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91403

January 18, 1969

Dear Gary,

The guys up in Washington were really whipped around by my letter. Edd phoned and also Larry Haapanen for more specific information. So I sent copies of our correspondence to them and hope you don't mind. They have really been "put on" by Turner and Rose and I made them promise to send memos to me s.a.p. on this.

Haven't talked to them for awhile so I had to straighten them out fast and send everything I had up to them for them to see. Okay? Maybe this is a mistake but, I don't think so, as I've met them all. Sent re-typed copies of your first three letters to them. Your January 16th letter will stay with me. (IN A VAULT?)

RE: LIFTON, LEIBLER

Got a call from Lifton today. (Friday, January 17th). I've been ducking him lately. He wanted to know what I thought about the autopsy situation. I told him that I thought this was another trap for Jim. He agreed, gleefully. Said he'd talked to Leibler at UCLA about this and that Wesley said Jim was a schmuck to fall for this. Leibler said "Well, if I were Shaw's lawyer (ha), I would press for these x-rays and photos and when Jim finds out they back up the commission, then what is he going to do?"

Lifton said Leibler immediately called Ball when the news broke and they both were amazed at Jim's reasoning.

I had to agree with Lifton on this issue and it made me sick.

SOME TIME AGO I told Lifton that I thought that Finsterwald was helping Jim get these exhibits and Lifton nearly fell down laughing. (Dave called Bud to see what he was up to and concluded that since he didn't have any 'aim' such as a book, etc. then he was going nowhere. ~~AND LIFTON COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HIS MOTIVATIONS~~)

I asked Lifton if he knew the name of that Washington DC committee. He said, "Assassination Investigation Committee". I asked him to check again. He left the phone to see and came back with the correct title. I asked him what the initials would spell. He said CIA! and started giggling again.

I told Lifton, dryly, that this title was picked by someone in the "company" with a very black sense of humor. He then broke into gails of uncontrollable, high pitched laughter. And at this point I came close to tears, but of course Lifton couldn't see this.

This whole thing is so *ghoulish* ~~peculiar~~, bizzare, wierd, that I can't bear to listen to the news. If I do I think it will make me emotionally sick.

There is no way, absolutely no way, there can't be any possible way for Jim to win if he get's these autopsy x-rays and photographs. This is a trap! He doesn't need this! Bud Finsterwald has to be in the same bag as Turner only he's traveling on a ~~higher~~ higher road.

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Leibler is right about this and has probably written his opinion to Shaw's lawyers already.

The government has released the 16 page report, knowing it will eventually lead Jim to have success in court in getting the x-rays and photos.

I realize I'm stupid in law, but this thing will lead to disaster. Will somebody please tell Jim to issue a statement, approximately like:

"Our office has new information of falsification of photographic evidence in this case. (NOT AUTOPSY X-RAYS & PHOTOS)

" They have had five years to doctor autopsy x-rays and photographs. Our office is there, ^{not} going to refuse to play their game. "They" may keep these in their files for 70 years if they wish, as they are not crucial to our case. In 70 years the people of America will learn what Lyndon Johnson and Ramsey Clark have ordered others to do."

I know it's pretty strong, but think it has to be done to combat everything that's going on. BUT NOW I HEAR THAT ALCOCK HAS SAID THESE X-RAYS ARE CRUCIAL IN SHAW CASE !!! DOES JIM WANT OUT NOW? Maybe when you write your doctorate, you could do a study of the critics and what makes us tick. We are really a strange bunch, including: pimps, idealists, amoral jerks, lonely widows, Jr. G-men, stool pigeons, publicity hounds and plain old thieves.

RE DICK SPRAGUE:

Now that I am more aware of what's been going on, I have been re-reading Dick Sprague's monographs with a more critical eye. Before he had me snowed with his reputation and I didn't scrutinize his work, in fact I was so busy with my own research that I just filled them away and only consulted them for names or photo numbers. I wish I had really studied them months ago, as I could have nailed him down long ago.

To think that I have been sending all my research to Sprague for the last year is too sad to talk about. Sprague even came out to the coast for the purpose of convincing me I was wrong about some research I had done and had sent to Jim. Sprague said that he spent hours with Jim knocking down my "finds". It seems that Jim agreed with me and probably had other things of his own that fit my photo conclusions.

Well, Sprague impressed me so much, especially with that huge collection of prints he has, that I dropped my finding. Although He never really was able to rationally explain away my conclusions.

Anyway, I think I will ~~resend~~ ^{resume} this stuff and send it along to you - especially since I just found out that this old research is now very solid. And all due to a slip made by ITEK Corporation in one of their reports.

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Itek was not aware of the stuff I had sent Jim and were busy destroying "Nix Frame #18 Gunman on the Knoll and Station Wagon". This image was, for a whole mess of reasons, phoney, it was a joke. I think this is another Jones-Harris "find".

Anyway, Itek proved that this gunman was a pattern of shadows, something I could have told them and thus could have saved them from doing maybe \$50,000 in research as "a public service". So they put out this fine report and in knocking down Nix image, the dumb jerks made detailed, very sound, proof, that I was right about the thing I first sent to Jim via Jaffe!

So now I've got to get this back to Jim (speaking collectively), and I will do it through you. You'll receive about 50 or 60 slides next week to use as ammunition. I realise that I am attempting to hog a lot of your time. However, I'll trust your judgement as to what of my stuff is urgent and what can wait.

In other words, you may use this as you wish, and send copies to whoever you think could use to the best advantage.

One more thing, Harry Dean (see my memo) has actual correspondence or notes from Turner and will let me copy and sent to Vince.

MORE ON TURNER:

Forgot to mention that the last time I talked to Turner (when he wanted to find out what I knew about Rose) he mentioned that I should get a 1965 February issue of Guns and Ammo and compare Robert K. Brown's picture with the image in the Moorman photo of #5 man. Turner said he thought the comparison was strong, and that #5 man was Robert K. Brown.

And further he said he was working on the RFK assassination and indicated to me that he had uncovered a connection between Rev. Owens and Eugene Bradley. Rev. Owens maintains that he picked up Sirhan and gave him a lift on Wilshire Blvd. the day before RFK was shot, and that he was to meet Sirhan at Ambassador the next night to complete sale of a horse to Sirhan for \$300.00 Owens thinks he was to be used as unwitting getaway driver. LA Police discounted the Owens story.

TURNER SAID HE

Also, was down in Los Angeles to check on a story from two women who called him in San Francisco after RFK assassination to say that as Sirhan was being led from the Ambassador Hotel by police, they noticed a man in the background on TV - this man, they told Turner, looked like Eugene Bradley - and that they had seen "Frenchy" in some of the early kitchen pictures. The reason the women knew ~~that~~ about Frenchy was the story in the SF Chronical, BY TURNER... THAT STUFF HE SWIPED FROM ME.

Thanks for the phone call, and for all the exposure you are getting on 133A and 133B. Agree that it's important to get "ourselves together" first, then we can go back to research.

Sincerely,



FRED

FTN:mkn