

Dear Sylvia,

11/13/80

Thanks for the good wishes. I appreciate your saying no response is necessary, but I'll update you on some things. I don't know how much Paul or Roger told you.

Paul has had a glance at what I've put together, something like 60 file cabinets of various kinds of records. While I was in the hospital the last of what may be the most important single record came - 14 cartons. My wife has just finished placing them in file folders and filing them where, fortunately, I'd correctly estimated the space it would take.

The Dallas filed office had a special index of the various files it would not try to keep secret. (I put it this way because there are other files I've not yet gotten.) In length, the cards are 40 linear feet. The FBI withheld some, rewrote some, but what remains is an especially valuable tool. Because I won another battle, for the cross references where they withheld Dallas field office records on the ground that they were "previously processed" at FBIHQ, in the general releases, we can now, by use of the index, locate all the indexed material, either in the Dallas file or, through these x-refs, in the general releases.

All of this stuff is in the basement, where there are rows of file cabinets and extra lighting for those who use the records. (Also a table and a typewriter for them.) The problem this makes for me is that I've been in the basement only once since mid-September. I tried it yesterday to see if I could get back up. I could, but that does not mean that I can use those files, because I can't. I can't do much bending and any standing at all makes real problems because of what happened to me after successful surgery.

The operation was to replace the artery in the left thigh. From groin to knee it is now plastic. But while I was in the hospital and on medication intended to prevent it, there was new venous thrombosis. The day I was discharged blood clots broke loose and settled in the left foot. There was another operation, to clean that out. It was not possible below the ankle, so there is worse circulation now. The foot is numb, as is part of the leg, both are swollen and there is an assortment of pains and discomforts. I can't sit long, or walk long, and I have to keep the leg both up and down, up for the vein problem and not up for the artery problem. By the time I've walked about 200 steps I have to stop for the pain to ease off.

I don't know how much improvement is expected or is possible, but I do know that what recovery is possible will take a long time and I'm trying to psych myself up for it. I've been told that I'll be lucky to be able to spend 10 minutes at a time outside this winter and right now I can't walk to our mailbox and back, about 800 feet.

My immediate hope is that I'll soon get to where I can sleep the night through. I'm up now about every 30-45 minutes. Generally I fall right back to sleep after letting the leg hang and then walking around a bit, but this morning I gave up at 3:30, and it is not the only such time.

There are still withheld Dallas records. My appeal has finally been acted on, after years and perhaps a file drawer of appeals and documentation of them, which make a separate and historically important record. The decision was bucked upward and I don't know when I'll hear. I expect that as a result I'll be getting at least some additional records, but I don't really know.

The newest remand on the old spectro case is being stonewalled by DJ but that can last only so long. I now have proof of additional shooting-related testing the results of which remain withheld. I also have proof of the finding of the bullet that could have hit the curbstone (Tague) and of the FBI's lack of interest in it, accord to the records. In time I'll be using these and other new information in court.

When that time comes I have a big job ahead of me. This includes the review of a large box of copies of records made in anticipation of the remand while I was going over records as I received them.

What I'll be able to do I'll do. I don't know how much will be possible for Lesar. We have not had any support and the costs have been fantastic. Now when I need help even more there is even less probability of any being available.

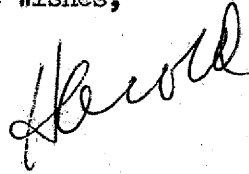
I have all the records exactly as I received them and they are filed by their FBI (and other) file numbers. Each file drawer has its contents notes on the outside and there is also a card file by means of which, if one knows the number of the record, one can determine immediately which cabinet and which drawer within that cabinet to get.

After four years of stonewalling I'm also getting DJ records, as Roger probably told you. In these I've found proof that the LBJ DJ had a special task force in support of the WC's findings. I've filed a request for its records.

As I read records, to the degree possible I've made copies for subject filing. These now fill an entire file cabinet. But with so much paper, without something of this sort retrieval becomes largely impossible.

Hope everything is going well with you.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harold".