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September 1, 1979

Mr. John Kinas
c/o Rep. Floyd Fithian
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Kinas:

Thank you for sending me the issue of the Journal of Indiana Law Enforcement with Mr. Fithian's article. It's been useful.

There are, of course, many questions about the work of the HSCA on my mind; the two key ones which you might be able to help me deal with are the status of the Committee's files, and of the acoustics evidence.

You mentioned that Mr. Fithian has already raised the question of access to the unpublished material. In a letter to the Washington Star (rebutting David Belin's claim that the HSCA was too secretive), Mr. Preyer indicated an apparent belief that most of the HSC's testimony has been released. As you know, all of the public session material is published, but very little of the executive session material is. Mr. Preyer's letter did not make it clear that only a small fraction of the testimony taken was replayed in the public sessions. If there has been any change in the status of the unpublished material or if there is likely to be such a change, I would like to hear about it.

I wonder if Mr. Fithian would support a move to turn all the HSC's files over to the Justice Department, thus making them executive branch documents and subject to FOIA requests. Perhaps the House could specifically request that the files be reviewed under the provisions of the FOIA and the Privacy Act, as the FBI and CIA files on the case have been reviewed.

I understand that a separate writeup of "hot leads" has been, or is being, prepared. Can you tell me if this additional information has already been given to the Justice Department, or if (as the New York Times reported) it will be turned over only if the Department decides to pursue the case?

There seems to be general agreement that the Weiss-Aschkenazy analysis should be repeated for the other three shots. Do you know if this is being considered or done, or if in fact the Justice Department is actively pursuing any study of the acoustics evidence, in accordance with the HSCA's suggestion?

Sylvia Meagher has compiled separate indexes to the HSCA report, and to Volumes VII (part), X, and XII. If you would like a copy, please let me know.

With best regards,

Paul L. Hoch
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