

11/12/69

Dear Paul and Gary,

Last December, at the time we extricated him from the then-current crisis, we were led to believe that, with the pending litigation completed, Jim would be through with the Kennedy assassination. This was not as explicit as it could have been. He then also agreed to turn the case over to Alcock and concentrating on getting re-elected. He sure as hell did that!

As soon as the election was over, I heard radio comments several times in which he was quoted as saying the investigation is over. However, before then and since I have been led to believe it is not. I do not know whether you are still getting the N.C. papers, so in the event you are not or missed it, this is from the States-Item of the 10th:

"The Kennedy investigation is over and it was successful- althlight that won't be understood for some time to come".

He and I may not have identical reasons in mind, but I am in accord with the latter statement (regretting as I do its costs).

However, this statement is not consistent with what he said on several occasions during the campaign, that it would continue. He could have said and meant both, and if the 11/10 quote is accurate, it can be something about which he changes his mind.

At the same time, the NYTimes quoted him as saying of Shaw, briefly "he goes to trial".

There are also outstanding indictments against Thornley that I remember, against Layton Hartens, novel might return and, although I have no reason to believe they will prosecute them, there are in my opinion other solid perjury cases.

His majority was 21 times what I'd figured. Over all opponents it was more than 12,000 votes. There are but two precincts in which he didn't have top vote. In one case, he was 30 votes behind Connick and in the others (where about 10,000 votes were cast), about 200 behind. He carried the other 14, which is quite impressive, even for a genuinely popular man.

In the near future, I expect Tom here for a vacation and perhaps to work. He indicated both. Maybe I'll know more then. But my own belief is that wrong as he has so often been, Jim is as sincere about this as he could be, and I do not expect him to drop it. I'd like to think he'll be more careful. From the things I've discovered and dug up on the scene and Paul and Jim's added researches in the archives, I have no doubt at all that he can develop other and solid cases. At the moment, I can't make up my mind which I'd prefer, had I my druthers, going ahead, which I expect, or not. If he could put a third the effort, even with incompetents, in on the local stuff, he's bound to hit something. I have a feeling he may even develop cases against those he trusted. Oh, yes, he has cases against Tom and Curvich. I think he should prosecute both.

Paul told me the Brenner book is available out there for \$6.00. It isn't worth it to me, but if anyone gets it, in the course of time I'd like to borrow it. Partly to see what else Tom did.

If and when I learn more, I'll keep you posted. However, save for any of these pending cases, I'd expect nothing public until after the final election in March, I believe. He does need at least traction and probably surgery. Best, JW