

2/17/78

Dear Roger,

Glad to get your 2/14. And that you are seeing to it that school comes first.

I'm not now able to go over the FBI records. I ask Hoch for some of those he lists where they appear to have special relevance. To date the net has been good if you don't expect bombshells. So I've seen only those records others have examined and asked me about. None has related to CBS.

If the FBI has not responded to your request re the supposed tape recordings why not appeal? If you appeal is not acted on file a complaint about May. That is simple and you can go to the head of the calendar and be your own lawyer during vacation.

Sylvia regards Hoch as an agent. While I shared her disenchantment over the business of his melontry and a few other things, perhaps, I am certain he is not. His mind works the way his mind works and whether or not others, including me, like it, that is his right.

Have you considered filing a Privacy Act/FOIA request for all the records on you? It might be helpful to you in your other case in which you'd like a settlement. If you do this file with HQ and xerox copies for the NYC filed office and if there is another one where you live, one to it, too. Include full identification of they'll ask for it and take more of your time.

I've not been trying to follow the Oswald repayment but I am interested in having references or copies for when I can return to that writing. Same for mail cover. While I also would assume this I have no proof of it.

Wan't able to follow the Aspin committee. Why not write and ask them? Or ask your own Congressman to get the stuff for you.

Why don't you tell Hoch you are interested in anything on CBS? You don't have to tell him or AIB why. 2599 LeCente Ave., Berkeley 94709.

Hope you can make it this summer.

As others use the new records I'll be establishing files of copies of what they take so their interests can be protected. I have also been making a card list of the volumes they go over in the event those following want to avoid what has been examined.

I believe this will save you time in making research.

And who knows--by June I may have the first 40,000 pages, too. I doubt the field offices will comply by then. But I've started with Dallas and N.O.

Hope you are not finding the law boring as a study. I'm delighted that you made it into law school, hope you do well at it and look forward to many good works because of it in a couple of years.

Best wishes,

2/14/78

Dear Hal,

I just got the stuff you sent to me on the 9th. Thanks. Law school is leaving little time to keep track of what's been going on. Most of what I hear comes from Sylvia. She's been getting packets of documents from the FBI releases from the AIB and Hoch, but these packets are obviously a miniscule portion of the whole. I am looking through them anyway. There are a couple of goodies relating to the FBI/CBS sweetheart relationship. If you spot any of these, I'd appreciate it if you would flag them. I am astounded at your good fortune in getting the second batch for free.

I looked through the Committee's interim report of a couple of weeks ago and was encouraged to see that they are questioning the authenticity of the autopsy x-rays and photos and also looking into the possibility of tape recordings of the shots. The latter is particularly interesting: I had given Sylvia my FOIA requests and research concerning the Pate recording (which was used in adulterated form by CBS in "Ruby and Oswald") when she went down a few months ago to speak to the committee. The FBI never responded to my requests, and I have no knowledge yet as to whether the material I requested from the FBI was included in the stuff just released. If the committee can get what I was looking for, so much the better. Howard should be interested in this too.

Speaking of CBS's recent show, it was so disgraceful as to hardly deserve much comment. I was gratified to see the almost unanimously unfavorable reviews (O'Connor of the Times was the only one who gave CBS some points over ABC's "Trial"). I personally don't think that CBS News's public disassociation from the program reflects any voluntary decision on Salant's part. I think my dormant lawsuit against them put the heat on the Company to disassociate CBS News. As I say, the lawsuit is dormant; I've got to begin documentary discovery. At this point, I'd like to simply pressure them into a settlement, but we'll see what develops. School is taking up a lot of time.

Incidentally, it appears that CBS has the FBI documents also. They've been giving stuff to Hoch (most of it worthless), and Hoch has been passing it around. If it wasn't for the fact that the documents Hoch has sent to Sylvia are meaningless drivel, I'd suspect that Hoch is working for CBS on a consulting basis. In any case, I have nothing to do with him personally, yet.

Sylvia and I have been discussing Oswald's repayment of the State Dept. loan, particularly the January 1963 payments. Were Oswald's personal money order receipts ever turned up? I don't mean thereceipts that the State Dpt sent him, but the receipts LHO would have gotten when he purchased the money orders? Also, what about the covering letter Oswald apparently sent to the State Department along with the two money orders on which he apparently forgot to put his name and account ~~number~~ number?

The second question Sylvia and I have been discussing recently is whether the FBI had a mail cover operation on Oswald after he returned to the US from the USSR. We feel that this almost surely was the case.

As I am writing this, I am anticipating the final installment of Abby Mann's King drama tonight on NBC. This one is ~~is~~ of particular interest, of course, because it deals with the assassination. Thus far, however, I am unimpressed with Mann's fidelity to historical fact. From the advance reviews I've read, I gather that he is heavily influenced by Lane. Well, at least ~~the~~ the question of conspiracy will be raised.

One final thing. I made the tremendous omission of never writing to the Aspin committee on the CIA and the media. Do you know whether and how much material they have put out? I have in front of me the AIB's Jan-Feb 1978 newsletter. In discussing the CIA/Media hearings on page 8 of the newsletter, the AIB refers to Colby's effort to steer CBS's Les Midgley toward the "Castro-did-it" line. Are there any documents on this? Did Midgley testify?

As you can well imagine, I feel as though I'm in a submarine when it comes to recent developments concerning the assassinations. It all ends (temporarily) on June 5th, when I take my last exam for the year. Until then, I am interested in hearing about anything that will have a bearing on (a) CBS (or information concerning the FBI's contacts with other networks which might illuminate the CBS story); (b) the autopsy and all things medical; (c) the tape recordings; and (d) your spectro investigation. The rest will have to wait until summer when I can begin to act like a human being again, and hopefully track down to the Weisberg Archives and residence to see one of my best friends.

Take care,

Ray

PS - If you see anything that would pay for me to follow - there is requesting documents from CBS, by all means My collection of CBS material is weakest in the 1964 area, although still superior to anything outside of their HQ.

A.