

In a Los Angeles mailbox until December 8. Yet today, December 16, Judy got a reply signed by good old J. Edgar Superleuth, himself. (I am enclosing a Xerox'd copy with her name and address cut out.)

My first reaction on seeing this was to burst out laughing. It's so hard to get anything out of these people, and I sometimes wonder how much is ~~XXXXXX~~ simply the red tape of the organization, and how much simply a desire not to answer.

Well what I find hilarious is that here is a case that to them appeared to be an innocent piece of minutiae that could be safely answered and pinged--a reply came right back. I can just see Hoover thinking he's doing this diffident little researcher a big favor by answering it himself, even though it was addressed to Shaneyfelt--and what I think is so funny is that in fact this is a very crucial research item ~~XX~~ if you want to use the head snap argument and base it on the material as labeled in Volume 18.

I place no restrictions on this item as far as circulation among serious students of the case goes, and can't think of any reason why I should. So feel free to reproduce it for use among the people you work with, if they are interested in it.

Meanwhile, the other inquiry was about the existence of assassins behind the wall. That went to Ford, and I'm keeping my fingers crossed. I assume Matile has sent you a copy of the "Ball Letter" on this point. Of course, it would be great to get some blunt sort of ~~XXXXXX~~ foot-in-mouth statement about people being behind the wall on the letterhead of a Warren commissioner. I realize that the letter from Ball is more important because it was indeed Ball who had this as his area of specialty. But when I'm talking to ordinary citizens about the case, a letter from Ford or someone else who is a Commissioner would be a better propaganda item.

I agree with you that the picture in Paris Match is the wrong one from the wrong building etc. Mistakes like this make me wonder about the caliber of their knowledge about the case.

About the conversation with Epstein, I'm very sorry but I didn't make up notes about it. I'm being much more careful about this in the future; anyway, I wrote quite a bit in that letter, and wrote it shortly after the conversation, so it captures the essence of what we talked and argued about. I thought Epstein was and is a rather accessible fellow, so I didn't make a conscious effort to keep notes.

I'll answer your previous letter more fully this weekend.

Sincerely

P.S. I had intended to rewrite and expand on this and other items, but I've been tied up. I'll write soon though.