

February 18, 1986

Dear Paul,

This afternoon I was listening to William Rogers and Neil Armstrong testifying before the Senate Sub-Committee on Space. Rogers was being questioned about his Commission's staff and procedures, and was urged by one of the senators to use independent investigators. Senator Ernest Hollings chimed in, saying in effect (this is only a rough paraphrase) yes, use your own investigators, we don't want another Warren Report, for pity's sake, people are still having to write books about that, the problem was that the Warren Commission just took what the CIA handed them, didn't try to go behind that. Interesting!

Thanks for your letter of the 11th and the several enclosures. I assume that you write to the Justice Department to establish a record and not because you really expect them to take any action.

I have written to Charns, sending him a copy of your letter to me. You will perhaps be hearing from him.

About Admiral Burkley (I never seem to get any "Burkley" spellings right): I have no objections to your mentioning it or giving out copies, but Roger Feinman does not want a copy of the questionnaire to go to the Justice Department. You hint that you are working with Tony Summers. He is, I believe, the ideal person to go after Admiral Burkley, armed with the 25 questions. I hope that you can persuade him to do that, because he has a marvelous ability to find elusive people and get them to talk.

I cannot tell you much about it, but there is another major book on the JFK assassination in preparation. I am rather depressed about it, because while it suggests that Mafia killers did the actual shooting and that Ruby killed Oswald for the Mafia, it also seems to argue that Castro or Khrushchev were really behind it all. Only James Harris has ever suggested anything like that, and it is all too easy to dismiss him. This writer, however, has excellent credentials. Sorry I can't say more about it.

On Luis Alvarez: no comment, except perhaps that he should stick with dinosaurs.

P.S. Roger Feinman just called to say that we should not try to put Burkley on the defensive, because he may still be under military secrecy orders. Roger also thinks that Sylvia Chase, now with ABC-TV on the coast, working with Summers, might be helpful in re: Burkley. I don't agree with Roger on this matter, because if we don't pressure Burkley now, he will soon be beyond our reach and we will have lost a priceless opportunity.