

12/14/70

Dear Paul,

Your letter of 11/8, note of 9, with enclosures, arrived this a.m. Let me answer in haste for the moment.

First, on tapes and Kelley: I think I can help. Let me know if you'd like me to and if you want dub, cost of which I do not know. I am not aware of the SS having transcribed this, but then there are other things they have done that exists in no record accessible to us, esp. with medical evidence, most of all both kinds of film.

Ferrie complaint: I am my own lawyer. If I explain background to this and some of the objectives, it may be more comprehensible to you. This may be the next thing to which I devote myself. Until there are a few other developments, I may not be able to decide, but I'll keep you posted.

Beginning before Bud left the Senate, I tried to get him to represent me in suit for the suppressed material. He was at first indifferent because his purpose in life was to solve the crime, the ostensible purpose for which he formed his committee (he has since shifted to the position I had, have, and then expressed, but has yet to acknowledge abandoning his original concept when, as I then told him, it turned out to be impossible). Finally, there came a time when Bud agreed to be my lawyer. To this end I did an enormous amount of work, and incurred what for me was a great cost. I duplicated for him all my relevant files, including all correspondence with all government agencies. This took several months of work. Then he stalled. Then he agreed to my suggestion that we separate the Ray/King thing. Meanwhile, at his request, I did as much as a book would have required to draft the complaint of the suit. I had about completed this when he suggested that each item be a separate case, with what I then and now regard and regard as substantial and correct legal reasoning that, unfortunately, was an expensive afterthought. Then, when I had decided upon about five to begin with, he again changed his mind, saying he'd not be my lawyer (that in some cases it would be better for me to be my own anyway, and in part I agreed), but if I prepared drafts of the complaints, he'd edit each in about a week (in more than a year, it hasn't happened). So, I did. Meanwhile, Jim Lesar came to work for him as a volunteer. Jim is graduated but not licensed.

When I showed Bud the draft of the suit for the spectro, he again shifted, saying he'd handle that. He then, without prior consultation, decided upon what he called a "bare bones" complaint, saying nothing but the legal minimum. The kind of thing I did with the Ferrie complaint is not required and rarely, if ever, done. It is my idea and after the experience with the spectro suit, am convinced it is the right approach. I'm skipping much, but I can abbreviate it by saying that despite my personally liking for Bud, he doesn't do the required work and is off on an ego trip. Jim is great. Bud keeps him busy on everything, including rewriting some of a book on a different subject Bud had written. Jim is doing virtually all the Ray work in that office, and between him and me, virtually all of it.

Jim first approached the clothing/pix complaint and did what I regard as an excellent job on it. He then got to the Ferrie one and got bogged down by Bud and his fear, coming from his ignorance of the material. Meanwhile, assuming he had minimal knowledge (which you should assume Bud doesn't, on any aspect), I had dashed it off. There just isn't time for proper outlining of what is to be revised anyway. I had to work that in and around other activities, and I fully expected Jim to do with it as he did with the other, as did he. However, he never had time and he never got over his self-intimidation. He did come up with the beginnings of an acceptable organization. So, I now have to do what they were supposed to do. I'll also include the Cairo and Wasp-fingerprint thing.

It may help you to understand my position. I'm always pressed for time. There is so much I have researched and want to write, so much I'd like to prepare for litigation, so much I have to do around the place and can't (where the not doing can result is expensive damage), and with my own old aircraft-damage suit to pursue, I just can't luxuriate with time-consuming things even if I wanted to. My day is broken by having to take Lil into town after breakfast and getting her back at lunchtime. So, I have to depend upon fragile memory and unwritten organization, schemes I just have in mind and always interrupted by other thoughts of and about other things that are always present and intrude.

I will, however, have to redo the entire Ferrie complaint, including the legal part. The addendum is not required, but I want it and regard it as an important part of what is involved.

Shortly I have to go for Lil, and someone is coming this afternoon, to remain until supertime. So, although I've already done more typing on this than I'm supposed to at any one sitting (buraitis), I'll, mail this when I go for Lil to give you something to think about. I read your letter some hours ago.

My primary objective, of course, is to get what has been withheld. I also have others. These include making a court record, one everyone in the government will have to live with. One the press can use. This does not mean I expect immediate interest, although that can at any time become a possibility. One the judge will have to live with in making any decision. You see, any citizen is entitled to any public information under 5 USV 552, and he does 't have to have a reason. I prefer to explain the reason(s). Also, I believe that in the effort to recapture the credibility all the self-seekers, whores, ego-trippers and nuts have cost us, and to overcome, to the degree it can be, the inherent sycophancy of the media and their general support of the official fiction, there is no present possibility other than the courts. So, aside from getting what is withheld, I have other objectives, all of which I regard as legitimate. In some of it I have to make public domain what is a literary property, but where I regard it as necessary, I do it. The exhibits are in the same class. They are not required. All that is required is to show compliance with the law and the relevant regulations.

In general, without having consulted the draft, your suggestions seem excellent, helpful as I'd anticipated, but I can't respond without taking the time for comparison, which I will try and find soon. The numbering of paragraphs seems to be required. You asked this. The pictures, in part, do refer to the Gun book. Those I have. Part of what is withheld is what Hoover promised to do with this. There is, of course, other Ferrie material. One other thing I recall and answer in haste, for it is about time for leaving: I understand your position on the Marcello/Regis Kennedy report. What you are ignoring is that before that report was written, Ferrie had been arrested and charged, had been interviewed by the FBI, thus his alibi was an important thing to have in some report, and there is no such. One ulterior thing kept it out of this. Kennedy was with Ferrie in that court. They were, when the Garrison thing broke, to laugh about this, and I have the account of a third person of it and intend to use it. Ferrie, in fact, used it. Meanwhile, for several days I just can't do the typing to begin the reorganization. So, if you have any suggestions on breaking the material down when I go over it, sort of an outline, I'd find that very helpful. This refers to the addendum....It may also help your understanding of my approach if you know that there was a virtual revolt inside DJ when the La. vs Shaw case defense was being prepared. To keep the lawyers in line, it was necessary to taken them up to see Fisher, who did that job. I think we should not assume that all are corrupt and should assume, as I rote Mitchell, that the same ones have their past to justify.

Hastily, HW