

2599 LeConte Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94709
April 3, 1976

Norm Kempster
L.A. Times
1700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Norm,

Here is my latest exchange with the CIA, the uncensored version of item 448, and a letter to Marston.

Considering that they took their time answering me, and that you had expressed some interest, the CIA's letter is remarkably awkward. They don't even say in so many words that Belin and Olsen weren't working for them. It is not at all crazy to suggest that the CIA had someone detailed to the Rockefeller Commission, and it would probably have been done at a level lower than Belin. I don't know anything about Olsen, but I would guess that he is an old friend or acquaintance of Belin, who had him put on the staff. You might want to call Olsen.

I find it rather odd that Wilson's somewhat awkward explanation seems to be that an error was made in sanitizing this document for the Church or Pike Committee. It really didn't need sanitizing at all, certainly not for them!

It is amusing that Wilson apologized to me for the error. He should be apologizing to Belin! (Maybe he has done so.) Also, it is silly for him to assure me that only the corrected version will be used in the future - as if I wouldn't find the original version more interesting.

One interpretation is that my comments about Belin to Shannon had some influence on the decision to put Olsen in charge of this area; that is, if taken literally, CIA Item 448 suggests this. If that is true, that might be part of the reason Belin didn't like our book. On the same date that Olsen told the CIA that he, Belin, and Shannon had agreed that Olsen would be "the one to look into this" Belin wrote a letter to the CIA. This is the letter to which the Rocca memo (item 451) was in part a response. It looks as if Belin was quite eager to ask his questions about the JFK case. The cover letter to item 451 indicates that Belin had a number of conversations with the CIA, apparently after April 15. The Rocca memo contains what I think is the only mention of Officer Tippit in the CIA file, which suggests to me that it reflects Belin's position as well as Rocca's. Of course, it is striking that the cover letter includes a disclaimer that Rocca's memo "has not been fully researched and verified" and represents only Rocca's work. Something funny was happening.

I hear that the Church Report is now put off until April 15. Given what happened to Pike and Schorr, I wonder if Church and Schweiker will ever be able to publish good reports - i.e., as well done as the report on foreign assassination plots.

Sincerely,



Paul L. Hoch