

HSC: No news is good news? I'm still expecting mid-June, but the end of June wouldn't surprise me.

Clipping:

- *** 1. 16 May 79 Wash. Star [1 p.] "Don't write off a second gunman"
Letter from G. Robert Blakey, replying to Belin's op-ed piece of May 6 (which was, I am told, essentially his "National Review" article). Quite strong; cites grassy knoll earwitnesses; Belin wasn't called in public because his book had nothing new to say, etc.; the HSC was more in control of its processes than the WC; Belin has libeled the able members [all but 4 are named] by suggesting otherwise.

FBI File Preservation:

- *** 2. 9 May 79 Letter to Sen. Kennedy (and others), signed by JG for the AIB (and others), opposing the FBI's policy of destruction of old files, especially in the field offices. [1 page, unless you want a copy with all the signatures shown, not just listed - that's 3 pp.]
- *** 3. 26 May 79 PLH letter to Rep. Don Edwards, same topic, consisting of examples from the JFK case; prepared to supplement that letter. [2 pp.]
- * 4. (9 May 79) Press release accompanying item 2. [4 pp.] (Contact person is Kevin O'Donnell, National Commission on Law Enforcement and Social Justice, Church of Scientology.)
- * 5. Material from Fund for Open Information and Accountability ["FOIA"], Inc., NYC: cover letter [1 p.], questionnaire, primarily for FOIA requestors of files which were destroyed [2 pp.], description of their "Save the Files" project lawsuit [3 pp.]

The following articles, all from The Nation, are relevant:

- *** 6. 22 Oct 77 [4 pp.] "Double Entry Intelligence Files," by Athan Theoharis (Good stuff, especially on the FBI's internal procedures. He's got a book out, I understand - has anyone seen it?)
- * 7. 4 Feb 78 [4 pp.] "The FBI Shreds its Files: Catch in the Information Act" by John Rosenberg. Covers his experiences trying to get the files on an anti-FBI New Dealer, Clifford Durr.
- *** 8. 3 June 78 [2 pp.] "The FBI Would Shred the Past," John Rosenberg. Current policy and plans.
- ** 9. 3 March 79 [2 pp.] "Follow-up: The FBI's Field Files" (Rosenberg) Re Archives study of FBI rules.

lot of new evidence to persuade me.

Consider, for example, Oswald's release from jail in New Orleans. Kur said Nofio Pecora bailed him out. According to Mrs. Charles Murret (CD 75, pp. 159-161), Oswald called their home from the NOPD, talked to Joyce, who went to the station and was reluctant to help when she found out what Oswald had been doing; a policeman supposedly suggested that they save \$25 by getting Oswald released by "one of the city or state officials who has the power of parole." Joyce contacted Emile "Bruno," a family friend and liquor store owner, who contacted someone else, who had Oswald paroled. [See also 8H175.] Emile Bruneaux is indexed to CD 6, p. 104 (which I don't have!); Nofio Pecora is not. Maybe this story is false, but in any case someone had better explain to me how the bailing out of Oswald fits into a conspiracy hypothesis. Is this how the Mob learned Oswald existed? (They could have seen him on TV.) Was there an exchange of favors? ("We saved you \$25, now go shoot the President.") Was Oswald already under mob control? (If so, wouldn't they have given him the \$25 in advance, or just let him sit in jail?) Or, maybe, was Pecora just doing an innocent favor for a relative of a perhaps-not-so-innocent friend (Dutz)? Except for the issue of motive - which the Mafia certainly had - is the link to Dealey Plaza any more solid than what you could come up with against the CIA, the Russians, Castro, rich Texas oilmen, or whoever?

I should probably reread the relevant parts of the Moldea and Ewing-Fensterwald books, to see what kind of case could be made against the Mafia without the benefit of the HSC's new evidence. Moldea, for example, gives a quote from Ralph Salerno (unfortunately, without date or source), saying that "There is no solid evidence yet" that Marcello, Trafficante, Hoffa or other criminal types conspired to kill JFK, but that Oswald (wittingly or not) did them a big favor. What would we think if the HSC's top consultants had included anyone who had said something like that about Castro, or LBJ, or anyone else?

Critics' Conference: As I mentioned earlier, a transcript is available; it's 415 pages. It has its moments, I guess, but I wouldn't recommend it, except for participants. I've got 2 pages of very crude notes, plus a 4-page index prepared by Sylvia. There's very little in it about the HSC - except an indication that "Oswald and organized crime" was on Blakey's mind (among other possibilities for a conspiracy) fairly early in the game.