

Dear Jim,

12/11/78

Lil read and enjoyed your 12/6 while I had to take in the skull-number of the House assassins. I've just been delighted by it while she prepares supper, mostly salad and some leftovers. I'm redeveloping the Dave Wrone problem. Scale yesterday disclosed that in the past month've put about 5 lbs on and have to waste them slowly.

You refer to your serving wine and cheese and sponsorship by a beer company. Are you aware of the recent scientific work that is another major breakthrough of science? (Confirms what our grandparents knew without PhDs.) For the elderly and for the ill moderate alcohol intake is excellent medication and the best psychological therapy. If you have not and are interested let us know and we'll copy that piece. (Not doing it unbidden now because Lil got behind by the typing of another affidavit, just completed, and after supper I must re-read to get executed in a.m.)

Your beer company might appreciate knowing that the work with which I'm familiar began in England with you-know-what, what they sell. This work, and I don't follow such things and am not limiting, was proven to be good for the circulation of blood as well as beer. Year or more ago I heard a radio item attributed to Lancet.

Years ago a Viennese doctor told me to use wine as a tranquilizer. I rarely take a tranquilizer any more despite chronic anxiety and I'm limited to about four stout drinks a day. In fact I'm to have 3-4 to balance with the thinning qualities of the warfarin and must be precise at blood-testing time. With me it works so well the nurse raves about the balance when she gives me the word after the blood test results.

Your Wrone story is magnificent and the telling superb. Great after the horror of having to listen to the assassins. I did relieve that some by outside work during the lunch break and firewood work after the end of the broadcast.

Elaine will get good at it, a break for Dave and the kids. (By the way, Mike thanked you for the greeting and remembering him some time ago. Forgot to tell you.) Probably Elaine has been scheming something like what she pulled on you since confronted her with a similar problem end 1976. I then sent her an efficient slow cooker with Lil works new wonders and understand now Elaine does also. They'd put up with me for a week.

The day you wrote and commented on the weather, how mild it is here, I was going around as close to barefooted as the 'obst supports permit. That mild. Even the chiggers returned! I learned the itchy way. But they're gone again. Down to 20, with strong winds.

After I wrote I heard from Christian. He said he'd be sending the book and did. Came today. We'll copy inscription. I asked him what I asked you to ask Turner. While I doubt you'll need or want his detachment address, the label was loose and is enclosed.

There is interest in Lane and Jonesville. Today's Newsweek is to have a piece. The Post had been after Lardner, who was reluctant. But he called me from Memphis over the weekend for leads and contacts. I told him wrong city but gave him names of those who might be able to help if only second-hand.

There has been no local reference to CIA, as you report from your papers. But what you say about location, etc., sure sounds like what interests them.

I'm keeping all the stories for Dave, who has a Lane file and interest and raved about what you gave him and the sensational condition of it, by the way. Meanwhile I'm also serving others on this. No initiatives. Maybe he won't get it this time. As I told Lardner, if I didn't tell you about it, from my observation Lane is one who, if he fell in an undercleaned barnyard would get up with a monopoly on fertilizer. Incredible what he has gotten away with.

I've never paid much attention to the off-beat religions - but if you are going to plow a field why not one already fertilized?

Good thing those well-heeled matrons are thinking up things for you to do - and that they are possible. I suspect your Hospice out there is pioneering and is copied in an exceptionally worthwhile endeavor.

Thanks and best,



Sen. Robert F. Kennedy before the assassination, that he has evidence of possible conspirators he saw with him, and that his life and the lives of his entire family have been threatened.

The minister—whose name cannot be revealed at this time for his own security—used San Francisco attorney George T. Davis as his spokesman.

There followed a brief account of how the unnamed clergyman happened to pick up a young hitchhiker in Los Angeles on the day before the assassination whom he later identified as Sirhan. He immediately reported the incident to the Los Angeles police, and shortly thereafter received a telephoned threat. "Keep your mouth shut if you know what's good for you and your family," the anonymous caller warned. A week later the threat was repeated. The clergyman contacted Davis, who appealed unsuccessfully to the Los Angeles police for protection.

According to the article, Davis believed that the clergyman's life was actually in danger and that the police were negligent. "Los Angeles authorities," Davis charged, "have taken the position that there is no conspiracy in this case, so this man's story is not important."

We hurried to Davis' office. He said that the clergyman was one Jerry Owen, who was not only a client but a friend of thirty years' standing. Owen had called him on Friday evening after arriving in the Bay Area, and when Davis couldn't reach us he called the Associated Press because he thought something had to be done without delay. The AP had dispatched reporter Jim White to Davis' ranch near Napa Valley, where Davis had Owen sequestered. The attorney had tried unavailingly to get help from Los Angeles Police Chief Tom Reddin, and had been unable to reach either Attorney General Thomas Lynch or Jesse Uhrh. *

Davis thought Owen's story strongly suggested that Sirhan had accomplices—the three men and a girl who had offered Owen

* Reporter White, who happened to be a neighbor of Turner's in suburban Mill Valley, later gave us a copy of the tape recording he made at the Davis ranch. In the background Davis can be heard placing calls to the police and the Attorney General's office.

\$100 as down payment on the horse Sirhan was going to buy, and who had instructed him to deliver the animal to the rear of the Ambassador Hotel at eleven o'clock on election night. If the police would not guard Owen, Davis said, there was only one insurance policy: "Break this story wide open all across the country!"

Relying on Davis' judgment, we agreed to help. Christian would offer an exclusive national story to his ex-colleagues at ABC, while Turner would act as investigative adviser on any follow-up to the story. We were not discouraged by the fact that the AP story, which had gone out on the national wire Saturday night, had not been widely picked up. Owen had insisted that his name not be used, which detracted from the story's credibility. And the Los Angeles press had been put off by the police labeling the clergyman as a "nut." By producing Owen in the flesh on nationwide television, the story should pack a wallop. And once it was out, anyone who tried to silence Owen would only be adding credibility to his story.

Davis promised to bring Owen before the cameras at ten-thirty the following morning. When Christian outlined the story to the radio and television people, they reacted enthusiastically. It was important that the interview come off on time in order to feed the network in New York, which was three hours ahead of the West Coast.

BY TEN-THIRTY IN THE MORNING THE ABC CREWS HAD THEIR equipment set up in the reception room of Davis' office suite. The room was shut off from the outside but brightened by a large picture window framing an interior garden of subtropical flora. As the clock ticked, the room became enveloped in small talk. And speculation. Who were the other persons? What kind of conspiracy was there?

Finally, at eleven-twenty, Davis appeared and the crews switched on their floodlights. Davis introduced the two men with him as bodyguards for Owen. Apologizing for the delay, he explained that only minutes before, the Los Angeles authorities had called advising that they were flying to San Francisco to "take charge." Davis said that he had finally made contact with Attorney General Lynch, who had personally phoned Chief Reddin in Los Angeles. The