

Bronson

Dear Jim,

1/25/78

You may or may not need this information in some of the FOIA cases but I want a memo in file.

Last night I had a long phone conversation with Gary Mack. Of minor consequence is the successful effort of those who ultimately were able to do something with the Bronson film to keep others, including those they worked with, from knowing its antecedents. Gary made the trip to see Bronson with Earl Gols after Jerry got the Bronson reports to Gols. Neither knew I obtained these reports in C.A. 78-0322, therefore neither phoned me to see what else I knew or had.

Mack has been in touch with Robert Croff, who is so diffident he refuses to check his slides now even for the FBI. Just won't talk about subject or make his slide available. He also surfaced in the same suit. I don't know if all I gave reached Mack so when I have time I'll duplicate the films and send it.

Gary made a voluntary switch from TV to the FM station KPJZ. He says it tops all AMs in Dallas-Fort Worth area. 817/292-9656. Home 817/ 731-6301. Personal preference and he likes what he is doing better. Making out fine.

When he first heard the Dallas police tape in 1977, Penn's copy, he was surprised that nobody had ever wondered if an open mike picked up sound of shots. He got Gary's better copy and did the original filtering based on which he detected seven events. He has not called all of these shots. You may remember he wrote a piece for Penn's newsletter that Paul W. sent me.

His information from inside the committee is that Blakey intended this as the ultimate put-down, the Super Umbrella ploy. It backfired. And after McLain was tentatively identified Blakey used Richard (nut) Sprague to prove McL. does not show in any pic. Simple with misidentifications. Meanwhile, Gweden had located other films, including one taken from other side of triple underpass and they leave no doubt that McL.'s recollection is quite wrong when he says he tore off, sirens screaming, with the motorcade. He didn't, although he may have gone later. Therefore he had no siren on.

Gary says that Bronson and his wife and fine people, unselfish and helpful and that the lawyer is sharp but reasonable and anxious not to have misuses, irresponsibility, etc. Refuses any Inquirer offer, for example, and was not taken in by typical LIFE effort to snaffle original. They did not accept his offer of a clear copy for examination. He is having computer analysis made by a university, separate from Blakey, whose cost estimate was eight times higher than the job is being done for. I suppose that when it is done he'll see what he can get for his client. Separately study copies will be available.

I had thought that the FBI mislabeled the film as it usually did because it did not study the marginal material, between the sprocket holes. You may recall my early criticism of this and disclosure of what the FBI avoided. But in the case I was wrong. Gols spotted a brief view of the TMBD on projection. Turns out to be a sequence of 92 frames, I suppose including those in which the building does not show on projection.

One frame was selected for computer analysis, I think by the committee's photo panel. Babby Hunt alone recommended against analysis. This one frame shows images in two 6th floor windows. The analysis fixed on the less clear one as a test of potential. It shows a man in a white shirt. So Gary believes that when the analysis also focuses on the more clear it will be more definitive. He says that two men show in this frame and that the (green?) color of his shirt is apparent. I think he said that other frames show 3 men in all.

I am prepared to believe this on a very simple basis: it merely tends to confirm my own earliest work, in the first book, on the fact that someone had to be there to move the boxes pictures I located show had been moved.

More on Pate and I was correct in describing his tape as a fake. Pate had been criss-crossing ahead of the motorcade for his part of KBOA's coverage. He was at the Stemmons

freeway entrance, or the other side of Triple Underpass. He did not have a special radio van and he was not in Dealey Plaza. He was to the west of it. Gary has spoken to him at length and I suppose he has less trouble levelling with locals than with the Washington or New York press.

He had his own suite, normal in radio reporting, with an AM, Police and station radios. The setup was that when he was preparing to broadcast his AM was out off automatically but not the police radio. AM broadcast of his own station would have meant feedback, I'm sure. So there he was, the motorcade approaching and his police radio on. He heard about what happened on the police radio.

Before he left that station that morning he left word for all the broadcast to be taped. It was. All the tapes seem to have disappeared very fast. Here is how he learned that. (Gary, by the way, has located and heard copies of some, several hours of it.)

A record company, having heard that it was all taped, asked for the tapes for its records, what later appeared in Four Days. They could not find any of those tapes so they made a "reconstruction" of what I have called the fake. And is.

Gary has multi-source reports of other pix he has not been able to obtain.

This can perhaps explain McGrath's refusal to make a date for my examination of the pix they have at FBIHQ as something more than their usual stonewalling.

One I recall from this conversation with Gary is an accident. The CBS-TV station was filming a turkey shoot just before the assassination, at Stortedrome, when by accident it filmed the one referred to as a false Oswald. The son of the owner recalls this well. A station veteran recalls only that CBS borrowed the footage and he has not seen it since. Three people were involved in that. Gary has descriptions. One did resemble Oswald.

Tristram,