

12/21/69

Dear Russ,

Your were, in essence, right on Groth. The name is Daniel, he was not, technically, the arresting officer but a "witness", which rather clearly indicates, with his assignment, that they were looking for our boy. I had that paper in the pasted-up appendix for COUP, on which I've just started working again tonight, after a long interlude. The reason I didn't find this sheet in the file is because it was already in the appendix, I guess.

However, there are other developments I hope you will find satisfactory. After the Hilliard arrest, I had a friend get in touch with his lawyer. As you will realize, I think, there is much of value in COUP for him and in court! In a trial that will, without doubt, have great attention focused on it. Right now I think the time is for silence and for its surprise use there, for I am not persuaded the book in which it is about to appear very soon. Unless, with this, I can arrange valuable collateral use, major only. Then it would do some good in the near future. It is not now needed for Chicago developments, for that is hot enough. Going too fast. Had a phone call this a.m. Although this was not in the stuff proposed to said mouthpiece, he is all for idea and I am to hear. With this, and not just that paper but the entire story, man that can be something. Hilliard, if you've forgotten, was arrested by the SS for endangering the life of the President!

Meanwhile, we have a) located new stuff at Archives and b) found other stuff that is suppressed. So, please let this cool and let me handle it when it seems like we are ready and when there is prospect of talking to others than the persuaded. Right now, on this, they require no persuading. It is that raw. The TV stuff has been very effective. As a matter of fact, I think it would be better to show no interest in the subject, not to look for more dope in Chicago, for that will flag our interest wildly and they'll be prepared. The searches in federal stuff is not being done in my name. And the stuff that is withheld is withheld at the request of the FBI. Could it be better in any way?

The guy who spoke to the lawyer is in the east. He phoned me from an airport this a.m. and will be to see me before many days pass.

You may have told me and it may be in the large file, but if you recall, please save me the time and tell me what a "Task Force Area 1 on View Arrest" is. Also, the photo seems not to be in the papers, official papers, that is.

Overnight: I think it would be good if we could learn several things WITHOUT attracting any attention when Groth was assigned to Menahan, whether there was ever any reason to suspect he had any connection with the secret Klan group inside the ~~CIA~~ Chicago and, in general, what his attitude toward blacks is. Is there anyone who can tell you these things without telling others of your interest? I do think it important that there be no indication of interest in him.

Hope you both have a good holiday.

Best,