

Dear Jim,

8/29/84

Bill is struggling with another poor loaner typewriter while her/s is again in the shop for repair, but I expect to be able to take the affidavit into town to make the outgoing mail, so it should be on your desk when you get back.

When you phoned last night you mentioned that Mark Allen is working with one of Jack Anderson's associates on some kind of story about the CIA and the amendments. By a carbon of this I'm going to encourage Mark to get in touch with Les. I do not know if Les will have the time or the interest, but he will be helpful if he sees something worthwhile and has the time, and any resulting piece will be much better and accurate. Accuracy is more than important on this. It is essential because the official types can knock almost anything down if they can allege error. Standard FBI SOP, for which they manufacture error if none exists, so expect it of the CIA, too.

I've been thinking about Sandra Gregg's piece in the Post yesterday, on the government page, and I've come to the conclusion that a) it was a plant and b) Gregg is an innocent victim.

The thrust of this piece, on which the timing is excellent for the CIA and its pals, is that the pending amendments are of little significance. There is no mention at all of the controversial CIA amendment. (Maybe nobody on the national desk reads the Times or saw the Burnham piece, or ever sees the Nation, etc., but it strikes me as odd that no editor spotted this as a nothing piece with a purpose to serve that is not journalistic.)

Gregg is of the Post's Prince Georges County bureau, filling in during vacations. She knows nothing at all about the EWIA and for all the talking she did to those she quotes, was entirely unaware of the pending CIA amendment or the controversy surrounding it. She was quite surprised when I told her. And concerned.

She quotes Chairman English, and favorably, and has statistics available from him, without work by her, so I suspect he planted it when he saw the possibilities, particularly because George Gardner is on vacation. The Post would not have carried anything like this if he'd been around!

I'm sending a copy of the affidavit to Les Whitten. I suggest that you and Alan Fitzgibbon and any others who are trying ought not forget Carl Stern at NBC and a person whose name I do not know that ABC has following all restrictions on information. Stern is not his desk, but he has great interest in FOIA and has used it effectively.

I'm reminded of my own dim past when I was fighting the Dies committee and caught it plagiarizing a newsletter to pretend that it, too, was antifascist. A Congressman got up during the debates with the Dies report and photostats of that newsletter and read identical passages from each to show the plagiarism, passed off as a committee report on its own work. What I've given you, especially if there is some print-press attention for a peg, makes this kind of dramatic thing possible and can have some influence when the bill is up for debate. (Nothing could have beaten Dies then but that was a beginning and thereafter nobody in the Congress took him seriously.)

Best,