

Dear Jim (and Mark Allen),

1/4/85

Before you get this you should have received Huff's 12/31/84 letter to me and my response, along with a letter I wrote Gary Mack on the potential importance of keeping anyone from sounding off about this "discovery" of the "Original dictabelt" of the DPD broadcasts. I hope you and Mark will be silent about this until we see if they do anything about going farther, as I asked.

What can be quite important about this is the possibility that it was not the "original" recording of the broadcasts. Yet it is the one the Ramsey panel used as the original, and thus Cabbage (Keuch) had it.

But even if it is the original, there is a good likelihood that the FBI's tape may be of better quality and clarity and thus I want the tape of that period of time.

As you will also have seen, I am interested in the related paper. Among other things it can include a chain of possession, even antecedents.

There also is little likelihood that the belt, whatever its ancestry, got to Washington other than via the Dallas FBI office and that all records are relevant in O322. None was provided to me.

I think the reason is obvious: not filed under JFK assassination and thus withheld as irrelevant, no other file having been searched, if that one was.

There is the separate question of my Criminal Division appeals, copies of which you have, and of the fact that Shea's directive, that all assassination-related records be provided to me, is ignored.

I do suggest, however, that if Mack wants a dub for anyone and does not want to lend his he ought, as I did, offer to pay for an extra one. I am reasonably certain that Mack will lend the copy I'm getting for him to Barger, if Barger wants it, or that with Mack having a copy, I will. I may or may not write Barger separately later, after I complete the en banc. In which I wish there were possibilities of using this except as a footnote, which I've already written.

But do you realize how many times Phillips swore falsely on this? Each time I proved he lied he came up with another sworn lie, which I again proved it to be.

With decent courts this alone would be enough to reopen the case. And make no mistake, the time period is one for which the FBI was forwarding me new records. Those records are where I learned the antecedents of the FBI's tapes of both DPD channels. They also are HSCA records, so Mack should have or get them.

Best,