

By 1/14

Dear Paul,

1/6/78

The 3rd mailing headed with your FBI DOCUMENTS and dated 3/26, I presume 78, sent to SM and MF, came yesterday. I send a copy of this to Sylvia, not Mary, because I'd heard this week that she is not well.

Perhaps if I begin with an explanation that may be a little redundant to you it may help.

In many ways I get along rather well. If I'm no longer a young man of 62 I walk rather well and do some work rather well. But a flight of steps is a problem and too the limit. I can't make two long flights, as in the DJ building, as I learned when I tried it. Some days I can do less, for no apparent reason. Others I can work at what can be hard work but I do it at my pace. When the dam temperature was up to 25 yesterday and with the (accurate) prediction for snow I chopped and sawed up all the accumulated small wood from branches and saplings after a friend was here and cut some decent firewood for me. I got it all onto the porch and all the better pieces the friend sawed under cover. It did tire me but I wanted to get it all done before snow because last years first lasted until the end of March. What remains now is merely brush, no pieces over a half inch. I have a new mauler I'll run it through when I can and get it all back to nature, as happens even with the ashes. My arms are no longer flabby, as they got with illness and limited activity, but I can do much with them over my head, I presume from the arterial problem. I can carry some but not as before, a carton of my books up from the cellar is my limit and then I have to rest a bit.

I'm keeping all the records I get as I get them. I have had to set up many files in the basement, as you saw. I'm trying not to put them into files until each volume can be placed in an identifying file folder. The student I had going this got a better job and I'm without help, save for the little Lil can do. This has created a living-room problem. I have eight unopened cartons in the basement, the Dallas "alkys, and six in the living room (plus about 4-6 smaller ones). One of these six is a New Orleans box, about 20 inches of N.O. records. The other five came yesterday without a covering letter. I checked two cartons. One is a 105 file, or has a 105 file in it, the other had a 62-109060. They are so tight and have no binding soce clip I made me further check not to risk mechanical damage. When school starts again I'll see about new help.

I can't go up and down the steps to consult the cellar files. Where possible, as with the initial Dallas files, I went over them before filing them and made copies of the records that appeared to be interesting or useful and set up a special file of them. I'll do that with N.O., which is a single box. (So far, I hope). There should be more.)

Now I also have to be more careful about stairs. The Sunday before Xmas, for no apparent reason, I lost consciousness. I was aware it was coming on and started to make my way from the porch into the living room and made it, without consciousness, almost to a chair. Fortunately, a friend was with me and it was all okay. It appears to come from the circulatory impediments. But because of the high level of anti-coagulant on which I live I'm under strict injunction against falling, or bruising in any way. Or cutting. They even keep me in the lab for 15 minutes after withdrawing the fine needle through which blood samples are taken, to be sure I don't continue to bleed.

However, the physical activity is the best medicine for me, physically and emotionally. This year I began to get the place in shape again, a little at a time, inventing new means as I went. Some of my neighbors still marvel at what I was able to do, especially because so much of it was dense briars, now all gone, all chewed up and returning to nature.

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There are only two things that can interfere with my physical activity. One is the weather, the other the needs of FOIA cases. When the weather precludes outside work I get artificial exercise inside but it is not nearly as good.

After daylight today's will be beginning to shovel the snow off the lane that you may recall is the length of a football field. That activity, which became chipping ice never less than six inches thick, was last winter's activity - and I do mean ALL winter!

During my rest periods yesterday I read your top memo, skimmed the enclosures, and then read and marked the list and index. Not until this morning did I realize that the list is probably Sylvia's because the form is different than yours. So I provide an explanation for her that I believe I gave you months ago and add to it.

I have located and am getting indices the existence of which was kept secret. I also have this in mind, where I have the index to the so-called prosecutorial volumes. One of the special Dallas indices is being copied for me now. I expect the others. These will be of great value to all of you if you do not foreclose yourselves as I think you are now doing with what may be necessary arbitrary file designations but I also believe should never eliminate the FBI file numbers. If your own records do not identify by FBI file identifications how will you ever be able to retrieve from the index which is in those terms?

