

12/5/71

Dear Gary,

En route Chicago from Dallas (thence to Stevens Point, Wisc, thence home Tuesday), Mary's last words are fresh. They recall one of the things that had been in my mind during recent days when for the first time I was insomniac. Last night I lay abed for 2 1/2 hours before falling asleep, a new experience for me. Mary was excited over what she described as my successes in Dallas.

To the degree I could I made notes by hand and by typing, giving her all I typed, and with a length taped memo for her and me only. Some of my meetings including the stipulation on confidentiality, which I shall, of course, preserve, and some should be kept that way, in all interests, even though those with whom I met did not so stipulate. In each case Mary's position and belief coincides with mine. However, with Mary in the role of my secretary, her knowing what she types does not violate the word I gave and, as you know, she is discreet.

They were are wonderful as you described. I believe Buck is as human a human as I have ever met, and I think I've never met a more honest one.

I also regard the trip as a success, and during the sleeplessness I tossed it around. I think there may be a lesson in it for you, going back to one of your concepts and arguments in favor of it re Ned. I had responded from the past, and because I want to make a note along this line, I'll update it from this trip alone. I will be trying to recall the first nine working days of this trip. There will be omissions, for I made no notes of these things. I made notes when I could relating to fact only.

I address your belief that because of his wealth and family connections Ned could reach and interview people who would not see me because of various things, including my work and well-known attitude on the subject. Try the following for size, if not comparison and perhaps reappraisal of your view. I think it important that you not impose artificial barriers in your thinking or actions, generally, in your own life, and specifically, on this subject.

I began in Knoxville, where the virulent anti-Semite Jerry Ray met me at the airport. We slept in the same motel room for three nights. I was not really apprehensive about his having shot a man when there was no need, that burglary having been ~~frustrate~~ subject to nonviolent frustration. I went to the jail three times, never at ~~working~~ visiting hours and including during a sit-down, being admitted all three times (but they wouldn't bring JER out during the strike or demonstration). I had a long and pleasant meeting with the warden who is considering doing for me what is not done in that State, permitting James to write and send me investigative leads not subject to his censorship. The need for this is, I think, approaching. When I phoned the editor of the Knoxville Journal, he saw me immediately and until my time ran out, an hour and a half later. He called his star reporter in for most of it. The editor-publisher of the largest chain of weeklies in Tenn., when he heard I was there, drove to Oak Ridge to meet me. I was his dinner guest for several hours. Yarborough, the name reporter in that area, also a member of city council and thus busy, tried to rearrange his schedule for those three days to get some time when I had it. He wound up saying he'd get a story (which I in no case sought) from the weekly editor, a friend. Jerry called a TV and a radio station, and they aired me as news, knowing my position. All this with conservatives who disagree, without advance preparation and in some cases without desire, as in the case of the electronic media. It was not a bad start.

In N.O. it was rather good. I'll not remember all, but I think I'll give you an idea of the availability of "the other side" to a non-establishmentarian pauer who not only doesn't have money ~~or~~ connections but suffers the liability of Garrison association and open and forcefully-expressed opposition to the Report and the positions of most of those to be listed. One of Shaw's lawyers, Sal Panzeca, held dinner and hour and a half to meet with me the end of a working day although he was just back from a month abroad with work stacked. It was a worthwhile meeting in which I learned things of value. Andrews saw me twice, without appointment or reluctance, and it didn't help much. But he still sees me. Monk Zelden was helpful. We met five times, including, at his invitation, in his office and at night in his home. One of Carlos Marcello's lawyers spent



some time with me, without advance appointment, at the end of the day, holding a dinner party for it. Quite helpful, I think. I now also have a contact with the NOPD Narcotics squad that may turn out to be worthwhile. Jesse Core had to a a long and liquid lunch at a fancy uptown place. He is a fine conservative gentleman and a friend, as he is and has been Shaw's friend. He filled some important gaps in for me and had a socialite friend of his not joined us, there'd have been more. But before this it was fine. You know the WDSU attitude. Their owner financed Bethell and Lockwood, etc., and hates Jim. Also helped Shaw with his court and legal costs. As you know, I got their film three years ago. This time Ed planer helped in other ways, on Oswald and the status of the current case against Jim. Although it has been but a short period, that now seems long ago (and we've started the approach for a landing, it seems, from 37,000 ft.

In Dallas nobody I asked to see me refused. I spent most of a day in the sheriff's new office and it was pretty good and very informative. I didn't seek attention, but WBAP sought me out and aired me on two TV newscasts (200 ft of film). Henry Wade saw me four times in three days, the first as soon as I walked into his office without appointment. That one lasted 1 1/2 hours and was quite informative. The second time he had made a date for me to return. He then kept me waiting (confidential) because he was unexpectedly closeted with the Democratic delegation that had come to ask him to be the party's candidate for governor (he told me his thinking). In the end he opened his files to me and I spent a day and a half going through them, hardly time for 8 big file drawers. Here and with Storey I was able to make arrangements for Mary to return as my secretary-research when she has time, and she seems excited by it. He offered me a souvenir, an empty casing for a bullet he fired in Ruby's pistol. I asked for a few others when I was setting aside what I wanted copied Friday, when Henry was out of town. I think this business with and about Henry should be kept confidential, in his interest and in ours. I'd hate for loose talk to break up something that can be good, and I do not want his friendliness and trust and desire to be helpful to ever be used against him. But he was so kind that he drove me as far as he was going during an unusually wet storm Thursday and then had his driver-investigator, E.R.Beck, take me to where I was going, in rush hour. Beck, if you have forgotten, is a detective who was to have driven the lead car in the LHO transfer. He told me about that. Dean Storey, who spends mornings in his posh law office and afternoons at SMU's law school (in a building named for him), saw me at each place, again without prior appointment. I have inventoried what they have and MF will check through it when she can, as my sec. I think those old biddies were given paper dolls to play with, no more, but even a single good page can be worth it. Sue, by the way, liked me, came to drive me in the storm in her Caddy (as did PR), and offered me her cheek to kiss when we parted. We have become friends.

In Chicago, prior to takeoff, with a bouncing seat-back. Forget to mention David Chandler in N.O., who was helpful and is coming to weekend with me in about three weeks when he is working in DC on a Mafia book. Back in Dallas, I made contact with two bank vice-presidents who are buffs. One is the ranking of many v-ps, large bank, the other in charge of credit. Don't know if they will or can help. But good contacts. Former Time-Lifer Holland McCombs (I'm sending him the FBI reports on how he and Ainsworth got the LHO diary from Bill Alexander- \$22,500 deal) was very friendly and probably helpful in the advice he gave. H.L.Hunt saw me promptly, loaded me with his propaganda, offered me a job, but nothing else. But I did walk right in and see the old man, who is even more isolated now that his sons have taken over and are fighting for the spils before there are spils, while he breathes. Or, to summarize, with, I am certain, some omissions, there is no single person I asked to see, almost all on the other side, who did not see me, no matter how busy, and in not one case did I have an appointment. In only one case did I await the next day and then it was my request, there not being time. Those I saw three years ago were without reluctance or unpleasant recollections, and it is clear they did recall me. There was one more man I wanted to see, but he was away. He might have been unwilling. I did speak to his wife, who was not unfriendly. Or, as the plane is taxing out and I have to put the tray up, you don't have to be loaded or rich. What I got from the Dallas doctors is great. Hope to see you soon. Best regards,