

February 20, 1979

Dear Sylvia,

Thanks for your letter of the 12th. I see that I failed to make it clear that the matching of people with topics in my "investigative plan" was totally my ~~own~~ own idea, and that none of the people listed had yet made any commitment to any joint effort. The confusion was my mistake, and was in no way the AIB's fault. I appreciate your position, and of course I'll take your name off any copies of that draft of the plan which I send out in the future. My idea was to match up key topics with what I expected people would be doing anyway, and see where that left us in terms of uncovered areas.

Peter Scott is also fairly eager to get his hands on the 100,000 FBI pages. He is trying to round up enough money on campus to get the library to buy the microfilm copy. I'm somewhat less enthusiastic about getting into that material - partly, I suppose, because if I put a lot of money into it I'll feel obligated to spend a lot of ~~time~~ time on it, and I don't seem to have any spare time. Also, I've spent a lot of time going through CD's at the Archives and I figure that on the whole the 100,000 pages are even lower-grade ore. But I'm sure there is lots of stuff of considerable value - at least a couple of thousand pages.

(Peter, ~~by~~ by the way, is ~~going~~ going through 30 microfilm reels of COINTELPRO files now. Nothing sensational related to the JFK case so far, but lots of interesting stuff.)

As far as I know, nobody is working on the FBI files systematically now. Have ~~x~~ you talked to Bob Ranftel? I think he's fairly available to spend some time in the FBI building, although his feeling is that the files have been pretty well tapped. (He's at 1743 Park Rd. NW, DC 20010; 202-232-4452; he does get up to NY fairly regularly. He's a very sensible guy, and very ~~pleasant~~ pleasant to work with.)

One ~~frustrating~~ frustrating thing is that there are Xeroxes of these files sitting around basically unused, but none ~~what~~ that we can get our ~~hands~~ hands on. Harold is free with access to his set, but he can't make copies for distribution, and if you're down there you may as well go to the FBI building. I suspect that the copies bought by people like Newsweek and AP are basically gathering dust. I've toyed with the idea of trying (again) to make a deal with some of ~~these~~ these people - first crack at anything we find, in exchange for a copy (or even the ~~loan~~ loan of a copy). Unfortunately, Dave Martin was out of ~~town~~ town when ~~x~~ I was in DC, and I don't know anyone ~~else~~ else well enough personally to approach with this. (Also, I literally don't have room for any big chunk of those files.) Maybe you will want to check out the possibility of getting the files this way - maybe a box at a time. Offhand, I don't know of anyone in NY who has a set. (CBS and the NYT might.)

Enclosed is a memo on what's recently available (FBI and Archives releases, clippings, and HSC volumes), along with 143 pages of FBI stuff and 52 pp. of executive sessions. Let me know if you want the rest of the FBI items listed in the inventory worksheets (or any specific ones).

I'm looking forward, not so much to the HSC report, as to their volumes. I'm told that the panel reports are still officially embargoed, but that our chances of getting them are increasing daily. You might want to see if Baden and/or Wecht will give you anything. (I'm really curious about Baden's report.) We can tell people that we've signed the nondisclosure agreement ~~too~~ too.

With best regards,

Paul

PLH

*Replied by hand
2/25/79 enclosing
check for \$25.00*