When I saw listings of potential significance in some of the litigation to get more records, and possibly much more than that, if you are willing to believe me, and no way of retrieving them from the great mass here, which for the period of your names are in individual folders, it was initially a frustration because I'd written you about this. However, when I realized that first of all we'd just made the last possible filing in that particular suit and then that for a day or so I'd not be able to move the cartons that block access to those particular files into which they are to be integrated the frustration passed off. However, there is the possibility of some of those records, which I've not been able to go over, having considerable importance in for example the Spectro/MAA suit. (No ref. to MAAs in index. No such records? Can be very important, esp. after Quinn's testimony, which I think you do not fully comprehend.) This was the sending to Dallas of FBIHQ records on Spectro after the initial report that Curry printed. My recollection may be wrong but I think about March or April and I did not get the impression that it related to the JEC clothes. If you recall anything like this it would be good to have as soon as possible so I can prepare what Jim may need for oral arguments, which will be coming up.

In this connection you may want to recall the significance of the earlier suit, the end result and the temporary impediment represented in your PA records. (I've not yet read them but in flipping saw one which can use this coming week.) Jim and I turned it all around with that suit. With a fink judge the DJ is trying to undo it all with this and other current suits. And we do have fink judges!

As I sat and rested and read the list I tried to think of the minimum that would interest me and others I know. I marked the lists intending to send you a list of the numbers. Then I realized that selecting them would be a chore and then thought that perhaps, especially with the interests of others, I had been too chinky in order to save you time. So I'll ask you please to send me all, for which a check will be enclosed. As I read them, the volume not being that great, I may come across what can interest others and Bill will then make copies for them. (For example I have a friend who is well cued into the Kefauver records and people. The list mentions them and indicates the situations looked into but not the name of that committee.)

So I'll enclose to each a copy of the list as marked up. To SM this will give some indication of special interests. If you'll be good enough to enclose it with the copies when you send them it will jog my memory.

There still appears to be virtually no recognition of the significance of these FOIA actions. (Jim estimates that we have 10 cases in court now - I can't keep track even of their numbers any more.) Perhaps the Bronson matter will help others do some rethinking. If it were not for my C.L. 75-0322 we'd not have that and were that the AIB people missed in going over those records in the reading room. I make what efforts I can with these things and then have to keep plugging. Otherwise the cases will not be fought and I'll never get to reading any records.

Despite the fact that we do have fink judges the potential is enormous in these law suits. It will be more apparent to you when you come to recognize how opposite the reality your appraisal of Blakey personally is and you realize all that can come from what this finking committee has been doing and will yet do.

(And what an opportunity we missed by not having meaningful responses when that was possible!)

In the most recent past I prepared a 49-page analysis of the alleged evidence of John May as a co-conspirator, the committee's own, Jim, who was ill during that period and whose daughter also was ill briefly, had to file it as it was, a retyped rough draft. He's gone over it and thinks it is okay. So has "Archer, by the way. The actuality is not the insanities created by Lifton and the AIB and perpetuated by both in their ego-tripping. These as you should be able to see are exploited by the bankrupt committee. The stuff is so bad that it would have been laughed out of a moot court in a law school for subnormals. There is no basis for any of it. Period. Take this literally. And evaluate Blakey by it, if you can.

Immediately after that a 36-page affidavit in the spectro/EA case. In it at the very least for the future we have an absolutely incredible record, none rebutted, on the basic facts of the crime and investigation. The case, not just this affidavit. However, it is probable that others saw records that could have helped with the litigation or with just making an even better historical record. Nobody said anything if anyone noticed anything of this sort. With the number of records read by as many people it simply isn't possible that no single one saw a single potentially useful record. In this I am saying that at the best the importance of these cases is not in the minds of those who go over the records. Nor for that matter is how so many of them are available - from FOIA cases and anticipation of others.

I'm sorry about this because it means we do less well than we could. Most of the records hold no personal value for me. Getting them precludes my doing the work I want to do. So while there can be excitement over such things as the Bronson file there was no help at all in breaking those records free. From the absence of comment reaching us there also appears to be ~~no~~ no particular interest in the two ex. sens. transcripts the getting of which represent so great a cost to Jim and me. As you know I merely gave them away and continue to fight the case for the Ford transcript, which for my own writing holds no interest for me. (I'm hopeful that the continued resistance to disclosing it and the effort to meet by giving us the two may lead the appeals court to address what happened throughout that case. If it does it may help in other FOIA matters at a time, whether or not you realize it, there are great efforts to nullify or at least circumvent the Act. Even your Blakey get into that act, if you correctly understood the public-relations gimmick called a report, just as the WC did with its first chapter.

Thanks for the list and the copies. Sincerely,