

27 March 1970

Mr. Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor  
Computers and Automation  
815 Washington Street  
Newtonville, Mass. 02160

Dear Mr. Berkeley,

Your letter of the 21st arrived only today, thanks to the post office strike, and I thought that I would send you at least some preliminary comments before the strike resumes, as it may. In general, I had regarded the "exposed group" as those the 552 witnesses who gave testimony before the Warren Commission, plus individuals with a direct or indirect connexion with the JFK assassination, as revealed mainly by the WC Exhibits (CEs) and occasionally by other sources. For example, I learned of "Levens" in a phonecall from Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, but as I lack documentary evidence of his death I now feel that I should not have included "Levens" in the deaths listed in Accessories.

Additional deaths: Within the "exposed group" as I have considered it, there are two deaths not included on the lists that accompanied your letter. One is Arthur Mandella, a fingerprint expert of the NYC Police Department who testified before the WC, who died of natural causes in April 1968 (source: obituary in the New York Post). The other is Charles Batchelor, Assistant Chief of the Dallas Police at the time of the assassination, who later became Chief (on the retirement of Jesse Curry) and who died of cancer in late 1969 or early 1970 (source: Joachim Joesten "Truth Letter," verified by Marguerite Oswald in conversation).

Mexican student: Number 34 on the list is Crispin Curiel Gonzalez, who surfaced in June 1968 with sensational allegations about the RFK assassination; was confined to a mental hospital at Juarez on 1 July; and hanged himself three days later with an improvised rope. According to Robert Houghton, in his book Special Unit Senator, Gonzalez had a history of vagrancy, delinquency, and suicide attempts, and was not connected with Sirhan or the RFK assassination.

Subdivision of cases: Most of the names on the lists would fall into three classifications--(1) JFK (2) Martin Luther King (MLK) and (3) RFK. The remaining names might be classified (4) Garrison-connected, and thus in my opinion almost certainly irrelevant, and to be excised from the list, since the whole Garrison "investigation" was a compound of fantasy and fraud; and (5) "Other." The separation into distinct groups seems to me absolutely indispensable to any actuarial calculation, since an omnibus, single list would have infinite extensions (one can link Malcolm X with MLK, or Dag Hammarskjold with JFK, and then encompass the large clusters of individuals involved with each of these two victims, so that the "exposed group" becomes virtually infinite).

My own interest is, of course, primarily in the JFK-connected deaths, and I am not especially knowledgeable about the others. Indeed, much of my information on JFK-connected deaths was derived from Penn Jones and is not always as fully documented as I would like.

Add: Duane Wayne Garner, 30,  
— Johnny 1970, overdose of  
~~transphid~~ heroin

Question of a "fair sample": I am not certain that I understand correctly your question about a fair sample as against a biased one but I assume that what you are after here is an indication of whether or not a specific name genuinely belongs among the deaths. In my opinion, a number of names should be removed because (a) the deaths preceded the JFK assassination, or (b) the connexion of the individual with JFK or the other assassinations is exceedingly tenuous or even non-existent, or in no way "suspicious" as to cause of death, in any case, or (c) because the factual basis for the alleged death or assault is unclear or dubious.

Names to be eliminated:

Reason for deletion

Dorothy Kilgallen (also Mrs. E.T. Smith)

(b)

Guy Banister

(a) and/or (b)

Nicholas Chetta

(b)

**Buddy Walthers**

(c)

Clyde Johnson

(b)

Marguerite Higgins

(b)

Gary Underhill

(b) and (c)

**Karen Carlin**

(So far as I know she is still alive; Penn Jones has always insisted that she is the person listed in Accessories as **Teresa Norton**; I seem to recall that I had established that Carlin testified at the Ruby trial on the same day that Norton's body was discovered.)

DeLessups Morrison

(b)

Robert Perrin

(a)

Mary Sherman

(a) and/or (b)

Carole Tyler (and "pilot")

(a) and/or (b)

**Levens**

(b) and (c)

Hugh Ward

(a) and/or (b)

Lisa Howard

(b)

Eladio del Valle

(b)

Francis Jernigan

(b)

Debatable names: Some names seem prima facie eligible for inclusion among the deaths, but I have misgivings. Rose Cherami, for example, because she seems to have been a long-term mental case, neither rational nor competent. Karyn Kupcinet--only if she was in fact the "mysterious caller."

No information: Professor Henry DeLaune, Hiram Ingram, John Crawford, Robert Kerr.

On balance, the valid list of JFK-connected deaths is, in my opinion, still much the same as the list given in Accessories, from which I would delete "Levens" and add **S.M. Holland**, Arthur Mandella, Charles Batchelor, and **Cliff Roberts**--three apparently natural deaths, and one apparently accidental vehicular death, which would somewhat reduce the proportion of unnatural-to-natural causes.

I hope this information proves useful for your purposes. At the moment, I am recovering from the flu, and faced with a backlog of work come Monday. But do let's try to meet when you visit here next week.

Sincerely yours,

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