who can, I hope that you will either be in touch with us or put us in touch with those who could be of help.

I ask your help not only as someone who has worked in the movement, so-called, for quite some time (I worked with Chicago Area Draft Resisters almost from its inception), but also as a former member of your profession. As a 21-year-old newsman I was given an AP award in Pennsylvania for outstanding news coverage; but shortly after that I found that the role of the newsman, like the role of the poet, means little in the society in which we live. That is to say, newsmen and poets can truly affect very little. I find, now, though, that there is a definite place for newsmen in the movement in the coming months, if they are willing to put themselves on the front lines and identify with those who're being "vamped on."

Henry DeZutter

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I have no reason to believe that this letter will cause you to take any more action than my last letter. Lip service is something that everyone gives very easily. I don't want to sound redundant, but if the brothers can be shot in cold blood while asleep, if the SACE (as it has) can issue findings against 22 people, how sacrosanct is your position? How many will die before they start wiping out newsmen? I hope to hear from you.

If I don't hear from you this time, I shall continue to write to you -- each time another brother dies I will send you a similar letter; then at least the two of us will have a complete record of how concerned we were about things, and like good Germans we'll be able to say that we meant well but just weren't aware of how bad the situation was.

Russ Trunzo

cc: H. Weisberg
A. C. Gall-Chicago

Chicago Police Department Segeant Daniel Groth

Male, White, born 1929

In 1963 (November) Groth was assigned to 5700 S. Gung Cottage Grove Precinct .

- 1) When was ~~KK~~ Groth promoted to ~~ing~~ Sergeant?**
- 2) When was Groth assigned to Hanrahan?**
- 3) Is there any chance that Groth was implicated in the Chicago Police Department-KKK scandal. (This may have to be chekcked by going to old newspaper files from the KKK scandal. If you do have to do this, I'd like copies of any articles concerning it, whether or not they mention Groth).**
- 4) Has Groth expressed at any time any kind of political or semi-political views? What is his attitude toward Blacks?**