

Dear John,

10/19/77

Because it took my wife an entire day, more than a normal working day, to reorganize the Memphis files about which I wrote you she did not get around to writing the check and I therefore did not mail the letter which said the check was enclosed.

I have found the sheet you sent headed MEMPHIS MURKIN FILES very helpful in going over records of this volume. I presume each FO has some such record and that you will be kind enough to enclose them with these yet to come. As what follows will illustrate, it can be very helpful to you in getting this over and done with because it can help me specify withholdings to you earlier.

Yesterday and to lunchtime today I went over half of the personal files I received Monday and all 20 volumes of MFO Sub E plus about five other volumes.

Unless there is filing by other than the subjects indicated there are Memphis files that have not been provided and other files that are relevant to another and long-over request of which you have some knowledge, my PA request. Based on SubE Serial 1681 alone I am asking that all the records on or related to me from the Baltimore, Dallas, New Orleans and Memphis offices be provided now. They should have been provided two years ago in accord with that request. I told Tom Wiseman about this but he had no interest in seeing to it that there be as few problems as possible in compliance. He preferred to swear that there never were any other suspects.

If my wife can get back to making copies I'll enclose a copy of this Serial to save you time. I add that the attachments to which there is reference was not attached. And that I provided the pictures referred to for precisely the point made by McKnight, someone pretty obviously had copied one of the so-called tramp pictures. I had done much work on them because of all the irresponsibilities associated with their misuse. The account of the Dallas police is correct from all I've learned, if incomplete.

I received copies of the picture and the sketch in April 1968, shortly after the assassination. I happened to pick my mail up at the post office that morning. It is across the street from our local paper, where I have friends. I had an extra set so I provided them to the AP Baltimore office, whether or not it did as AP New York later did, gave them to the FBI. I left them with the local paper for AP, as I recall, because it is an AP member of went there to get an envelope suitable for mailing and returned to the post office and mailed them myself. Our resident agent, I suppose now in charge with others assigned here, was at the BFO that day but on his return he got the copies I had for the FBI. I presumed this would lead to the investigation I thought indicated, someone faking evidence for the FBI to waste time on or be misled by. (Later I did a little more and know a little more about what happened. This involves some of the pictures I've indicated remain withheld.) I don't care that much that I did not get these pictures back, but I do care about this persisting non-compliance more than a year after I informed the FBI through Wiseman and Blake and Dugan, too, and with this added proof of deliberate non-compliance with the PA request. You have not read what has been provided but the HQ Murkin file shows that propaganda on me was sent to the MFO to make available to unspecified Tennessee authorities, a written report was asked for and I've not received that under the PA request or from the HQ Murkin files or so far as I know by any other means.

There is no reasonable doubt that your SF and NYC FOs also have relevant records on this. Probably Minneapolis and Washington, too, if not also others. This is from memory. I did display these pictures at a Minneapolis press conference that was attended by a member of the press not known to those known to be members of the press.

The Al Chapman referred to in the Serial has a long history with these pictures. Or he is referred to, I think, in a teletype just before this one. Dallas has pretty certainly a file of relevant records.

None of the many pages in the 20 volumes of Sub E has reference to what I know the MFO had on this from its source, also my source, as a reading of Frang-Up should have told Ralph or other analysts. My friend Matt Herron, then of Pine Street, New Orleans, was in Memphis on photographic assignment for Newsweek. He worked for Black Star. He provided much to the MFO of which I have not received a single thing. Understand, as the book states,

that I have dubs of the tapes of his interviews, part of what he made available to the MFO. If you read that part of Frame-Up relating to Reddick (Redditt) and the firemen you'll recognize that the MFO was more informed than the records provided indicate and had cause for more of a contemporaneous investigation than has been provided. I do have Herron's notes, as if I did not tell you, I have Sartor's. Without checking my files I'm certain that Herron gave a report involving a policeman in prior knowledge of the crime an an elected public official. With all the record-keeping I've seen and all the checking of all the really farout I have difficulty believing that when someone from Newsweek gave information of this nature to the field office there is no record.

This reminds me no written statements of any witnesses have been provided, one of the reasons I selected those Volumes for immediate reading. I don't recall whether those I interviewed told me they gave written statements to the FBI but I think some did.

The Russell X. Thompson and it is no secret allegedly Rufus "Jack" Youngblood, aka sausage and eggs man (is it Crawford?) story is represented by a single and entirely inadequate record. There has to be more and it has to include of more recent date. Jim has just written the AF about another aspect involving DJ CRD in which he filled in all the improperly withheld names. I have skimmed Thompson's files and heard his "Benavides" tapes and there is a whole hot money or hot paper rather story that is part of it. This is a separate crime, as you know, so you should realize there are many reasons for there having to be records belonging in HQ of MFO Sub E files that I've not been provided. If any show up in other Subs that Ralph Sharp does not recall I'll write you and tell you. My purpose here is compliance.

Among the other subs I've read are those on the checking of phone calls. They do not include what New Orleans has to have checked and has to have reported to OO, "emphis. The fact is that my original source was not Ray or Stein or Jerry Cohen but the notes of one who had gone over FBI records in 1968. I've done a fair amount of work on those phones and I do want all the records relating to them. Separate from what may show in NO FO files there have to have been MFO records.

Stein's recollection was wrong, by the way. The pay phone was not in Texas and not at a gas station, unless there were more such calls than Stein reported. At least one was from closer to Los Angeles than any place in Texas and from a bar or similar establishment. Good think the OPR crew did not know. But if there was a good Chicago investigation relevant records are there because the call was to Jerry Ray. Now that Jerry has said so publicly I have no problem in disclosing this to you.

At the time I first saw references to the crook who conned the LA Times in the HQ files I raised a question about withholding his identity. I repeat it from the records in Sub E. My recollection may be flawed, more so today because I'm more tired than usual, but I think he fed Cohen and his editor a real name otherwise reported to the FBI, Eddie Wilburn, together with all the nonsense. He ~~was~~ or Pierce denied any Garrison connection but there was a pilot of similar if not identical name of interest to Garrison. This part is of no special interest to me. I report it in the event it is of interest to the FBI. I think these pages were in Volumes around 15-17 of E.

This sub contained a single reference to the Two Sisters in New Orleans. There were more such records in HQ files but they were masked. I hope that in the processing of the New Orleans files this will not be repeated or the other things like that 623 Royal Street address or I'll have to make an issue of it. That place also figured in Garrison's interest.

There also was a reference to Joe Louw. I think there are more in NY FO, for example. I also believe this is relevant to what is currently before the judge because Louw processed his pictures at Earnest Withers'. I am inclined to believe that where photographers' names have been withheld, as I think I claimed improperly, Withers' name is among them. There are other indication of the existence of other records relating to the Louw pictures and not provided to me. MFO knew where Louw was and for what purpose, which makes a seeming lack of initiative seem extraordinary to me. And it has none of Withers' pictures? He was there, too.

I wish I did not have to take so much time writing about "compliance." Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg